



Spring Term 2 Newsletter

We made it! The 276 days of January were long, dark and wet, but finally Spring is round the corner! The brighter mornings are already noticeable 😊 It's only a short half term this time, but in true Pre-School style, no less busy. Here is some information (and a few reminders) for the next few weeks. As always, the team and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Open Door Sessions

Open doors for the following half term are as follows, 9-9:30

Wednesday 25th February

Tuesday 3rd March

Friday 13th March

Monday 16th March-special Mother's Day stay and play

Thursday 26th March

Sports with Jack & Becky Bops

Wednesday 25th February- Becky Bops

Monday 2nd March- Sports with Jack

Tuesday 10th March- Becky Bops

Friday 20th March- Sports with Jack

Thursday 26th March- Becky Bops

Mothering Monday

Monday 16th March 9-10am. We would love to invite a special lady to come for breakfast and a play. If Mum can't make it, maybe a grandparent, Auntie or Friend. (If not don't worry we have lots of special pre-school ladies) If your child does not usually attend Monday mornings you are still more than welcome to join us. It would be really helpful if you could let me know if you are coming, just to give me an idea for food- also if you have any dietary requirements don't forget to let me know. There will be plenty of fun activities to do with your child as well as their photo books will be available to have a look through.

Little Explorer Sessions

Friday 27th February, Amanda and Amelia- Autumn, Lyla, Olivia, Isaac M, Ellis, Connor

Thursday 5th March, Sam and Emma- Aurla, Felix, Oak, Teddy E, Isla, Henry

Wednesday 11th March, Anneline and Danni- Maggie, Hattie, Selah, Louie, Edie, Poppy

Tuesday 17th March, Laura and Amanda- Theo, Teddy A, Olive, Mila, Autumn, Louie

Monday 23rd March, Anneline and Emma- Issac H, Maisie, Eagan, Connor, Teddy E, Lyla

Hollybeck Seeds For Schools Campaign

We are so lucky, Anneline signed us up the Seeds for Schools' campaign with Hollybeck Garden centre. They are popping out to deliver some seed starter packs next week. As you know the children love to get in the soil and grow what we can. As part of the campaign, we will be taking part in a tallest sunflower competition. Watch this space for more details.

As we move into spring, the planting will be in full swing. Including our community planter, near the tennis courts. If you are clearing out the shed and find you have any leftover seeds/ compost, feel free to throw them our way.

New Sheltered Space Outside

A former parent, Katie, has secured us a grant from her workplace, Tarmac.

Tarmac is the UK's leading sustainable building materials and construction solutions company. As part of the bid, we had to think of something we wished to purchase to aid us in remaining sustainable. We are having a new sheltered area built over the mud kitchen and sandpit. Not only will it help protect these areas from the rain, but it will provide some much-needed shade in the summer.

Often large companies have pots of money for charitable donations. Please let us know if your company offer anything like this.

Sustainability

You may remember in January I shared our sustainability policy. As a setting remaining environmentally sustainable is something we are passionate about. We want to educate our children to care for the world around them. We already do lots with the children; compost our fruit/ vegetable peelings, re-use where we can, encourage pre-loved uniform, growing food to eat for snacks, little explorer sessions where we talk about the world around us. We also recycle all our soft plastics, although currently this is a job that often falls to the pre-school ladies. This half term we are investing in some colour coded bins to help the children separate and recycle their rubbish. There will be lots of activities, books and conversations around recycling. Why not use the opportunity to do more at home. Clean, soft plastics such as crisp packets, bread wrappers, tube yogurt packaging ect. can be bagged and taken to the Co-Op, Aldi or Tesco. 18th March is Global Recycle day.

Consumables Charge

You may have seen a lot in the press around additional charges settings are invoicing parents for. We keep it no secret funds are extremely tight in early years. As helpful as additional funding is to parents, the funding settings receive does not stretch very far in a sector with very high overheads. Having said that, we have always remained open and honest about the consumables charge we have. Currently, on funded sessions we have a 75p consumable charge. This covers the 'above and beyond' of delivering the EYFS. Such as snacks, sessions with Becky and Jack, extra staffing to enable little explorer sessions, events such as Christmas parties and graduation celebrations and printing photos for the children's books. No profit is made from the consumables charge. You may remember your contracts; we give you the choice to opt in/ opt out of the consumables charge. Those who opt-in are given a half-termly invoice. Prompt payment of this invoice really helps us to remain financially sustainable. If you find your personal circumstances have changed and are struggling to pay please come and speak with us.

Food and Drink

As you know we have strict guidelines from the Department for Education around what food we can offer children in setting. These are reflected in policies and snack menu. We are a nut free setting- please remember this when packing lunch, last term we had a lot of nut butters, nutty chocolate and whole-nuts in the lunch boxes. Can I also remind you water is encouraged in bottles. I have checked in with all local schools and water in bottles is the expectation, so starting healthy habits now will help with the transition to school. As with

everything, reasonable adjustments can be made for children who have difficulties around food/ neurodiverse needs.

Below is an extract from our Food and Nutrition policy. (Full Policy can be found on our website)

Birthday cakes and celebrations

At Farnsfield Pre-school we recognise the cultural and personal importance of celebrating birthdays. Unless parents specify during registration we will celebrate all children's birthdays. Suggestions in the Early Years food and nutrition guidance 2025, of non-food items for celebrations such as stickers/ bubbles or fruit platters welcome. Parents who wish to send a cake can do, we will happily sing and blow out candles with your child, then send a piece of cake home with the other children. Unfortunately, homemade goods cannot be shared with other children.

Lunchboxes/ snacks

As Farnsfield Pre-School do not provide cook meals all children who attend either a full day will need to bring a lunchbox. To meet statutory requirements we as providers are not only expected to provide healthy well-balanced snacks, but to also encourage parents to follow healthy eating guidelines when sending a packed lunch. Eating a healthy well-balanced diet is beneficial to both physical and oral health as well as supports the cognitive development and brain function of your child.

We ask families to support us by ensuring your child has a balanced packed lunch.

- **NO NUTS, POPCORN OR MARSHMELLOWS**
- **NO FIZZY DRINKS, (milk/ water is preferable)**
- **NO SWEETS INCLUDING 'FRUIT ROLLS'**
- **GRAPES/ PLUM TOMATOES/ SAUSAGES TO BE CHOPPED TO AVOID THE RISK OF CHOKING**
- **ALL LUNCHBOXES MUST CONTAIN AN ICE PACK, I YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE PLEASE LET A MEMBER OF STAFF KNOW**
- **WE CANNOT RE-HEAT FOOD, HOWEVER YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE THE FLASKS THAT KEEP FOOD WARM AND WE CAN DE-CANT TO A BOWL/PLATE**

The 'Eatwell guide' has lots of great healthy packed lunch ideas. It can be very tempting to send lots of options; in our experience this simply overwhelms the children. One carb item, piece of fruit/ veg and a dairy option is plenty. Getting the children involved in packing their lunchbox is not only fun for them but will often help them to make the better choices. These healthy eating expectations are the same throughout education so fostering the good habits early on will be beneficial to both your and your children's future routines. If you are struggling with what to pack, please speak with a member of staff.

Toys from Home

The going home box is proving to be a great success. The children are doing fantastic at putting their comfort toys in the box, ready for home time. Not constantly carrying a comforter allows the children to have both hands free for playing. It also means they are more open for interaction and communication with their peers. The handy thing with the box means the children know the comforters are available for times they really need them for regulating. We do have a few clever clogs who have learnt to work the system and are bringing lots of small toys from home and putting them in the box. However, throughout the day others are seeing these very exciting toys and they are going walkies! I do really need to insist unless it is a comforter, please do not allow your child to bring toys from home. Once at school even comfort toys are not usually allowed, please support us to ease your child into this transition.

Recruitment

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you that I am off to pastures new. I am excited for a new challenge, but it also comes with sadness because Farnsfield Pre-School holds a very special place in my heart. I will be around until Easter, so still plenty of cuddle time with all the little people 😊. It would really help if you see our

recruitment advert if you could give it a share, I just know the perfect person for our incredible setting is out there!

Label those belongings!

I know, I know I'm like a broken record, but I can't stress enough to label your child's belongings. Hats, coats, all clothing, bags- everything! The pre-school ladies are pretty good when it comes to the 'sniff test', but some things we simply cannot match up. Every half term we are left with a pile of belongings that no one claims!

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 27th March, last day of Spring term 2

Monday 13th April, Return Summer term 1

Friday 22nd May, last day of Summer term 1

Tuesday 2nd June, Return Summer term 2

Thursday 24th July, last day of Summer term 2

Monday 1st June- Inset Day

Friday 24th July- Graduation Party (school leavers)

Wednesday 2nd September Return Autumn term 1

Spring Term Snack Menu

Milk and water are offered to drink at all snack times. All children are offered snack but it's their choice to eat it or not. If children do not want snack, they are encouraged to at least have a drink.

WEEK 1 (5/1, 2/2, 9/3)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Savory Crackers wheat barley	Fruit Bowl
Tuesday	Fruit bowl	Rice cakes and kiwi
Wednesday	Ready Brek and Blueberries oats	Fruit bowl
Thursday	Fruit Bowl	Yogurt dairy
Friday	melon	Fruit Bowl

WEEK 2 (12/1, 9/2, 16/3)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Fruit Bowl	Oat cakes and strawberries Oats
Tuesday	Weetabix wheat barley	Fruit Bowl
Wednesday	Fruit Bowl	Breadsticks and cheese spread Wheat, dairy
Thursday	Bagels Wheat barley	Fruit Bowl
Friday	Fruit Bowl	Savory crackers wheat barley

WEEK 3 (19/1, 23/2, 23/3)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Toasted Muffins Wheat soya	Fruit bowl
Tuesday	Fruit Bowl	Yogurt Dairy
Wednesday	Crackers and cheese Wheat dairy	Fruit bowl
Thursday	Fruit Bowl	Bread sticks and veggie sticks wheat
Friday	Rice Crispies Barley	Fruit Bowl

WEEK 4, (26/1, 2/3)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Fruit Bowl	Buttered crackers wheat dairy
Tuesday	Wholemeal Toast wheat dairy	Fruit Bowl
Wednesday	Fruit Bowl	Ham and cheese sticks dairy
Thursday	Cornflakes barley	Fruit Bowl
Friday	Fruit Bowl	Corn cakes and fruit

**Cereal offered will likely be supermarket own brand, children will be offered the choice of milk/ dry cereal*

Fruit bowl- Children will be offered a choice of apple, pear, banana, satsuma, plums, cucumber

Where possible allergen free alternatives will be offered as close match as possible.

Considerations will be made for children who may have sensory issues around food.