



NEWSLETTER

February 2025

It feels like the last half term went past in a blink! We had ice and the hope of snow and hopefully are now going to spot the early signs of Spring.

Last half term the children enjoyed our topics "It's cold outside", "Bird watch", "Dinosaurs" and we ended on "Kindness". We are all so proud of our Little Explorers and the way that they look after each other. They help put each other's shoes on and help them wash their hands. Our big children are always looking after our younger children and are always thinking of others. Our Kindness Jar is never empty!

We also said a fond "farewell....but see you soon!" to Ruth. As you all know, Ruth has started her maternity leave which is very exciting! We are very sad to be without her but know we will still see her when she's dropping Molly off. We are sending her all our love and can't wait to hear of the arrival of our very youngest Little Explorer very soon!!

This half term we will start with our topic "Favourite books and stories", this will coincide with World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. Last year we invited parents in on World Book Day to snuggle into our cosy reading areas and share a book with your child. It was a lovely morning so we would like to do the same this year. Parents, grandparents or carers are invited to join their child on Thursday 6th March from 9am until 9.45am to sit and look through our books and share a story with your child. They will love showing you their favourite book at Preschool! We will then look at Signs of Spring and Life Cycles, People who help us and then finish with Easter. If anyone knows of anyone that would be willing to come and speak to the children during our "People who help us week", please let us know. We would love to have someone from the Police or Fire service or maybe even a Doctor, Nurse or Dentist come in and visit.

We will be starting to think about our Little Explorers Garden and what to plant in our raised beds and tubs. If you have any spare seeds or plants, please pass them our way! The children LOVED growing and eating their own vegetables last year. This year we would like to plant some fruit bushes for them to enjoy too.

This term we will hold our Stay and Play afternoon on Friday 11th April at 2pm. We will have lots of activities out for you and your child to enjoy including an Easter craft followed by a story and then an Easter themed snack.

Following updated information from the Department for Education on Friday, our funding and fees policy is currently under review pending discussions with the Local Authority, which will hopefully happen in the next few weeks. Please be reassured that we are doing everything we can to make the funding work for us all, but we cannot give you any more information until we have consulted with the Local Authority and discussed any changes with our management committee. There will be no change in the way we charge before the new guidance comes into force on the 1st of April. Therefore, we will be sending out two invoices for this half term. The first covering the period 24th Feb – 28th March and the second covering 31st March – 11th April. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

Laura, Jordan, Ruth, Claire,

Katie and Jasmine x

Diary Dates

Monday 24th February: Start of second half of term

Thursday 6th March 9am-9.45am: World Book Day stay and read

Thursday 6th April 2pm: Jiggy Wrigglers Easter Party

Friday 11th April 2pm: Easter Stay & Play afternoon

Friday 11th April: End of Term

Monday 28th April: Start of Summer Term

Why should I read with my child?

STORIES can teach children about the world around them and help them put names to things



BOOKS are brilliant for development, from emotions and speech to counting... and beyond!



STORIES can spark all kinds of conversations between you and your child



BOOKS can open up new adventures and widen children's horizons



BOOKS can provide sensory experiences – with different textures to explore, bits to pull and sounds to hear



STORIES can introduce children to diversities and help them understand different cultures



And of course, **BOOKS** and **STORIES** can make your child... giggle explore wonder imagine discover question laugh



Icons courtesy of Freepik and Flaticon

Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like "What's your favourite game or app to play on?"

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/online-safety
- Call the NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000 to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: childline.org.uk



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

01743 250950

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support.



Shropshire Supporting Families through Early Help

Shropshire Council

Getting Ready for School

It is nearly time to start school! Here are some things you can practise at home to help you get ready for school.



Self-Care and Independence

- I can wash and dry my hands.
- I can wipe my nose.
- I can put on/fasten my coat and shoes.
- I can use the toilet.
- I am learning to dress/undress – this will help me change for PE.
- I am happy to be away from my parents or carers. I know they will be back soon.

Playing with Others



- I join in games and activities with other people.
- I can share and take turns.

Speaking and Listening

- I can talk about my ideas, needs and feelings.
- I can ask a grown-up for help.
- I can follow simple instructions.

Eating and Drinking

- I can use a spoon, knife and fork.
- I can open my lunch box as well as wrappers and packaging.
- I can drink from a water bottle, carton or open cup.



12345 Numbers

- I can count a small number of items.
- I like singing number rhymes or songs.
- I am learning to say numbers to ten.
- I can recognise some numbers.

Reading and Writing

- I can recognise/read my name.
- I can hold a pencil to draw.
- I am learning to write my name.
- I enjoy listening to stories and rhymes.

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