



Newsletter
Autumn Term 2nd Half
November – December 2021

Welcome back! We hope you had a great half term break. Thank you for all the lovely Autumn Treasure that has been returned to Pre-School. We are using it in our displays and our activities.

Our curriculum this half term is inspired by the children's interests; festivals; and 'STEM' – science, technology, engineering and maths. Our weekly focus topics include:

w/c 2nd Nov: Light (including Diwali and Bonfire Night)

w/c 8th Nov: Experiments

w/c 15th Nov: Experimenting with Nursery Rhymes and Stories

w/c 22nd Nov: Dark/Night

w/c 29th Nov: Advent/the Christmas Story/Hannukah

w/c 6th Dec: Christmas Prep

w/c 13th Dec: Christmas/Gnome on the Roam

Tapestry: You should have received an email with an activation link for your child's account on Tapestry. Please check your junk or spam email folders if you cannot see the email in your inbox. We can reissue the link if the email has gone astray. Please let Louise or Janet know if you have any problems accessing Tapestry.

Learning Development Checks and Parent

Consultations: we prepare Learning Development Checks for all the children at this time of year. The reports will be available on Tapestry w/c Monday 15th November. The Learning Development Checks give you an overview of how your child has settled at Pre-School and their development over the first half term.

We are hosting **Parent Consultations** in the hall on **Friday 19th November**. These meetings give you a chance to chat to your child's key worker about your child's progress and the Learning Development Check. If you would like to book to see your child's key worker, please email info@handsworthpreschool.co.uk. We offer 15 minute slots from 9.30am. Places are offered generally on a first come, first served basis, but if you have a particular time pressure please let us know in the email. We will do our best to accommodate you but may be limited in the slots we can offer.

Please note that there is no 'normal' session in the hall on that date. Arrangements are also subject to change at short notice due to COVID.

Children Starting Reception in September 2022: If your child was born between 1st Sept 2017 – 31st Aug 2018 you must apply for a school place to start next September. Applications are made online, through the Local Authority. The link is here: [Applying for a primary school place | Waltham Forest Council](#). The closing date for applications is **15th January 2022**. If you have any questions about school applications, please have a word. Your key person will also ask you about school applications during the parent consultations.

Child Absences: please telephone/text **07860 655066** on the first day your child is absent due to illness or other unplanned event. If we do not hear from you, we will call you to find out why your child is absent. We have been advised to take these steps as good practice to support safeguarding and welfare.

Committee News - WhatsApp: the Committee have a parents WhatsApp group. Info about how to join has been shared on Facebook, email and bookbags. You can also follow this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GjUPAZp0QHUIPjN55WoyQD> .

Membership and Vacancies: thanks to all who attended the AGM on 20th October. Named Committee members are: Chair – Jonny Cooper; Treasurer – Lykke Thule Hansen; Secretary – Amy Livingston; Vice Chair – Pascal Wyse/Vacancy. The Vice Chair would like to step down as his child is no longer at Pre-School. We are looking for a volunteer to take on the role. Further information will be circulated shortly, but if you are interested, please have a word with Janet or Jonny.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 17th November, 8pm, venue to be confirmed.

Diary Dates, Stay and Plays, Christmas:

Stay and Plays: Thursday 9th and Friday 10th

December. Please join us and the children from some Christmas fun and crafts. These Stay and Plays are open to all, but please only attend one session.

Christmas: more information about our Christmas activities will follow. You might want to put **Thursday 16th December** in your diary as we're planning to treat you to a celebration of Christmas on that date.

All stay and plays/open sessions remain subject to change at short notice.

Last Day of Term: Friday 17th December, 12 noon.

Spring Term starts: Wednesday 5th January, 9.00am (Monday 3rd is the Bank Holiday and Tuesday 4th is staff INSET).

Clothing: as the weather turns, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We do encourage

outdoor play in all weathers, so it's important your child has the necessary clothing. Please **name** your child's coat and encourage them to recognise their own hats, scarves, gloves etc.

Keeping in Touch:

Email: info@handsworthpreschool.co.uk (general enquiries)

Or – handsworthpsleader@outlook.com (Janet, Pre-School Leader)

Janet Cushing, Pre-School Leader