



Billericay Catholic Pre-School Newsletter
January/February 2021

Happy New Year to everyone. All the staff would like to thank you for all our lovely Christmas cards, presents and very generous contributions. They were all very much appreciated.

We welcome all the children back after the Christmas holidays and a special welcome to all the new children who will be starting Pre-school during the next few weeks.

We will continue to remain open, while we have the staff that can support the ratios and we are Covid free. We will assume that your child will be starting back with us for the new term unless we hear from you.

PROCEDURES FOR DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP YOUR CHILD

PLEASE CAN WE REQUEST THAT ALL PARENTS/CARERS WEAR MASKS WHEN DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN.

PLEASE PREPARE YOUR CHILDREN THAT STAFF MAY CHOOSE TO WEAR MASKS.

On arrival at Pre-school we must ask that you remain in your car until a Pre-school member of staff calls your child's name, you will then be asked to approach the main entrance of the Canon Roche Centre and ask your child to walk the last two metres to the member of Pre-school staff.

At pick up time a member of Pre-school staff will bring your child to the main Canon Roche Centre entrance. You should approach and your child will be asked to walk the last two metres to you. We ask that you stay in your car until your child's name is called.

Please can we remind you to stay two metres away from the main doors at all times.

After dropping your child, please can I request that parents/carers do not congregate in the car park.

Health

If your child shows any signs of ill health please keep your child at home.

Some of our staff are having to send their children into school during this time as critical workers to allow us to support you, so please be very considerate. We want to avoid other children or staff becoming ill.

It is important that If your child will not be attending Pre-school for any reason, please contact us by phone or email letting us know the reason for absence.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD INTO PRE-SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

PLEASE ADVISE THE PRE-SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY

if your child or any member of your household develops symptoms of Covid19

if your child or any member of your household tests positive for Covid19

if for any reason your child is unable to attend a Pre-school session.

PLEASE KEEP YOURSELF UPDATED WITH THE CURRENT GUIDELINES www.gov.uk

FEES

Invoices will be sent out to you in the first few weeks of the new term.

We are open and fees are due to be paid, even if you choose not to bring your child/children into Pre-school.

FREE EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENT (FEEE) FOR THE SPRING TERM

All children who were three years old before the 31st December 2020 inclusive are eligible for Free Early Years Entitlement from the beginning of the Spring term commencing on the 4th January 2021.

Please go to our website for details of all your funding options for 2year olds, 3-4year olds and the 30 hours Extended Entitlement. You will also find a copy of the FEEE Guide for Parents.

If your child is eligible and you have not already completed the forms please let the us know as soon as possible.

If you have any worries or concerns about your child, please email

billericaycatholicpreschool@gmail.com or call 07980411925.

Website: Please can I refer you to our website, which is updated regularly, where you will find lots of useful information including our updated COVID19 guidance and how to claim funding.

<http://www.billericaycatholicpreschool.co.uk/>

We will be providing lots of fun activities to cover, where possible, the areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Please can I remind you to bring the labelled bags back to Pre-school, so that we can send some of the children's work home.

This term the children will be learning about the season of winter and how the festival of Chinese New Year is celebrated. As well as opportunities for lots of child- initiated activities and fun, we have adult-led activities and experiences planned for each week as follows:

4th Jan

We will be talking about winter weather and what we wear to keep warm. The children will be making snow scene pictures and a collage of winter clothes.

11th Jan

We will be explaining to the children about the way of life of the Inuit people and they will be learning about igloos, penguins and seals and polar bears.

18th Jan

This week we will be explaining to the children what happens to the trees in winter time, we will be making pictures of winter trees. We will also be talking about snow and ice. The children will be able to touch an ice block to feel how cold it is in freezing weather.

25th Jan

This week we will be making and tasting vegetable soup. The children will have the opportunity to compare peeled and unpeeled vegetables and operate an electric blender. We will also be printing with vegetables.

1st Feb

We will be talking about how animals and birds have to find food and shelter during the winter. We will be making food for the birds in small pots to take home, hang in the garden and observe the birds feeding.

8th Feb

We will be explaining to the children, through pictures and posters, how people in China will be celebrating their New Year. This year is the year of the Ox, we will be making Chinese lanterns. We will be displaying Chinese writing and encouraging the children to make an attempt at this. We will also be making and tasting Chinese food, using a wok and learning to eat with chopsticks. We will be explaining about the tradition of Valentine's Day and the children will be printing with heart shape sponges.

Term Dates for 2021

Spring Term

Open: Monday 4th January
Last day of term: Friday 12th February

Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Open: Monday 22nd February
Last day of term: Friday 26th March

Summer Term

Open: Monday 12th April
Last day of term: Friday 28th May

Half Term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Open: Monday 7th June
Last day of term: Friday 16th July