



TEL: 07522 915829

NEWSLETTER NO. 79 - AUTUMN TERM 2020

WELCOME, BIENVENUE, JE WELKOM, WILLKOMMEN, DENATHA, BIENVENIDOS,
FOON YING, BENVENUTO, DOBRO POZHALOVAT', UKENERERI, MARHABAN,
NAMASTE, BINE AI VENIT

Dates for this Year

Start of Autumn Term: 2 September 2020

Half Term: 21 October 2020 - 30 October 2020

End of Autumn Term: 18 December 2020

Provisional Dates for 2021 (These are yet to be confirmed by the Local Authority)

Start of Spring Term: 4 January 2021

Half Term: 15 February - 19 February

End of Spring Term: 31 March 2021

Start of Summer Term: 1 April 2020

Easter Holidays: 2 April 2020 - 16 April 2020

Half Term: 31 May 2020 - 4 June 2021

End of Summer Term and graduation: 19 July 2021

Welcome

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our new children and parents.

We know that it is a difficult time and that contact with parents/carers is minimal at the moment, but we would like to assure you that we will work hard to support your children as they settle into the pre-school, whether they are new comers or children returning to us.

You will find activities and memos on Tapestry so be sure to look each week. If you have any pressing questions please feel free to telephone us on **07522 915829**.

Thank You

All the staff would like to say a big THANK YOU for the presents that they received at the end of last term.

Email

Please note that our email: ducklings@hotmail.com is manned out of office hours. If you have a query could you please email rather than telephone. Thank You.

Ducklings Pre-School is 15!



Ducklings Pre-School opened its doors on 5 September 2005. We are 15 years old. Our first cohort is now leaving school for university or employment! It has been a pleasure to support so many children over the years and we look forward to many more years to come!

Naming of Items

Please ensure that **ALL** of your child's items of clothing are named. Staff are spend too long helping children find their shoes/coats/ jumpers/slippers because they are not named. This is taking the staff away from watching and caring for your children.

From now on, all unnamed items of clothing/shoes etc will be placed in a black bag at the end of the session. Any unclaimed items will be removed and disposed of by the end of each week. A pen will be available should you wish to name your child's items.

Pre-School Toys

If your child brings home any toys from the pre-school it would be appreciated if you could ensure they are returned. Many of our toys/resources come as a set and if an item is missing then the toy/resource will no longer be able to be used. Thank you.

Coat Pegs

Could you please provide a passport size photograph of your child for their coat peg. Thank you.

Donations

In view of the additional cleaning that is required by us, it would be appreciated if parents/carers could provide donations of antibacterial wipes and dettol aerosol spray.

If parents/carers would like to make a monetary donation towards to cost of activities please could you put these in an envelope in your child's named carrier bag. Thank you.

REMINDER

If your child has had Calpol or Neurofen within 4 hours of coming into the pre-school we request that you keep them at home. It is not fair on your child to be dosed up with a painkiller and brought into an environment that is often noisy and frantic. The best place for them to be is at home. We thank you for your co-operation.

All About Me Books

It would be lovely if all parents/carers could provide photos of their children and families, favourite toys and places to visit. This encourages child to talk about the wider environment and their relationships with family. It's an important educational experience for them.

Also, could you please ensure that you update the 'All About Me' form on tapestry and answer the questions regarding COVID-19. Thank you.

Big School

If your child is due to start reception in September 2021 please keep an eye on school websites to see if they are having open days. Applications for Reception places usually have to be in by mid January.

Healthy Eating

We are a Healthy Pre-School.

Please do not send in: chocolate bars, sausage rolls, pepperami, squash/fruit shoots, crisps or cakes.

Healthy lunch box ideas can be found here: <https://www.netmums.com/back-to-school/lunchbox-ideas>.

Self Help

We are encouraging the children with self help skills. It would be appreciated if these could be practiced at home too.

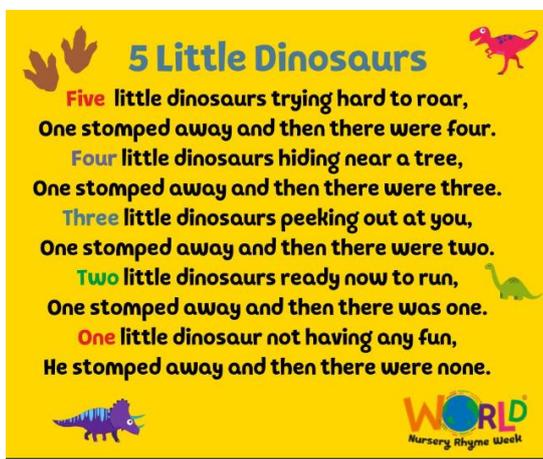
Please find attached a list of suggestions to encourage your child to become more independent.

FOOD ALLERGIES!

Please ensure that your child does not bring in any food items into the pre-school other than their fruit for snack and lunch.

Please note that due to allergies we cannot allow children to bring nut products into the pre-school under any circumstances. Thank you.

Also, please do not let your children eat food in the main hall at the beginning or end of session. Thank you.



5 Little Dinosaurs

Five little dinosaurs trying hard to roar,
One stomped away and then there were four.
Four little dinosaurs hiding near a tree,
One stomped away and then there were three.
Three little dinosaurs peeking out at you,
One stomped away and then there were two.
Two little dinosaurs ready now to run,
One stomped away and then there was one.
One little dinosaur not having any fun,
He stomped away and then there were none.

WORLD
Nursery Rhyme Week

Internet Safety

In these days of digital technology, it is important for parents/carers to be aware of the need for internet safety. Children are able to access a variety of apps on mobile phones and tablets and without sufficient internet security they may inadvertently come across content that is not suitable for their age.

There are a variety of websites available that can offer advice and tips on keeping your child safe whilst online.

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Supporting-Young-People-Online.pdf>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Holiday

If you are planning to take a holiday this term, or have any time off, please make sure you complete the 'Request for time off' form as soon as possible. Ask any member of staff and they will be able to give you a form. Also, please remember to adhere to quarantine regulations if you do go away.

GMail

It would seem that we are having trouble receiving emails from Gmail accounts. It would be appreciated if you have a Gmail account that you add a message to us on Tapestry.

Promoting Self Help Skills

Self-Care Skills from 18 months- 2 year old Child

1. Undress trousers/shorts
2. Explore how to dress self (shirts tend to get stuck!)
3. Put own pajamas into drawer
4. Take off and stow away shoes
5. Wash face and hands (may need help)
6. Comb or brush own hair (finish up with help)
7. Hang up coat (provide hook that is accessible)
8. Serve self a snack from a shared plate onto own bowl or plate
9. Explore using a napkin
10. Explore pouring water from jug into own glass
11. Explore how to wipe up spills
12. Put rubbish into waste bin
13. Play alone for 15-40 minutes

Self-Care Skills for 3 year old Child

1. Dress self (may need some help, esp. with buttons & zippers)
2. Practice using Snaps, zippers and buttons
3. Explore what weather appropriate clothing means
4. Put on shoes (it's helpful to avoid laces)
5. Hang up own towel (make sure hook is height accessible)
6. Put away a few items of clothes from a laundry basket
7. Explore how to make own bed
8. Explore basic cooking (measuring, pouring, mixing)
9. Pour glass of water/milk/juice from a pitcher (see next!)
10. Wipe up own spills (helps to keep towels stored where child can reach)
11. Get a snack from the cupboard (Try to keep healthy choices in reach)
12. Use a napkin at the table
13. Learn part of own address (Town and own last name)
14. Help set table (give choice of one responsibility such as napkin buddy or place mat setter)
15. Remove own plate from table
16. Explore using the kitchen sink to rinse fruits/veggies/cups
17. Play alone for up to one hour

Self-Care Skills for 4 year old child

1. Continue practicing skills from the 2 and 3 year list above
2. Explore more cooking skills (cracking eggs alone, making simple sandwich, cutting banana slices)
3. Learn house phone number
4. Learn own address
5. Set / remove own place setting at table