



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

February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find an overview of our fun and learning for this half term.

We have celebrated many festivals this half term including St Andrew's Day, Chinese New Year and Valentines Day.

For St Andrew's Day, we made a Scottish flag and discussed Burns night. During Chinese New Year, we celebrated by making red paper chain snakes and danced to Chinese music. We also wrote some Chinese characters with Angela's help, using Chinese ink on red paper. We talked about Year of the Snake and how the years were named after different animals.



We have learnt different ways to construct and make sturdy buildings. We have been using a variety of items to construct with. We made fire engines using cardboard boxes and enjoyed roleplaying being fire fighters. We constructed using Unifix cubes to build towers the same height as characters, together with towers the same height as ourselves! We have built homes for dinosaurs by constructing enclosures. This has enabled the children to learn lots of new language including language of comparison, about quantities and matching numbers to numerals.

We have learnt about sounds and explored making sounds in a variety of ways from making our own shakers and instruments to body percussion. We listened in the garden for environmental sounds and discovered that some helicopters are very loud. We played musical instruments loudly and fast to gentle and slow and talked about the difference this made and compared the sounds of the instruments to other sounds such as rain.

We have been exploring 5 of our 8 senses (visual, auditory, tactile, gustatory, olfactory, proprioceptive, vestibular and introspection) of course with the children to make it age appropriate we have used the terms taste, smell, touch, sight, and hearing. To explore our senses, we have taken part in listening walks listening out for environmental sounds, we made sandwiches with different topics (jam, butter, and marmite) and voted to say which taste we preferred; we also had a tray of different object where we felt and then described them. We have explored the scents of different herbs, onion, leak, lemon, lime, and flowers (daffodils and roses).



The children have taken a more active interest in our stick insects and have drawn them and made models of stick insects using pipe cleaners as well as learnt interesting facts about them.




0-19 Advice Line
01883 340 922

Call the advice line for child health,
development and parenting
advice and support.

Open 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
excluding bank holidays.

We would like to draw your attention to the Children and Family Health Surrey helpline for children age 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 issue, to toileting, emotional well-being and fussy eating and so much more. The website is www.childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk

AGM

We held our AGM on Thursday 6th February. Thank you to those members who are leaving the Committee for your support over the years, and we would like to welcome three new committee members Hannah's mum, Katherine, in the morning class, Oscar's mum, Julia, in the morning class, and Stanley's mum, Emily, who is hoping to start pre-school in September. If you would like to join the Committee, particularly if you have a child in the afternoon class which is not currently represented, please will you let one of us know! AGM meeting notes are available from Nancy upon request.

Courses for parents

Surrey 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.

Bocketts Farm Outing

We wanted to let you know that we will no longer be able to take the children on a day-outing to Bocketts Farm. In recent years, we have found that this causes our families problems with childcare, when we must close for all the afternoon children on the day of the outing.

In addition, working parents and those without a car, found it difficult to be able to drop their children at the farm at 10am and collect them a few hours later! Lastly, most of our children are now funded by Universal Early Years Funding or Working Parents Entitlement, so we must offer the funded hours to those who are eligible.

We will continue to offer all our other normal exciting extra activities/visitors, and we are exploring other options too.

Physical development guidelines

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



Next term we are looking forward to the following celebrations and events.

27 Feb – Zoolab who will be bringing their wriggly roadshow for both our morning and afternoon class!

6 March – World Book Day – children may like to come to Pre-School dressed as their favourite book character.

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

Reminders

Please do remember that we are a no nuts setting and we request that you do ensure that food provided for the children does not contain nuts or has a warning that it may contain nuts on the packaging. Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents that snack should be a healthy option such as fruit or vegetable sticks preferably.

We hope you have a lovely half term!

Best wishes

St Martin's Pre-School Team

Useful links

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>

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>

I Can – communication charity.

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