



Newsletter
Spring Term 1st Half
January – February 2022

Thank you so much for all your gifts, cards and good wishes given for Christmas. We hope you enjoyed the festive season and we wish all Pre-School families a very happy new year.

Our curriculum this half term is going to explore all things animal. Our weekly focus topics include:

w/c 4th Jan: Happy New Year!
w/c 10th Jan: Ice Age/Dinosaurs
w/c 17th Jan: Animals Around Us
w/c 24th Jan: Animal Olympics
w/c 31st Jan: Safari/Jungle
w/c 7th Jan: Elmer

Our planning aims also to reflect some key events this half term including National Storytelling Week (30th Jan – 6th Feb), Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger, 1st – 17th Feb), the Winter Olympics (4th – 20th Feb) and Children's Mental Health week (7th-13th Feb). Keep an eye out on Facebook for updates on what we're doing each week and activities as they unfold.

Tapestry Update: from this term, staff will be using "Memos" on Tapestry to send you brief messages and reminders, for example, about topping up spare clothing; returning home reading books etc. We will also be using all-group Memos to circulate information (such as this newsletter!), in addition to the usual methods of email and Facebook. Please keep an eye on your Tapestry page for relevant notifications.

Children Starting Reception in September 2022: Applications for school places from September **must** be made by midnight, **15th January**. Applications are made online, through the Local Authority. The link is here: [Applying for a primary school place | Waltham Forest Council](#). If you have any questions about school applications, please have a word.

COVID Update: Cases remain very high in the area. If your child is unwell, with any illness, please keep them at home. If possible (and in particular if your child has COVID symptoms, or cold/flu-like symptoms), please take a relevant test before your child attends/returns to Pre-School.

The recent changes in self-isolation arrangements apply to children also. If your child has tested positive for COVID, they must isolate for seven-ten days. If your child is better, has no temperature and tests negative with a lateral flow test on day six and day

seven of their self isolation, they may return to Pre-School on the following day (day 8). If you are unable to test your child, they must complete the full ten days isolation, and return to Pre-School (if they are well) from day 11. We continue to review the national guidance on COVID and any further updates will be shared.

Please be aware that, during this period of high infection rates, the Pre-School may close at very short notice. We have to close if we cannot maintain staff:child ratios or if we are advised to do so locally or nationally to manage cases. We will give as much notice as possible of any closure.

Committee News - Fundraising: thank you so much for your incredible contributions to the Christmas raffle and coffee morning. We raised a fantastic £468. We will be using the money to buy a digital projector, to further enhance the integration of ICT within the Pre-School. We will also be replacing some worn-out, but popular, home-corner resources.

Next Meeting Committee Meeting: Wednesday 2nd March, 8pm, venue to be confirmed.

Diary Dates:

Last Day of Half Term: Friday 11th February, 12 noon.

Second Half Term starts: Monday 21st Feb, 9.00 am

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The Pre-School will be taking the additional bank holiday on **Monday 6th June**. Children will return on Tuesday 7th June, 9.00am. This is a change to the published term dates.

Clothing: Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Children are able to play outdoors every session. **Please name your child's coat and, if possible, hats, scarves etc.**

Keeping in Touch:

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