



Worple Road, Epsom KT18 7AA
Registered Charity Number 1155711
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December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a very busy half term, and we do hope that you have been keeping up with our children's activities through the memos that Teri is adding to Tapestry weekly.



For Diwali, the children joined in with making Rangoli (colourful patterns). We discussed how people celebrate by making different food like sweets (Gulab Jamun and Barfi). We decorated hands with paint, introducing henna.



For Remembrance Day, the children made poppies using craft materials. Some of the children cut out their own circle shapes. We watched a short CBeebies clip called poppies and talked this through with the children.



With our preparations for Christmas, we started by introducing the story of the birth of baby Jesus to our morning children.

Our morning children have been very busy practising all the songs for their nativity performance and they put on a beautiful show in St Martin's Church.

The morning children wrote letters to Father Christmas and we took the children on an outing to the local post box, so that they could post their letters. During our walks to the post box we

listened out for sounds we could hear, looked out for and commented on wildlife, as well as looking for meaningful numbers and letter in environment.

Some of the other activities we enjoyed this half term include dressing up for Children in Need, Pudsey mask making and learning about the need to help others.

Parent involvement

Some of our morning families joined us to read to the morning children and one family came in to share how they celebrate Thanksgiving with the children.

Many morning families joined us for our Christmas stay and play sessions, where they took part in a variety of Christmas themed activities and enjoyed spending time in pre-school.

If any morning parents would be interested in reading a story in your home language to the children or sharing celebrations from your own culture, or even sharing your occupation, then please do let one of us know and we will arrange a mutually convenient date.

Staffing

Emily has joined us on our bank team, as an Early Years Educator. Emily has a Level 3 childcare qualification and has many years of experience working with children.

School Places for September

We hope that all parents of children going on to school have now made their preferences for a school place known and we would remind those that have not yet done so that your application needs to be made by 15th January 2025.

Next term



Parent meetings

All our parents should have had the opportunity to speak to their child's key person this half term. Next half term we will contact our parents to give another opportunity to talk through next steps for your child's development. Please keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet.

Next half term we are looking forward to the following celebrations:

29th January – Chinese New Year

14th February – St Valentine's Day

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

We finish on Wednesday 18th December and return to Pre-School on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!

Best wishes

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](#)

Eric - for help with potty training

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