



3rd January - 16th February 2023

# Newsletter

Spring Term Part 1

## Happy New Year to you all!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. The staff would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who sent us festive gifts and good wishes at the end of last term. We were touched by your generosity.

We have a lot of exciting events and activities to look forward to in 2024. Details of our weekly pre-school activities have already been emailed out to families, and can also be found on the noticeboard at the pre-school entrance.

Our Pre-School Committee will also be hosting a Valentines Party on Friday 16th February, which all families are invited to attend. Tickets are £5 per child, and if you wish to bring along younger siblings, you can add them to the ticket for an extra £2.50. The party runs from 12.15pm to 1.15pm. As this is a committee-run event, parents must accompany their children at all times.

We're also pleased to announce that we will be hosting another 'Bring your Special Person to Pre-School' week at the beginning of March. Each child will be allowed to bring one special person (parent, grandparent or carer) into the pre-school hall for the first half hour of a session, during which time they can enjoy some activities together. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to chat to their child's key worker and other members of staff. Invitations will be sent out in the coming weeks, via email, with details of your allocated date and time for this very special event.

### Getting Ready for School Sessions 2024

We are delighted to announce that we will once again be hosting our popular Getting Ready for School Sessions this year.

These targeted sessions are designed to promote school readiness in children who will be leaving to attend primary school.

This year's course will take place on the following six Friday afternoons between 12.15pm and 2.45pm: 03/05, 10/05, 21/06, 05/07, 12/07. The fee for this course will be £120. Unfortunately we are not able to offer funded places for this course.

There are limited spaces available at these sessions, so please email Sarah Dorrington at [billericaycatholicpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:billericaycatholicpreschool@gmail.com) as soon as possible to reserve your place.

### Fees and Funding: Important information

Invoices for the current term will be distributed via email in the coming days. We kindly ask that any outstanding fees are paid promptly. As the pre-school is a registered charity, this ensures that we can continue to operate effectively.

Due to rising overhead costs, our private fee rate will be increasing from April 2024. The new hourly rate will be £7.25. The suggested voluntary contribution will remain at £2 per session.

There are also some important changes regarding FEEE funded places from April 2024. Working families of two-year-olds will now be eligible to claim 15 funded hours per week, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. If you have a two-year-old registered at the pre-school, and think you may be entitled to 15 hours funding, please visit [Childcare Choices](#) to check your eligibility.

If you do meet the criteria, you will need to apply for a funding code via the [Gov.uk](#) website. Please email your code to us at [theofficebcps@gmail.com](mailto:theofficebcps@gmail.com). This will ensure we are able to claim funding for your child for the Summer 2024 term.

### Reminders...

#### Lunch club

Children are fully supervised during lunch club, but to help us further prevent the risk of choking incidents, we kindly ask that foods such as grapes and cocktail sausages are cut up into smaller pieces.

**We have a child attending pre-school with an allergy to nuts. Due to the seriousness of this allergy, please refrain from sending in any food containing nut products.**

#### Outdoor play

We aim to include outdoor playtime as part of each session, so please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear and has a warm, showerproof coat with them.

#### Drop off/collection

If anyone other than the normal person is collecting your child, please make us aware of this. Please also make sure anyone collecting your child is aware of your chosen password.

#### Absences/health-related issues

It is important that, if your child will not be attending pre-school for any reason, you contact us as soon as possible to inform us of the reason for the absence. If you have any worries or concerns about your child, please call/text on 07980 411925 or email [billericaycatholicpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:billericaycatholicpreschool@gmail.com)

Please note: we are closed for half term from 19th-23rd February. We will also be closed for three weeks at Easter. The final day of term will be Friday 22nd March