

# Farnsfield Pre-School Newsletter



SPRING TERM 2021

[www.farnsfieldpreschool.org](http://www.farnsfieldpreschool.org)

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## Dates for your diaries

### Spring term 2021

**Starts Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan**

**Close for half term**

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb**

**Reopen Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

**Term finishes**

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Apr**

### Inset Days

**To make it easy for as many families as possible to follow, if we have an inset day it will be the same as St Michaels School Farnsfield**

### Our next Inset day

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## Babies & Toddlers

Due to COVID-19 our Toddlers has been suspended till the government guidelines allow it to reopen.

We know how important this group is to so many parents and hope to be open as soon as safely possible. We will inform you as soon as this happens.

## **Happy hellos and sad goodbyes**

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and your children are happy to be back at pre-school. Welcome to our new children and their families joining us this term and it is also a welcome back to Emma Watson. She may be a familiar face to some of our longer standing children but a new face to others who were not at pre-school when Emma previously worked with us. We all know how much everyone loves our pre-school and for Emma she missed us so much she decided to return at the start of this term. She was welcomed back warmly by those children who remembered her, and will no doubt become a firm favourite of those children she is new to.

Gaining back a wonderful member of staff is contrasted by the sad news that Pearl Butler will be retiring and leaving our pre-school family at Easter. Pearl has worked in our pre-school for nearly 20 years and we cannot thank her enough for all she has devoted to the families in our community. She has helped to give many children the best start to their early year's education and will be sorely missed by so many. We wish her well in her retirement and hope the memories of all the staff and children she worked with at Farnsfield Pre-school gives her lots of comfort on a job well done. We hope you will all join us in sending your love and appreciation for all she has done for so many.

## **KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE DURING LOCKDOWN**

As you know the government guidelines recommend we stay open to all our children. We have had some parents who, for different reasons, do not wish to bring their child to pre-school during this lockdown. Our committee have decided to waive fees for parents who have decided to keep their children at home during this difficult time. Places for these children will be secured and available when they wish to return. Our risk assessment is continually adapted to fit in with the many changes to keep us all safe and can be read on our website. To keep our opening times the same it is important that only one parent or carer arrives at pre-school to drop off and collect their child. We are thankful to all our families who have been doing everything they can to keep us all safe and for the resilience of our amazing children in this exceptional time.

## Up-coming activities

- **Caring for the environment. (Bird Feeders)**
- **Valentine's Day**
- **World Book Day**
- **Spring crafts (Mother's Day)**
- **Easter Crafts**
- **Little Explorers**

## Introducing you to Sam, our Language Lead at Pre-School.

Sam's role is to ensure each child has the ability and skills to develop language and communication. Sam undertakes regular research into this field and attends local Language network meetings. In addition, she will help the staff to identify and support children's speech and language needs, enabling us to provide an environment that supports each individual child. Parents and carers are always welcome to ask Sam about any concerns they may have, or for information that is relevant to this matter. Sam will utilise a wide range of learning apparatus to create an environment in which children can extend their learning through appropriate activities.



We have been overwhelmed by the response we have had to our recent introduction of Tapestry and have been grateful to the contributions from families to their children's online learning journals.

For those new to pre-school, we are signed up to an organisation called Tapestry which lets us create a digital learning journal for each child. This journal can be securely accessed by those involved in your child's care and enables us to communicate more easily and efficiently between staff and parents. We hope that this resource can only improve our ability to monitor your child's progress and make sure we are providing tailored support and guidance as needed. You can add your own content to the journal which can give your child's key worker a greater insight into your child's development by seeing them in their home environment as well as at pre-school.

New families to the pre-school will be given a consent form to sign as part of their child's induction. Once you have returned your letter giving consent you will be contacted on how to look at your child's achievements and share their wow moments from home, via tapestry online. Tapestry is also available as a secure app to make accessing your child's learning journal even easier. We hope you will enjoy using tapestry and find it a valuable resource.

### Outdoor play and Little Explorers

"Little explorers" is our early years introduction to our outdoor play for blue group only and is about focusing on getting children outdoors and interacting with their natural environment in all weathers in our local area. Due to the current lockdown restrictions, we will still be running these sessions but doing them in the safety of our own outdoor space. We hope to get the children out and exploring our local area again when restrictions are lifted. We hope that you will all get a chance to see these wonderful activities and fun learning opportunities on your child's online learning journal Tapestry and closed Facebook page through the coming months. We are incredibly lucky to have a large and safe outdoor play area our children can utilise on every session to improve their mental and physical wellbeing. To ensure your child benefits from this important part of their learning development please make sure your child has weather appropriate clothing.

### Help our fundraising efforts



We are happy to report that again we have been successful in our application to be one of Co-Op's chosen charities. If you would like to allocate 1% from your membership scheme to Pre-School, please go to the Co-op website and follow the simple instructions. <https://membership.coop.co.uk>



You can now help raise money for Pre-School just by shopping on Amazon.

Please follow this link: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1022276-0>

It does not cost you anything, but everything you spend via this link earns funds for us! The prices are the same and the Amazon service is the same.

# **Reminders and essentials**

## **Winter Weather**

If the weather becomes a problem during the pre-school day or where weather conditions are anticipated to become too hazardous to travel later, parents/carers may be contacted via the emergency contact details and asked to collect their child.

Please remember to dress your child appropriately for the weather.

### **Please can children refrain from coming in with toys and accessories from home.**

This can cause problems in the pre-school as children are understandably very protective of their own toys, and the other children love to see new things. By the end of the session, they can become upset if their favoured toy is lost or broken. Comforters and soothers will always be an exception to the rule.

### **Please name all items of clothing and bags that your child may bring into Pre-school.**

Items are easily mixed up or lost so this simple procedure will help us to avoid unnecessary upset.

### **Pre-school branded clothing**

Our branded polo shirts and jumpers are available to purchase through our admin team.

### **Funding**

A reminder to parents who claim additional funding (up to 30 hours) to confirm their eligibility with the D.W.P. (Department Work Pensions) via the Government Gateway account regularly. More information about funding can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### **Payments**

For those of you who pay fees for your child, our invoices are now sent out electronically via e-mail.