



# Newsletter

## Autumn 2024

Autumn has arrived and we are now 4 weeks into our academic year.

All of our children are settling in well and beginning to find their feet. We have had a very quiet start to this year which has been nice for both the team and the children. We would like to thank all our parents for choosing Deepdale as their childcare provider. It's a pleasure to have your children in our care.

### **Our staff team this year is:**

Kathy Hudson: Director

Vicki Norman: Settings Manager

Sarah Broom: Settings Deputy Manager

Millie Cunningham: Pre-School Practitioner

Stacey Campbell: Pre-School Practitioner

Becky Massey: Pre-school Practitioner

Katie Boothroyd: Pre-school Practitioner

Helena Belaid: Accounts and Administration

Sarah has taken up her role as deputy manager this year and is doing a great job. The team have lots of exciting topics to cover with the children and I am sure that you will be looking forward to all the lovely glittery Christmas artwork that will be coming your way in the next couple of months.

### **Session availability**

As mentioned above we have had a quiet start to the year. However, we are almost fully booked up from January and we can only offer some afternoons, so I am afraid that swapping or adding days will be very difficult, if not impossible this year. We are taking bookings for next September.

Deepdale has always been successful through word of mouth, so please recommend us to your friends.

### **Notice period**

Please could I remind you that as per our terms and conditions, there is a half term notice period to be given should you wish to terminate your registration with Deepdale Pre-School. Could I also ask that you give notice if you are wishing to reduce/change the sessions that your child attends as it may not always be possible.



### **Children in nappies**

Please may I ask that parents of children who are in nappies that they remember to pop some wipes in your child's bag. Our team are always happy to help when the time comes for potty training, so please let us know when you think your little one is ready and we will work together to make it happen.



## Government funding

For those of you who are receiving working parents funding. Please could you make sure that your code is updated before the 31<sup>st</sup> December. If possible, please could you print off your confirmation and give a copy to Helena.



## Applying for school places

For those of you who have children going to reception next year. The window for applications will open on Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> and will be open until Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. If anybody needs any help with anything, then please do not hesitate to ask and we will do what we can to make the process as easy as possible.

## Drop off and pick up

Unfortunately, the door system is not working. Please may I ask that you ring the doorbell for Pre-school.

Pre-school opens at 8am for our children who attend breakfast club and 9am for our morning session. Pick up is 3pm. As the weather is getting wet and colder, please ring the bell if you need to stand in the corridor before opening time.

## Catching up with staff

It isn't always possible to get to speak to your child's key person at pick up or drop off as they are often busy. However, if you would like to have a chat, please let us know in the office and we will arrange for your child's key person to make time to meet up.

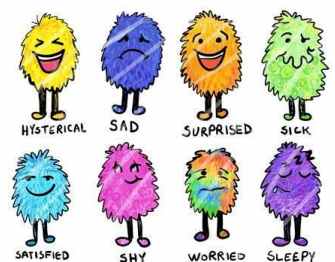
## What's happening this term

As always, the first term of the academic year focuses on the areas to support and nurture the children to settle into Pre-School life. Separation from Parents/Carers is always a difficult and emotional time and building confidence with the children in the setting enables them to play freely, explore and enjoy the wonders of the activities on offer.

We have lots of activities on offer this term. We have lots of fun singing at circle time and listening to lots of stories.

Over the past few weeks, the children have been taking part in activities that allow them to explore themselves, their families, pets and different cultures.

These activities are delivered through artwork, games, stories and questions and photos from home. All our learning is done through play. This week we will continue with the feelings theme, using a colour monster reference. We will be learning about rules and boundaries.



Next week we will be looking at children around the world, festivals and celebrations. Followed by seasons and of course Halloween. Halloween is always a big hit, with pumpkins and spiders and lots of spooky offerings. Bonfire night is always a colourful occasion, and it also gives us the opportunity to speak to our



children about staying safe. Then we have Christmas. Christmas is a time when our school and your home will be filled with glitter, and lots of Christmas creativity.

Remembrance Day is on the planning where the children will hear about the amazing job all the soldiers did in the war. There are lots of activities on offer for the children over this term, look out for all the photos on our face book page which is updated each week.

The outdoor area has been used well over the past few weeks although the weather has been a little damp to say the least. The children love playing in the construction area and as always, the mud kitchen is a firm favourite.

Our indoor sensory area is also an excellent place for our children to use their senses. Using lots of textures, smells, and gloop, which I am sure your child gets covered in whilst having lots of fun.



Our children are always kept busy, whether that is at a table learning new skills or simply playing and learning how to socialise with their peers. It is all extremely hard work when you are so young, but they are all lovely children, and they are doing a great job. Your children's interests are always a priority, and as always, we build these into our daily planning of activities to enable us to support their learning.



Children's hospice

### **Christmas jumper day**

This year we will be doing Christmas Jumper Day and raising funds for Martin House. We will not be collecting for Children in Need, although if the children wish to wear their spotty garments on the day, they are very welcome to do so.

**Christmas jumper day is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Christmas performance**

The children will be doing a Christmas performance in December, and it won't be long until they will be coming home singing their songs. We have a provision date for this which is our last day of term (Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December PM)

There will be more information on this after half term.

### **Rising 5's**

Our Rising 5's sessions will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, starting from the last term in the academic year. These sessions are more focused for our 3 and 4-year olds, as we work to prepare them for school. We need to make sure that each child is ready to work in a larger group before we commence the rising 5's sessions, so in the meantime, your child's key worker will be supporting your child's progress on an individual basis or within small groups. All our learning is carried out through play. Information on the activities taking place in rising 5's will be on the wall outside the Pre-School room (on the left-hand side). We will remind you of this nearer the time.

### **Warm clothing**

The weather has been changeable, but it looks like it has finally arrived. Autumn is truly here. The mornings are getting a bit nippy, so, with this in mind could we ask you to send your little ones in with coats, hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear. We like to get outside no matter what the weather, so wellington boots will be a must for the wet days. Could you also remember to send in a change of clothes, just in case? On the note of clothing!! We love

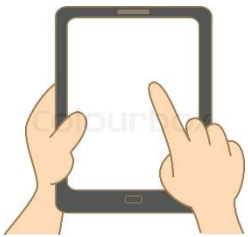


messy play at Deepdale, so, please do not send your child in clothes that you do not want to get messy.

### **Illnesses**

It's that time of year when there are lots of viruses around and we are all coming down with cold's and various illnesses. Could I please ask that if your child/children are not feeling well and are in need for some extra TLC, that you keep them at home. We would love to be able to cuddle them all day, but unfortunately, we don't have the capacity to do so, which means that your child is not getting the care that they need whilst feeling poorly. This is also the case when children have had a bad night's sleep and are very tired.

### **Tapestry**



We will continue to follow the advice of Ofsted, which is to spend less time recording. Observations will be entered on tapestry on a half termly basis. As well as this there is a weekly observation that has an overlook on what has been happening throughout the week. Tapestry is also used to record your child's two-year old check, so please log in and have a look.

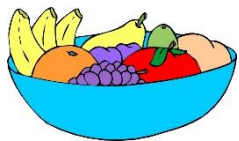
Everybody should have been sent an activation email. Many of you have already activated the log in and are already sharing your child's journal, with lovely photos and videos. If you have not got around to activating yet, then please do so as soon as you can as the activation period only lasts for 4 weeks. If you have not received an email, or if you need some support, then please call into the office.

### **Facebook**

Our facebook page is up and running again, so we will be putting pictures of our children taking part in their daily activities. Please follow our Facebook Page: [\(15\) Facebook](#)



### **Snack**



Snack is provided each morning and afternoon and is a special part of the day where the staff get to spend quality time with the children. As we do not charge for consumables, we have always asked parents to help out by providing a piece of fruit a week, so if you have a spare orange, apple, banana etc, then please could you pop it in the basket on the lunch trolley, Or hand it in to a member of staff.

### **Breakfast Club**

Just a reminder that we are running a breakfast club every morning from 8.00am-9.00am at a cost of £7.00. This can also be claimed through your government funding hours. Breakfast is included in the price. To book on, please call into the office.

### Packed lunch

Please could we ask that if you send your child with **grapes** in their packed lunch that you cut them in half, length ways. This also applies to **cherry tomatoes, blueberries** and any other small round item. This is due to the size and shape which has been identified as a choke hazard for children. Also, we have noticed that there is a lot of sweet foods in some of the children's pack up, and although we do not want to be telling you what your child should eat, it does make it difficult to encourage them to eat their sandwiches etc first. **We currently have children with serious food allergies. We have always had a NO NUTS NO FISH policy in place, which is described in our information pack. We would like to highlight this policy to ensure that our children's health is not put at risk.**



### School uniform



Just a reminder that we do have a school uniform if anybody wishes to purchase one for the new school year. If you would like to put in an order, please do so as soon as possible as the company that we use is very busy at this time of year. Order forms are available from the office.

### Dates for your diary

- Christmas Jumper Day      Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas performance:      Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December (This may change)
- Finish for Christmas      Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December
- Return to pre-school      Monday 6th January

### Training Days:

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November (safeguarding training)
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Thank you for choosing Deepdale Pre-School to care for you child/children. Remember we are always here if you need to talk.