



Registered Charity Number 1155711
01372 721 111

October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a lovely start to the academic year, the children have settled in quickly and are getting used to our routines.

An update with your child's key person

If you have not already done so, please sign up for a convenient time on the appointment list on the library area outside pre-school.

After half term, we will have telephone meetings with parents, to update families on how their child has settled into pre-school, where they are developmentally, and what next steps we can be working towards.

We hope you will find these chats to be helpful. If you wish to speak to your child's key person at any time, at drop off or collection, please just let one of us know.



Volunteer/s Needed to Help with Leaf Clearing Please!

As the leaves are falling in the pre-school garden, we need help to sweep these before the children arrive each morning.

We have a leaf blower, rakes etc here. Ideally times would be from 7.45am or 8am until 8.30am if possible, please!

If you can offer your help for two or three weeks in November, even if just for one or two mornings each week, we would be very grateful! Monday mornings are particularly bad after the weekend, and we will definitely need some help on Monday 4th November after half term!

Please do let us know if you, or a family member, can help us!

Next half-term November/December 2024

Next half term we are looking forward to lots of celebrations and festivals.

At the beginning of November we will be doing activities and celebrating Guy Fawkes, bonfire night, fireworks, Remembrance Day, and poppies!

Monday 11th – Wednesday 13th November – our ‘morning’ children will be writing letters to Santa (Royal Mail Santa scheme) and we will be taking the children on a walk to the local post-box, so that they can post their letters.

Friday 15th November – BBC Children in Need. Children can come to Pre-School wearing something spotty or pyjamas!

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November On the 20th and 21st November our Pre-School Photographer Mark, will visit to take individual photos of all children, both morning and afternoon sessions.

The photos will be available for you to order shortly afterwards and, if you order promptly, delivery is guaranteed in time for Christmas!



Christmas Songs at St Martin’s Church, Thursday 5th December (morning children)

The older children (morning sessions) will be doing a Christmas performance of songs in St Martin’s Church on **Thursday 5th December** from 9.30am. All parents / grandparents / family members are welcome to join us at the Church.

On this day, children will need to be dropped at the Church, instead of Pre-School and collected from there too. If your child is staying for Lunch Club, or for the longer-day session, then we will walk them back to Pre-School. We may need parent volunteers to help us to walk the children back to pre-school.

On **Tuesday 3rd December**, the older children (morning sessions) will visit the Church to rehearse their songs and to get used to the different environment. Once again, children will need to be dropped off and collected from the Church, instead of Pre-School.

We would like all morning children to attend both mornings, even if Tuesday and Thursdays are not their normal day/s.

More details will be given nearer the time.

Our afternoon sessions and all-day sessions will run as usual on both days.

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day

Children may like to come to Pre-School wearing a Christmas jumper!

Monday 16th December – Morning Session Boogie Beats Christmas Party

As most will know, we have Boogie Beats music and movement sessions on a Monday morning, during the normal pre-school session!

These sessions are amazing and promote the children’s development through, music, songs, and movement. The children have a different story each week, and the story is acted out

with music, movement, props and activities, engaging all the children. They really enjoy the experience!

We would like to invite all morning children, even if Monday is not their normal day, to come to the session on Monday 16th December. During the session we will have the Boogie Beats Christmas Party, which will be a fun packed session full of Christmas sparkle, with instruments, sleigh bells, Christmas illustrations, props, puppets, snowstorms and a very special Christmas story all about The Little Christmas Tree.

If Monday morning is not your child's normal day, please let us know if your child will be able to join us for this special morning.

Boogie Beats will be back on Monday mornings for the rest of the school year, until July 2025. If your child does not currently attend on a Monday morning, please consider increasing your child's days to include Mondays from January 2025 so that they can enjoy this lovely opportunity.

Lunch Club – Morning Children

Due to a few changes, we have some Lunch Club places available from 11.45am – 12.15pm (£4.00 each) on a Monday and Wednesday. Please let us know if you would like your child to join Lunch Club for one or more days each week.

Please help us by ensuring all your children's outer clothes / bags are labelled

Please remember that children need a separate bag for their peg bag you are sending in spare clothing (no drawstring bags please). Please can you ensure that all your children's items are clearly labelled. This is especially important as we head into the autumn/winter months and children start to bring in scarves, hats, and gloves. Please check our Lost Property box, as we have a few unclaimed items.

Please note, we do not need you to provide bottled water, we have a water dispenser that the children can self-access for drinks throughout the day and we do provide them with both water and milk at snack and lunch time too.

Pantosaurus



Pantosaurus has helped 1.5 million parents Talk PANTS and keep their children safe from sexual abuse.

Developed in consultation with children, parents, carers, and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

Pre-school plays a vital role in safeguarding children, and we appreciate this can be a challenging topic to discuss as a family. There is useful information about this on the NSPCC site <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Eric – The Children’s Bowel and Bladder Charity



Many parents have asked for advice on toilet training, when is a child is ready and for ideas on how to support this. ERIC is a useful website and the link is [Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](#). For pre-school, when your child is ready, we will collaborate with you to support them with this. We do find it best to ensure your child is able to independently pull their trousers/pants up and down (and are not wearing popped up vests), though we will help them should they find this tricky.

Admissions, Fees, and Funded Early Education Entitlements Policy

This policy has been reviewed and updated to reflect the changes to funded early education entitlements. There have been no changes to the way that families apply for a place, or children are admitted to the pre-school.

A copy of the policy is attached and is also available on our website too.

Have a lovely half term. Our last day this half term is Friday 25th October and we are back on Monday 4th November!

Best wishes

St Martin’s Pre-School Team

Useful links

Eric - for help with potty training

<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>