



PARKSIDE PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Welcome back after the half term break.

We would like to say a big welcome to all our new families and hope they find their time with us a fun and rewarding experience.

Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage, concentrating on the seven areas of learning. These include the Prime Areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, and Physical Development. Also, the specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. We plan daily so that we are able to follow your child's interests.

This term the children have already joined in interactive reading and will be participating in activities around the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". This links in with World Book Day that we all participated in on Thursday 6 March, where the children were encouraged to come to Pre-school dressed as their favourite character from a book. Later in the term we will be celebrating Mother's Day, Eid-ul-Fitr and Easter with some lovely activities.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Outdoor Play

As the weather is still cold, please ensure that your child has adequate clothes, including a named coat, hat, scarf, and gloves.



If your child arrives at Pre-school in wellingtons, please also bring a pair of shoes for them to change into whilst indoors.

Absence from Pre-school

If your child is not going to be in Pre-school, please remember to call us on 02036097557 or email parksidepreschoole4@gmail.com to report the absence, with a reason. Please do this before 9.30am (or 1.00pm for afternoon sessions). If we have not heard from you, we will have to start calling those on your contact list.

Just a reminder to everyone, if your child has a temperature or diarrhoea and vomiting, it is our policy that they must be kept at home for 48 hours from the last time they had a temperature, or an episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Pre-school Tops with Logo

We still have the Pre-school's polo shirts (£9), tee shirts (£7), sweatshirts (£13) and fleeces (£16) on sale. Please see Mandy or one of the other staff if you would like to buy one. We also have some nearly new items kindly passed on by previous families. Please ensure that you name any new purchases.

Government Help with Childcare Costs

Details of Government help with childcare, including "Tax-free childcare" and "30 hours free childcare" for 3 and 4-year-olds can be found on this website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. Both are aimed at working families so check now to see if you could be eligible. Parkside Pre-school is registered for the tax-free childcare, and you can find us if you are registering, by either our name, post code (E4 6XQ) or Ofsted URN (146927).

Two-year-old children of most working families, as well as those receiving certain Government support, are eligible for 15 hours of free childcare from the term after their second birthday.

Eligibility codes for working families are available via the Childcare Choices website (see above), you will need to have applied and provided us with the code by the end of the term before the funding starts. The scheme will be expanding to 30-hours for children of working families from 9-months old in September 2025 and you can register to receive the latest updates on the same website.

Queueing

Please could parents and carers remember to queue in one line along the fence when dropping off, not only is it safer but it allows the person on the door to register the children more easily.

Flu Vaccination

Flu vaccinations (in the form of a nasal spray) are available from your GP for all children who were aged two or three on 31 August 2024 and are particularly important this year. Vaccines are also available for primary school age children and those aged 6 months to 2 years with a long-term health condition. You should also check that your child is up-to-date with their MMR vaccinations.

Electronic Learning Journals

As existing parents know the Pre-school uses



and we hope that you will continue to

make good use of it. All new parents/carers will receive information on Tapestry and how to get registered. Please return the response slip as soon as possible. you will then be able to get on-line to follow your child's progress and see photos of the activities they are doing, also to make your own comments and contributions. If you have any difficulty gaining access, please e-mail us on parksidepreschoole4@gmail.com and we will get back to you.

Web Site

The Pre-school has its own web site which you can find at <https://parkside-preschool.com/> The website contains lots of useful information, please have a look and tell us what you think.

HELP NEEDED

Donations




This term we are looking for boxes for junk modelling, children's magazines and colouring books, and hair magazines that we can use alongside our hair resources. If anyone has any small nappies that are no longer needed we can use these in our role play area. We would also appreciate any cultural music CDs and cultural clothes your child has grown out of, to add to our collection. If you can help with any of these, we will be very grateful.

Fundraising

If there is anyone who has ideas for fundraising or would like to assist us with this, please speak to Debbie.

Help Us as You Shop

The Pre-school is signed up

to  **easyfundraising** with 20 supporters whose purchases regularly benefit us, so it would be great if you could also sign up and use this for all your online purchases. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis, Argos, ASOS, M&S, B&Q, booking.com, Tui and Just Eat! Plus, you could raise up to £50 donations when you use easyfundraising to save money on your household bills including car and home insurance, energy, phone contract or broadband. Uswitch, GoCompare, and Confused.com will all donate to us for free! It's easy to use and completely free, there is an app and a donation reminder that you can download which will give you a reminder whenever you visit an eligible site or even when

you just search a product. These work on your computer, tablet and i-phone. The donations, although small, will mount up and really help us, so please take a moment to get started by following this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=286812&invite=s7k9y4&referral-campaign=c2s> or using the QR code.



Committee

The Pre-school is run by a committee which is made up of volunteers, mainly parents/carers of children attending the Pre-school. We always need additional volunteers from amongst our current parents; if you would like to find out more about this or nominate yourself, please speak to Debbie or Mandy. Please support our committee as our Pre-school cannot run without it.

LATEST NEWS

Henry

Henry has lots of information on oral health and healthy eating [HENRY in Waltham Forest | HENRY](#) and includes a Buddy scheme; you can follow them on Facebook and Instagram. If you have had difficulty in finding a dentist, please see the attached information on dental practices that may be accepting new patients.



Healthy Start

Healthy start is an NHS initiative to help low-income pregnant women and families with children under 4 access free fruit, vegetables, pulses, milk and vitamins. Have a look online to see if you might be eligible [How to apply - Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#) or ask Debbie if you need some help with the process.

HMRC App

Did you know you can claim and manage Child Benefit on the HMRC app? You can also use it to keep your personal details up-to-date and take control of your tax. See [Download the HMRC app - GOV.UK](#)

USEFUL LINKS

Children & Family Centres' Newsletter with activities for under 5s - [Newsletter | LPCC](#) (tlpcc.org.uk)

Walthamstow Toy Library & Play Centre - [The Toy Library](#) (walthamstowtoylibrary.org)

The Hive has lots of activities to try at home as well as the Squirrels Forest School - [Things to do for children and families at Suntrap in Epping Forest](#) (thehiveintheforest.co.uk)

There are also lots of ideas for fun activities and home learning if you follow **Chit Chat Pitter Pat Waltham Forest** [Home learning for under fives | London Borough of Waltham Forest](#) or on Instagram or Facebook.

There are family events including "Creative Kids" for under 5s at the **William Morris Gallery** [Families - William Morris Gallery](#) (wmgallery.org.uk) and Walthamstow Wetlands have Wonderful Wildlife Weekends with family events on 16th and 30th March [Events at Walthamstow Wetlands | London Wildlife Trust](#).

Cost of Living Support in Waltham Forest [Cost of living support: your crisis, our action | London Borough of Waltham Forest](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Should you require the newsletter in one of our community languages, please see a

member of staff. If you would like to contact us by e-mail our address is parksidepreschoole4@gmail.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day
Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day
Friday 28th March – Mother's Day Breakfast
Tuesday 1st April – Eid Celebration
Friday 4th April - End of term and Easter Egg Hunt
Tuesday 22nd April - Return for summer term
26th – 30th May – Half Term