



## Laugh and Learn Pre-School Tarring - Newsletter - Issue 36- February 2024

We are well and truly into our Spring Term and have explored some fantastic activities so far. We hope you have all been following our weekly activities on Facebook and have been able to keep up to date with all your children's experiences on Tapestry. It is our hope that by sharing what we have been up to each week it will encourage some lovely conversations at home for you with your little ones.

Please remember if you have any queries or concerns at any point, we are here to support you.

### **Some of this half terms activities:**



### Some Dates to Remember

#### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February:**

Half-Term - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Pancake Day- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February- in half term

Pet donations-Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February-Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

World Book Day - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Mother's Day- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY- FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> March

Easter Holidays: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

- Return to Preschool

### **Broadwater Community Hub**

We are very happy to be working with and supporting this amazing charity who support our local community - offering a food pantry and pet pantry at very subsidised prices, as well as a community library and cafe space for groups to use or just a space to relax and meet others.

For our first week back after half term our theme is going to be 'pets'. So, with this in mind we would like to invite you to donate an item of pet food for us to be able to pass on to the Hub for them to use in their pet pantry to support local families who might be going through a hard time who have pets who still need feeding!

Any item of pet food would be hugely appreciated: dog food, cat food, food for hamsters or rabbits or even sawdust or straw for small pets bedding. We will have a box in preschool for you to donate items and we will take them along to the Hub at the end of the first week back. Thank you all in advance in supporting our local community.

### **World Book Day- Thursday 7th March 2024**

This year we will having lots of fun activities around World Book Day and will be dressing up too, but in order not to put too much pressure on our busy parents it can be any book character that the children wish. It's always fun dressing up especially for us adults!

### **Parents evening**

We will again be holding parent's evenings next half term to enable you to come in to have a chat with your child's keyperson to celebrate your child's achievements and discuss their overall development. An email will come out early next half term to enable you to book a slot and we are looking forward to seeing you all.

**Can we just remind you to not bring your child along to these as it is not appropriate to discuss them in front of their ever-listening ears!**

### **Visits to our local Care Home**

We are very pleased to announce that we have been given the opportunity to visit the newly opened luxury 'Tarring Manor' care home just round the corner from us with some of the preschool children. Our aim is to visit a couple of times each half term to enable us to bring the older people living and staying in the care home setting together with your little ones to participate in some planned activities such as arts and crafts, cooking and singing, along with some of the Laugh and Learn Ladies and some parent helpers. I am sure you will agree this is a lovely opportunity for us to build relationships in our community and for all to learn and share experiences with each other.

Do have a look at the homes website to check out their amazing facilities.

<https://www.caringhomes.org/find-a-care-home/tarring-manor-in-worthing>

Our first visit is planned for just before the Easter holidays with of course an Easter theme, more information will follow shortly.

### **Holiday Club**

As previously advised, we are looking into the possibility of running a holiday club during the summer holidays for our Laugh and Learn preschool children to support our parents over the long Summer holidays, and to enable the children to continue to have access to lots of fun and hands on learning with the Laugh and Learn Ladies in a setting they are already familiar with.

Do please return the expression of interest forms we have sent home to you all as soon as possible to enable us to see if we have enough numbers to go ahead.

### Smart Watches-

Included in our Safeguarding policy and procedures all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities (not just phones and cameras) are not allowed to be with the children. Therefore, all staff's phones and smart watches are locked away in a box in the office each day as stated in our policy. There now appears to be smart watches for children which can take photos to send to contacts available on the market, so we need to ask that your child does not wear one to preschool. Thank you for your support.

### Availability of sessions

With spaces filling up quickly especially with the new 2 year funded hours about to start, please do let us know as soon as you are able to if you think you will be needing additional sessions going forward, or if you are intending to apply for siblings in the near future as we want to be able to accommodate our current families as much as possible. Our Summer term now has very limited availability so do let us know as soon as possible if you would like to make amendments. **As always, we would also be very grateful if you were to recommend us to all your families and friends.**

### Parking

As we often state in our newsletters, we are all aware that parking can be very difficult at drop off and pick up time. It is very important that we remain on good terms with our neighbours, and we would ask you to park considerately, and ensure that a clear access is always maintained for vehicles passing through. Please also do not park across the end of our driveway as this is shared and access is always required by our neighbours. Thank you once again for your cooperation.

### Bringing toys/dressing up to pre-school

We would ask you to be consistent in not allowing your child to bring their own toys or dressing up from home into pre-school. We do appreciate that some children need to bring comforters with them, but it is very difficult to ensure these items do not get lost and broken. Thank you.



### Bee-fit Music Group

We will be continuing our 30-minute weekly sessions with BeeFit to provide fun fitness in line with the Early Years curriculum, but these will now be on alternate Monday and Friday afternoons each week to try and ensure lots of the children get to experience this great activity

### Naming clothes/coats

Can we please remind you to supply named spare clothes for your child every time they attend and if your child needs to borrow some of our very limited supply of spares as we have already used the spares supplied by yourselves can we please ask that you do return them as soon as possible.

Please also ensure you name everything the children bring in with them, their coats, bags, spare clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes as it can be tricky working out whose is whose when some of them have the same ones!

**Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately and warmly and they always have a coat with them as we will do still go outside as much as possible over the winter months. Hats, scarves and gloves will all be placed in the bucket so you can find your child's at the end of each session.**



## Winter virus's

Can we again please ask that if your child is unwell and if they have had a high temperature they should not attend preschool and can only return to preschool once they have been free from a temperature for 24 hours and they are well enough to do so. If your child requires calpol then we would consider that they are not well enough to attend. Children who have mild symptoms such as a runny nose and are otherwise well should however continue to attend preschool as normal.

## Flu Vaccine

We wanted to raise awareness that the Nasal Flu Vaccine/nasal spray is available on the NHS for all children aged 2 and 3 years old. We would encourage those who have not yet had it to phone their GP surgery to discuss their options.

## MEASLES

As i am sure you have all seen in the national press there has been an increase across the country in the numbers of children contracting measles. Measles is a highly contagious disease, most common in children, caused by a virus and is spread easily through coughs or sneezes. It can cause severe disease, often with complications.

Measles infects the respiratory tract and then spreads throughout the body. Symptoms usually begin 10-14 days after contact, early symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose and eyes and small white spots inside the cheeks. A rash all over the body begins 7-18 days after contact usually on the face and neck and spreads over about 3 days, eventually to the hands and feet.

Being vaccinated is the best way to prevent getting sick with measles or spreading it to other people.

## Make sure your child has received the MMR vaccination

Routine vaccinations play a huge part in protecting us all against a range of unpleasant and often serious childhood diseases, including measles, mumps and rubella. Check your child is up to date with their MMR and other childhood vaccinations here: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/childhood-immunisations/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/childhood-immunisations/)

Older children and adults who have not had both doses of the MMR vaccine could be at risk of measles. Two doses of the MMR vaccine are needed for lifelong protection and it is never too late to catch up on missed vaccinations. Vaccinations are offered free of charge in the UK, simply call your GP practice to book an appointment. Find out more at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/)

## Encouraging Independence in readiness for school

For those of you who have children transferring to school in September, we are starting to think about how we can best prepare them for a smooth transition. We will be encouraging increased independence in these children when we return and we will be encouraging them in areas such as changing themselves, finding and recognising their own names and toileting etc. We will be doing all we can to help your child have a smooth transition, however there are some things that you could do at home that would be invaluable in raising their confidence:

- 1) Please encourage them to be independent in their toileting and in dressing and undressing themselves.
- 2) Ensure that they can recognise their own names. We work on this a lot at pre-school but it would be very beneficial if you could also work on this at home.
- 3) Please encourage your child to put on their own coat and if possible do it up. In addition, encourage them to be independent in putting away and collecting their own bag, lunch boxes and water bottles at pre-school.

These things are the most important skills for your child to have, and it is a bonus if your child can additionally write their name, know their colours, count 0-10, and know their phonic sounds.

## Lunches

If you have a child staying for lunch, please make sure that they have a "healthy packed lunch". A sandwich, a piece of fruit, a yogurt, a biscuit, and a drink are plenty and **NO SWEETS** please. Please do not put too much in as they do not have much time to eat. We are a strict **NO NUTS** setting (including chocolate spread and Peanut Butter) **due to allergies**. In addition, **please ensure that if they need a spoon to eat a yogurt you supply a spoon**, all grapes are sliced in half longways, they have water or squash to drink, and can you also make sure there is an ice pack in their lunch boxes as we have no facilities on the premises to keep the lunches chilled. Thankyou.

## Water Bottles

To enable us to provide the children with access to water, we would be grateful if you were able to bring in a **named** water bottle each time they attend. The bottles should be filled with water, which we will refill when necessary. No squash please. These bottles should be placed in the boxes provided and we will ensure that the children are reminded to drink throughout the session with the support of an adult.

## Uniform polo shirts and sweatshirts

Our Laugh and Learn uniform is certainly not compulsory but it is just perfect for pre-school. If you are interested in purchasing some, please come and speak to us. Polo shirts are £12.50 each and sweatshirts £13.50 each, and we do hold some stock at Pre-school.

## Facebook Page

**Please like and share our Facebook page.** We update it each week with photos of the activities your children have been involved in to encourage you to feel connected to your child's experiences and to encourage conversation at home about your child's day. **Please remember to adjust your own privacy settings as our page is unrestricted** and we do not intend to ever post any pictures or information which would identify any individual child. We hope the post will help you support your child's learning at home, and you can check out the page for information on up-and-coming events or emergency closures in severe weather and so on.

## Website

We now have new website, do please have a look, and let us know what you think.

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

## Do you think you may be entitled to the Early Years funded entitlement?

If you are a working parent and you believe your 2 year old may be entitled to the 15 hours of funding or a 3 year old who may be entitled to the 30 hours of funding, please remember that you can only use the funding in the term **after** they turn 2 or 3 years of age, and you will need to apply for it in the term **BEFORE** you wish to use it. You will also need to reconfirm you are still entitled to the funding every three months. Please look on the government website "Childcare Choices" to see the eligibility criteria and to apply. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

**Pre School-Staff: Owner/Manager:**

Sharon Bennett

**Deputy Manager:**

Jessica Fedarb

**Senior Lead Practitioner:**

Sara Leamon

**Lead Practitioners:**

Chloe Farmer, Britt Boxall

**Practitioners:**

Nicola Duggan-Rees Julie Smith. Jo Davis, Karen Rose, and Yvette Ball

**Practitioner/Bank Staff:**

Stacey Cayless, Jess Duggan-Rees, Millie Kelly  
Jodie Lossing-Smith & Nat Tyler

### Contacting Us

Should you need to contact the pre-school to let us know about any absences or for general queries then please call **07568443352** anytime from 8.30am on weekdays. For any queries, including any general enquires regarding changing sessions or fees, please continue to contact Sharon on **07809254917** or send an email to [laughandlearnbennett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:laughandlearnbennett@yahoo.co.uk).

### WSCC Privacy Notice

Following the new Data and Privacy Laws we have been asked by WSCC to send each of our parents a copy of their own Privacy Notice. Please see the notice in the form of a PDF document attachment at the bottom of this newsletter.

## TERM DATES

### Spring Term 2024

1<sup>st</sup> half Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan-Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb (6)

**CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY 1ST JANUARY**

(Closed Half term Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Feb-Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb)

2<sup>nd</sup> half Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb- Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March (6)

**CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

### Summer Term 2024

1<sup>st</sup> half term Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April-Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May (6)

**CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY MON 6<sup>th</sup> MAY**

(Closed Half Term Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May -Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May)

2<sup>nd</sup> half Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June-Fri 12<sup>th</sup> July (6)

### Autumn Term 2024

1<sup>st</sup> half term Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Sept- Fri 25<sup>th</sup> October (7)

(Closed Half Term Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct-Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov)

2<sup>nd</sup> half Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov-Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec (7)

### Spring Term 2025

1<sup>st</sup> half Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb (6)

(Closed Half Term Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb-Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Feb)

2<sup>nd</sup> half Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb-Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Apr (6)

### Summer Term 2025

1<sup>st</sup> half Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr-23<sup>rd</sup> May (5)

**CLOSED 21<sup>st</sup> APR-EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY**

**CLOSED 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY BANK HOLIDAY**

(Closed Half Term Mon 26<sup>th</sup> May- Fri 30<sup>th</sup> May)

2<sup>nd</sup> half Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June-Fri 18<sup>th</sup> July (7)

*Please note that the above dates may be subject to change at short notice*

