



Worple Road, Epsom KT18 7AA
Registered Charity Number 1155711
01372 721 111

March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

This is our last day (Wednesday) before the Easter break. We return on Monday 15th April 2024. We have celebrated many festivals this half term including St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter, and Ramadan.

Easter

We have introduced children to the story of Easter and the symbol of the egg as new life. All children had the chance to make Easter Cards for their families. The children have been learning some new songs including the Peter Rabbit song. After the Easter break, we will be having Living Eggs and will get to experience learning about how chicks hatch and grow.

Ramadan

We have read the books 'Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns' and 'Let's Celebrate Ramadan and Eid!' to the children to explain this Muslim festival. We also shared a song in Arabic - the link for this song is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4TU0Sm9uV0>.

World Book Day

It was wonderful to see so many children dress up for World Book Day, we discussed our favourite characters and shared lots of different books.

WhatsApp Group

Our parents run a WhatsApp Group for each of the classes, one for morning/long-day children and another for the afternoon group. If you are not already on the WhatsApp group, please will you let us know and we will share your details with the admins for the group. Please note that staff are not included on either of the WhatsApp Groups.

Reading to the children in May

As part of National Literacy Month, we would like to invite any of our parents of the morning / long-day children to come into pre-school to read to the children during May. There will be a sign-up sheet on the library bookcase (in the buggy park) after the Easter break. Please do sign-up for a session, if you would like to come in to read to the children.

Parent meetings

Next half term all our afternoon parents/carers will be able to sign up for an appointment time to speak with their key person. Please keep an eye out for a sign up sheet. If you have any concerns in the meantime, please always ask to speak with your child's key person when dropping off or collecting your child.

Starting School!

If your child is due to turn four by the 1st of September and you have applied for a place at primary school, you should expect to receive a response from the Council on the evening of the 16th of April.

This can be a very unsettling time for the children as they become aware of the change. At Pre-School, we will start preparing the children for this transition, however, please keep in mind that there is a long

term of Pre-School left. Through the years, we have found that the children usually find the idea of school easier to accept if this news is not immediately linked with the realisation that Pre-School will end. Of course, this news will need to be conveyed but tends to be much easier to accept closer to the time after lots of positivity around the idea of school.

To help with transition we will arrange for teachers from the schools to see the children, and they do usually also arrange dates when your child can visit their new school.

Once you know, please will you advise us which primary school you have been allocated for your child. Please will you also let us know any dates and times when your child will be visiting their new school for their settling in sessions.

Woodwork (morning children only)

We will be providing an exciting opportunity for children to extend their imaginative and creative development, through woodwork. Previous children have thoroughly enjoyed this experience, and we hope your child does too. Doing woodwork and using woodwork tools will also support the children to learn about managing risks.

Show & Tell (morning children only)

We will be giving children the opportunity to bring in something to show and tell their friends during talk time. The item could be something like a ticket or photo of a special event, or something you have found whilst out walking. More details of this will follow after half term and the children will be given a specific day to bring their item in, should they wish to do so.

Some dates for your diaries for next term (more details to follow, where applicable)

15 April – Living Eggs – chicken eggs arrive on 15th April. The children watch the eggs in the incubator, until each chick hatches. The children will have the opportunity to care for the chicks and hold them as they grow. The chicks will leave us on Friday 26th April.

23 April - St George's Day

7 May – Whole Class photos

15 May – Zoolab visiting both our morning and afternoon children. The children will be able to see and hold the animals/creatures and learn all about them.

Please let us know if there are any celebrations or events that you would like us to celebrate or introduce the children to.

Messy Stay & Play – Friday 17th May (afternoon children only)

On Friday 17 May we will be having a Messy Play Afternoon. This is a lovely opportunity for all our afternoon children and parents to mingle and get to know each other here at pre-school. This will also give you an understanding of messy play, why we do these types of activities and the benefits to your child's learning and development from these experiences. All parents, grandparents, carers are welcome to come along between 1pm and 3pm.

Please note that there will be no normal pre-school afternoon session this day and all children will need to be accompanied by an adult. However, all our afternoon children are invited, not just those who normally attend pre-school on a Friday. So please put this date on your calendar and try to come along with your child!

We will still hold a normal long-day session for our morning / long-day group of children.

Bocketts Farm Outing (Morning Children) – Friday 21st June (Pre-School Closed)

On Friday 21st June, Pre-School will be closed for all children. Our morning children will be going on an outing to Bocketts Farm. Parents / carers will need to be dropped off at the farm at 10am and will need to be collected at 2pm. Staff will support the children during the day, but we will need some parent

volunteers too. More details and an opportunity to put your name forward as a volunteer will be issued nearer the time.

Childhood illnesses and advice

We have recently had cases of mumps and chickenpox in pre-school and have been informed that the recent measles outbreak has now reached Surrey. Please be vigilant for signs of measles. The virus is spread easily through the air by an infected person breathing, coughing, and sneezing. It takes on average 10-12 days for symptoms to develop after being in contact with a case. The symptoms are fever, cough, cold like symptoms, conjunctivitis (sore, red, watery eyes), 'cranky' child, rash, and spots. The spots are not itchy. We can help mitigate the chances through good handwashing and good respiratory hygiene. In pre-school we use the catch it, bin it, poster to promote this to the children.

We would like to draw your attention to the Children and Family Health Surrey helpline for children aged 0-19, which can be reached on 01883 340922 or you can check out their website for advice on a range of things from sleep issues, toileting, emotional well-being, and fussy eating and so much more. The website is www.childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk



Courses for parents

Surrey County Council have signed up to 'In Our Place' which has free online courses dedicated to improving emotional health and wellbeing in parents, children, teenagers, adults, and grandparents.

The courses are designed so parents can dip in and out of them, to help with their busy lives. If you would like to access these please visit the website <https://inourplace.co.uk> the password to get free access is ACORNS.

Reminders

Please remember that we are a nut-free setting, and we request that you do ensure that food provided for the children does not contain nuts or has the warning may contain nuts on it.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents that children's snack should be a healthy option, preferably a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks.

Sunglasses – please do not allow your child to bring sunglasses into Pre-School. We have sufficient shade, so they are not required.

Physical development guidelines

The poster below can be found with other advice for parents in the documents section on Tapestry.



We return to Pre-School on Monday 15th April.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break!

St Martin's Pre-School Team

Useful links

Epsom Foodbank – essential emergency service for people unable to afford food.

[Epsom and Ewell Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

Home-Start – a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times.

[Home-Start UK](#)

Family Information Service – useful local information relating to services for children and families living in Surrey

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families>

The Samaritans – support with ‘whatever you are going through’:

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

<https://www.eric.org.uk/>

SEND Local Offer – Online hub for 0-25 year olds with Special Educational Needs or a Disability

<https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/kb5/surrey/localoffer/home.page>

I Can – communication charity.

[I CAN, the children's communication charity](#)