



Summer Term 1 Newsletter

I would like to thank you all for making me feel welcome in my first few weeks and I have enjoyed getting to know all the children, staff and parents/carers. I will be your first point of contact and communications can go through the usual Farnsfield Pre-School email or my work email SHickling@FarnsfieldPschool.onmicrosoft.com. 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. I would like to remind you that my door is always open for you to drop in and talk to me.



Inset day volunteers required

We have an inset day on 1st of June for staff training. We also hope to take the afternoon to focus on the garden. We need some helpers if anyone is spare 1-3 pm.

There will be no children on site, and we would like someone to help us to jet wash our play surface, we do not own a jet wash, so if anyone would mind us borrowing theirs that would be great. Paint some of our wooden items outside, sweep/ tidy areas in our garden and generally make it look nice for the children. If anyone has any spare vegetable plants or herbs, we would appreciate them. Donations of outdoor paints and brushes are welcome to help rejuvenate the outdoors.

Sports with Jack & Becky Bops

Wednesday 3rd June Becky Bops

Thursday 18th June Becky Bops

Tuesday 30th June Becky Bops

Thursday 16th July Becky Bops

Dates for Jack will be confirmed and will be alternative weeks to Becky.

Father's Day Breakfast

We are offering a Father's Day breakfast on Friday 19th June 9-10am. This is free but as always donations are welcome. More information will follow asap.

Sponsored walk

We are having a sponsored walk on Wednesday 17th June 10.30-11.30, we will be staying local. This is a great opportunity to raise vital funds for our pre-school. Any children who do not usually attend on a Wednesday are welcome to come along with Parent/carers/grandparents. We are asking for helpers, so if anyone can help us take the children on this walk, we would be grateful.

Sponsorship forms will be sent out and please ask your friends and family to sponsor your children.

Please could we have sponsorship forms and any money raised back to us for 26th of June or before. There will be a prize for the child who raises the most money.



Little Explorer Sessions

We will be starting these once our new staff member has started, so she can support with outings. We will introduce you all to Tracy very soon once her DBS check is completed.



Dates for your diary

Friday 22nd May, last day of Summer term 1
Monday 1st June- Inset Day closed
Tuesday 2nd June, Return for Summer term 2
Thursday 23rd July, last day of Summer term 2
Friday 24th July- Graduation Party (school leavers only)
Wednesday 2nd September Return Autumn term 1



Tapestry



We are re-introducing Tapestry, an online system for children's learning, communication with parents and invoicing. We feel that we need to move with the times and parents will be able to access the child's learning through an app. We aim to begin using this from September, we will send more information leading up to this to phase the new system in. This software allows us to communicate with you all directly or as a group. We will start with the office management side of things, such as invoicing, registers, booked sessions etc, then roll-out the children's journals.

Sponsors and donations

We are looking for sponsors or donations to help with funding new equipment and update our garden for summer. As we are a charity run preschool, donations, sponsors and fundraising keeps our pre-school open and well equipped. If you know of anyone who would like to sponsor us or donate, please let me know. If you or your family could ask employers if anyone would like to help us we would be very grateful. We would like to save up for one more fixed shelter to enhance our outdoor provision and allow more free flow play space. However, these are expensive and we will need to do lots of fundraising and/or get sponsorships to support this. If your company does provide sponsorship, the cost of this can be offset against their advertising budget, and we can add a link to the website on our social media.

Starting school

If your child is leaving us in July to start school, we would like to offer the opportunity to meet with their key person if you would like any support with the school transition and getting your child ready for school. The EYFS states

School readiness in EYFS means children are prepared to transition smoothly into primary school, equipped with the skills, confidence, and social-emotional development to engage in learning effectively.

We encourage children to be independent when dressing and changing, manage and resolve conflict by recognising their own emotions and them of others. We provide opportunities every day for children to begin to recognise the letters in their name and sign them. Throughout the day at pre-school children are encouraged to be independent and there are lots of books available to help prepare them for school that you can read at home.

Remember to involve them in shopping for uniform, new shoes or a new school bag. Have lots of conversations about them starting school. We love hearing about how they settle in and updates.

Sustainability



You may remember in January we 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. There will be lots of activities, books and conversations around recycling. Why not use the opportunity to do more at home and involve your children to reinforce the message? Clean, soft plastics such as crisp packets, bread wrappers, tube yogurt packaging etc can now all be recycled.

Consumables Charge

You may have seen a lot in the press around additional charges settings are invoicing parents for. We keep it no secret that 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 per session. 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 our 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/ drink or neurodiverse needs.

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

Oral Hygiene is highlighted as a focus by the government and obesity in children, at the preschool we promote good oral hygiene and healthy food choices.

The NHS provides guidance on how to promote good oral health, including the following key messages:

Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes.

Use the correct dose of fluoride toothpaste for age.

Spit, don't rinse with water to leave the fluoride coating the teeth.

Stop using a dummy and bottle when the child is one year old.

Visit the dentist regularly for check-ups.

These practices are part of the NHS's efforts to reduce health inequalities and ensure that children have healthy teeth and gums.

The NHS also encourages parents and carers to model good toothbrushing and to cut down on 'free sugars' and sugary drinks.



Keeping children safe online

There is a huge focus on educating children and supporting parents to keep children safe online. Remember you can use parental controls and filters from your internet provider, tablets and phones too.

Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online

1. Start with the positives

Being online can be a great way for children to learn, be creative, and stay connected with friends and family. Recognising these benefits helps keep conversations balanced and encourages confident, safe use of technology.

2. Find the right time and place

Choose a calm moment to talk, such as during a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the conversation when emotions are high or during a disagreement.

3. Use child-facing resources and advice

Support your conversation with age-appropriate tools, videos, or guides. These can help children understand key messages and make the discussion more engaging and relevant to their stage of development.

4. Ask about their experiences

Use open questions like:

‘Have you seen anything online that made you uncomfortable?’

‘Who do you chat with online?’

‘Are they people you know offline?’

‘How do you feel when using certain apps or games?’

5. Make it part of everyday life

These chats don’t need to be formal or one-off. Regular, relaxed conversations help children feel supported and more likely to speak up if something worries them.

Use age-appropriate tools like **Talk PANTS**, **Techosaurus**, or **LEGO’s Build & Talk activities** to make online safety engaging and easy to understand. Keep language clear, avoid jargon, and reassure children they can talk to you about anything.

Help them build healthy habits from a young age, such as thinking before sharing, asking for help when unsure, and taking breaks from screens. If something has gone wrong, stay calm and focus on support, not blame. This helps children feel safe coming to you, no matter what’s happened.

‘House-keeping’ reminders:

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 are 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, home made goods cannot be shared with other children.



Lunch boxes/ snacks

As Farnsfield Pre-School do not provide cook meals, all children who attend either a full day or an afternoon session 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 supporting 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 IN WARM WEATHER. IF 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 DECANT TO A BOWL/PLATE IF REQUIRED*

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.

Pushchairs and Bikes

Please remember: If it is absolutely necessary to leave a bike or a pushchair at Pre-school, please fold them up (if possible) and place them in the shed. We have limited storage and often need to access equipment in the shed, so please take them home where possible.

Toys from Home

The going home box is proving to be a great success. The children are 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. Having 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 binging 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 keep you up to date on our recruitment. We have two new staff starting soon - Tracy is going to be starting after half term and will be working a few days a week. Tina is going to be doing bank cover for us and will be in a few afternoons later in the summer term.

Label those belongings!

I can't stress enough how important it is 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! We also spend a lot of time at lunchtime trying to match water/juice bottles with their owners. This is very time-consuming, especially when we need to be keeping an eye on the children for their safety. Please, therefore, label your child's drink bottle. A marker pen is fine; it doesn't have to be fancy labels.



Suncream

As we move into the summer term, we are hoping to have some nice weather and would like to remind you to always put suncream on your children before attending Pre-school. If you forget we will leave our suncream in the playground in the morning so you can apply some whilst awaiting to come in.



Pre-School and Baby and Toddler group

As we are in a small village it is vital to keep filling spaces in Pre-school and to attract new families to the Baby and Toddler group on a Friday. If you see any of our posts about the Pre-school on social media, please share them on your feed or with friends. Recommend us to your family and friends too. We have so many families come after recommendations from friends. We feel the community needs our facilities and the families and children benefit so much from them. More information can be found on our website:

www.farnsfieldpreschool.org



Summer 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 (13/4, 11/5, 15/6, 13/7)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Fruit Bowl	Bread sticks and cheese spread Wheat, Dairy
Tuesday	Bagels Wheat Barley	Fruit bowl
Wednesday	Fruit bowl	Oat cakes and grapes Oats
Thursday	Weetabix Wheat, Barley	Fruit bowl
Friday	Fruit bowl	Yogurt Dairy

WEEK 2 (20/4, 18/5, 22/6, 20/7)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Rice crispies Barley	Fruit bowl
Tuesday	Fruit bowl	Veggie sticks
Wednesday	Rice cakes and kiwi	Fruit bowl
Thursday	Fruit bowl	Savory crackers Wheat Barley
Friday	Wholemeal toast Wheat, Dairy	Fruit bowl

WEEK 3 (27/4, 1/6, 29/6)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Fruit bowl	Crackers and spread Wheat, Dairy
Tuesday	Cornflakes Barley	Fruit bowl
Wednesday	Fruit bowl	Yogurt Dairy
Thursday	Crumpets Wheat, Dairy, Egg	Fruit bowl
Friday	Fruit bowl	Savory crackers Wheat Barley

WEEK 4, (4/5, 8/6, 6/7)

Day	Morning Snack	Afternoon Snack
Monday	Ham, cheese and breadsticks Wheat, Dairy	Fruit bowl
Tuesday	Fruit bowl	Rice cakes and blueberries
Wednesday	Pitta and hummus Wheat, Soya, sesame	Fruit bowl
Thursday	Fruit bowl	Veggie sticks
Friday	Shreddies Wheat	Fruit bowl

**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 choices of apple, pear, banana, satsuma, plums, cucumber

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

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