



# **St Mark's Pre-School** **Newsletter**

**This Terms**  
**Activities**

**July 2024**

We started off the term with our Under the sea topic. We used our creative skills to make some very cool and funky looking jelly fish out of paper plates, we made sure they had some tentacles just like real jelly fish. On the literacy table we continued to work on our letter formation and pencil control with some children really starting to show an interest in writing their name. All children have a name card to help them with this. In the tuff spot we worked on our hand eye co-ordination with a fishing game, some fish were quite tricky to catch so we really had to concentrate! We were also lucky to have some mermaid tails made especially for our barbie dolls. The children loved dressing the barbies up and using their imagination to pretend they were real life mermaids.

We then moved onto our next topic which is ongoing and is "The Euro's". The first day of this topic was also our Father's Day stay and play. We had great fun with our Daddies, we made special Father's Day cards, drew self portraits of our daddies, built a train track and even had a yummy snack. We would like to thank the Daddies that were able to come in and we hope you all enjoyed it; we know the children did.

We then continued with our Euro's topic. We have been having great fun with our new table football game, it is helping us to take turns, count and hand eye co-ordination. We loved the new goals and footballs in our outside area and have been practicing our celebrations when we score! We have also been working on our throwing and catching skills with the smaller balls and catch pads. In the water tray we have had some jugs to work on pouring and filling, we also had some little mini footballs in their too. On the math's table we worked on our number recognition and matching, we had to put the correct number of footballs into the goal. On the creative table we designed a new football shirt, we got very creative, and we hope to see some footballers wearing these soon.

In the morning during register we usually say "yes" to our name, however over the last few weeks we have been saying "yes" in a different language each day. Also, during music time, we sang a new football fun song and we also listened to The National Anthem, lots of children said they had heard that 'song' before.

Can we please remind parents not to talk with the member of staff at the door in the mornings, they are required to make sure all children remain within the setting and to ensure their safety. If you need to speak with a member of staff, please feel free to approach another member of the team.

# Half Term Topics

This half terms topics will be.

Week 1 – 03/06/24 – Under the sea

Week 2 – 10/06/24 – Under the sea

Week 3 – 17/06/24 – The Euro's

Week 4 – 24/06/24 – The Euro's

Week 5 – 01/07/24 – The Euro's

Week 6 – 08/07/24 – The Euro's

Week 7 – 15/07/24 – The Olympics

## Topics

As you can see, we will be following The Euro's 2024 for the four weeks that it will be running. Within these weeks we will be looking at lots of different things such as the different countries, flags, languages, food etc. We will be having lots of fun, and we even have some new footballs and goals for the outside area. We will also be running our very own Euro's sweepstake with a prize for the winner!

The last week of term we will running our very own St Marks Olympics (sports day) this will be on the Monday and ending the week with the pool events (splash day) More details of this to follow.

## Sports Day

This year Sports Day will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. This is just for those children attending on this day. Please can we ask that all children are to be dropped off and collected at Normandy cricket club.

All children will need a fruit snack for the morning and lunch for those that stay for a full day, a water bottle and a sun hat. Please can we ask that all children have sun cream and bug spray applied. Children will need to be wearing something comfortable and will be allowed to wear shorts and t-shirt on the day.

Parents do not stay for this, but we will take lots of photos and videos.

# Splash Day

This year our splash day will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Can all parents please bring their child in wearing swimwear under their clothes, so they are ready to go. They also need to be wearing a pair of shoes that will get wet. All children will need to bring a named towel and clothes and shoes to change into, this all needs to be in a named bag.

# Welly Boots

Can we please ask all parents to take home their child's welly boots. These are all on the trolley that you hang their coat and bag on in the morning. For those that will be returning in September, we just ask that you bring in a new pair as we are sure that feet will have grown over the Summer.

# Tapestry

For the children leaving to go to school this year your child's tapestry account will be available for download from the Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 5.30pm, after this the account will be deleted and we have no way of getting these back so please make sure you do download it, it is a lovely keepsake to look back on.

We know that tapestry are offering parents the chance for these to be made into books at an extra cost, this is something that you can do after it has been downloaded, not something that we are doing.

# New Hours

From September 2024 we will have new opening hours. Please make a note of these hours, this includes a new start time of 9am for all.

Morning session will now be 9am- 12pm  
Full day will now be 9am – 2.45pm

# New Starters

For the new children starting with us in September we would like to invite you to a new starter Open morning. This will be held at the hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 10am- 11.30am. This will give your child a chance to meet some of the other children and staff and a chance to fill out the required paperwork.

We hope to see you all there. If you can't make this date, please drop Lorraine a message.

# Extra Sessions

For those with children staying with us in September can you please let Lorraine know if you require your child to do more sessions with us. We would like to give existing parents priority of more sessions to avoid disappointment before offering these out to new parents.

# Pick Up

Please can we ask parents when picking their children up when at the hall that you do not allow your children to run in the graveyard and over the graves! Unfortunately, we have had a few complaints about this, these are peoples loved ones and this needs to be respected. We understand that in some areas there is a path but as we know children don't always stick to these!

Could we also ask that parents don't allow their children to run around the side of the building, both sides are used as exit points, and we have had a few near misses of children running around the side and nearly bumping into children leaving.

# Summer Footwear

Hopefully the weather will start to improve soon, so we would just like to remind parents that no crocs or open toed sandals are to be worn into the setting, the ground outside is very uneven and these types of shoes can lead to many nasty accidents. Doodles or closed toe sandals with a fastening strap are advised.

## Reminders

We have noticed some parents are picking up their children late, can we please ask that parents are ready to collect their children from either 12.15pm or 2.30pm, otherwise you will incur a late fee surcharge of £5.00 as per our Terms & Conditions within your contracts.

We appreciate that sometimes this can't be helped, so we just ask that you please call us and let us know.

For those children who take part in our Forest school session and who wear wellies, please make sure you add either thick ski socks or fleecy welly boot liners or both to keep your child's feet warm.

Also, a reminder that we will be leaving for the forest promptly at 9.15am, If you are running late and not there or ready to leave unfortunately you will need to walk your child over to us in the forest. The longer we are waiting at the cricket car park for children to arrive is upsetting for the children already there and waiting to go.

# Two Year Funding

From April 2024, eligible working parents of two-year-olds can access their 15 hours childcare from the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

From September 2024 - For eligible working families in England with a child between 9 and 23 months old can access their 15 hours childcare. Apply for your code from 12th May.

The link below will offer more information with regards to finding out if you are eligible to apply.

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

# Activities at Home Box

We are very pleased to be introducing our activity at home box again. This box will be available every morning for you to choose and activity to share with your child at home. Please fill in the book to sign in and out your activity.

# Internet Safety

Online safety advice More and more pre-schoolers are using their parents' computers, smartphones or tablets to play games, use apps, and watch their favourite TV shows. There are simple things you can do to make sure they're using the internet safely. Copy and paste the following link for further online safety advice. [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

# Working in Partnership with Parents

We would like to thank all the parents who log in, makes comments and add their own observations onto tapestry. We value our partnership with parents and this is a wonderful tool to enable us to do this. These home observations give us a chance to see things we are unable to observe within pre-school and provides great topics of conversation between your children and all the staff. We hope that you enjoy seeing what your children do during their time day and this is also a wonderful keepsake of their journey with us which you will keep once they move on from pre-school.

## Mrs. Odam's Fortnightly Challenge

Every fortnight Mrs Odam will be setting an exciting challenge for you and your child to complete at home.

The challenge will be uploaded onto tapestry every other Monday and we would love for you to add your pictures and comments onto tapestry any time before the next challenge is set, so we can see how well you have done.

We believe this will be a great way to gain stronger links between Pre-School and home and involving parents within their child's learning and development.

## 30 Hour Funding

If you are eligible to apply for the 30hrs childcare funding from January 2024 you can apply between the 15<sup>th</sup> October and the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

If you are unsure whether you are able to apply you can use the childcare calculator on the childcare choice's website.

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Once you have received your code, please give this to Lorraine.

# Show and Tell Table

The children very much enjoy bringing items in from home to share with their friends at the end of the session. This is a great way for the children to listen to others and share what they have, building speech and language development. The show and tell table is the red table, located at the front of hall by the main entrance. **We ask that items being brought in are theme related or something special, for example if they have had a birthday or been somewhere for a visit or an achievement such as a certificate or badge.** The themes can be found on the first page of the newsletter under what we have been learning about. The themes are also always displayed on the poster above the table and changed weekly if your child is unsure of what they can bring.

## Proud Clouds

Our children all love to achieve new things. At Pre-School we want to hear all about it too! Proud clouds are shared with everyone at the end of the session. Proud clouds are a chance for you to share what your child has achieved i.e., learning to count, riding a bike, becoming independent in getting dressed. These are all massive achievements, and we want to share it. If your child has done something amazing, please write it down on a coloured shape which can be found on the parents table and give it to a member of staff. Once it has been read out it will be attached to our proud clouds which can be found on the garden door windows. Please ask if you have any questions about proud clouds.

## Consumables

From April we will be changing how we charge for the Consumables contribution.  
This will now be charged at 48p per each hour that your child does with us; the cost will cover items such as;

Wipes  
Nappies  
Additional snack / Milk  
Tissues  
Arts & Crafts  
All nursery resources



# Fees

From April 2024 our fees will be increasing in line with inflation.

2yr old, 3hr session - £25.56

2yr old, full day session - £44.73

3yr old, Top up of funded hours - £7.00 p/h

# Bags and Welly Boots

Please remember to bring a bag in for your child with a full spare set of clothes in, to be left on the trolley in the foyer area. Please also remember to bring in welly boots on the days your children attend. The children are encouraged to be independent in their dressing so shoes with Velcro rather than laces please.

# Book Bags

Every two weeks the children will be able to choose a book to bring home and share with you. Once your child has finished their book you can bring back their book bags and place them in to their keyworkers box. This is a great way for the children to share stories with you and encourages the joy for reading.

# Tuesday Forest School

All children need to bring in their own forest school backpack. This backpack needs to be big enough for the children to have a complete change of clothes, (top/bottoms/pants/socks) nappies and a spare set of waterproofs in, but small enough that they are able to carry it. They will also require a small named water bottle to go in this backpack.

All children joining us for lunch will need to bring a packed lunch with an additional drink and ice pack. Drop off and collection for both 12:15pm and 2:30pm will be from the cricket club.

Can we please ask that you let the teachers partner up the children for the walk into the forest, they are partnered up on age and ability following a pre-organised list. The children can find it upsetting if they are moved after parents have let them choose who's hand they would like to hold.

Thank you.

## Oral Health

As part of the early years' foundation stage (EYFS, 2021) we are required to support oral health.

A regular teeth cleaning routine is essential for good dental health. Follow these tips and you can help keep your child's teeth healthy.

[Children's teeth - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/childrens-teeth/)

# Healthy Lunchboxes

We ask parents to provide a piece of fruit for snack time, please make sure this is labelled. We will provide additional snack such as toast, flatbread and crumpets etc. as well as water or milk to drink. We ask parents if their child brings grapes for lunch or snack, they need to be cut in half length ways and not left whole or cut width ways. Grapes are the perfect size to block a child's windpipe and pose a choking hazard.

Lunches, please ensure that your child's lunch box is also a healthy one, please, no big bars of chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks. Please could we ask that the food in your child's lunch box is healthy and has good nutritional value to it.

For example: A sandwich/wrap/roll with nutritional filling i.e., cheese, ham, chicken etc. Or pasta. A piece of fruit / vegetable sticks Yoghurt / cheese  
Crisps / popcorn, small treat

We want to promote a good varied diet with our children but following the Healthy Lunch Box values which the schools also adept. As a reminder, please no large bars of chocolate, large chocolate biscuits, sweets or fizzy drinks.

For ideas of lunchbox ideas please visit

[www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes)

# Forest School Summer Kit

Please remember to dress your child accordingly for the forest. The summer kit list is as follows: \*Long sleeve top

\*Leggings/jeans/ trousers

\*Waterproofs – if it has or is raining

\*Wellies if wet, trainers if not

\*Light jacket

\*Sunhat

Please remember if it is a bit colder your children will need extra layers to keep warm.

**Please don't forget to apply insect repellent to your children.**

Please check for your child for ticks after each forest school sessions. Ticks are small, spider like creatures that live in woods and long grass. They are not something we can check for when we enter the forest. They attach themselves to skin that brushes past them. A tick bites into the skin and feeds on blood before dropping off a few days later.

Ticks can cause Lyme disease, which is a bacterial infection that can be spread to humans by infected ticks. Some people suffer with flu like symptoms in the early stages of the disease. These include: a high temperature or feeling hot and shivery, headaches, muscle and joint pain and tiredness and loss of energy. Not everyone with Lyme disease gets the rash.

For more information on Lyme disease please visit  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/>

# Facebook Page

Please take a look and like our Facebook Page (St Mark's Pre-School) to receive daily/weekly notices, diary dates and also to find out what we have been doing with your children throughout the week.

## Diary Dates

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Polling day (forest session)
  - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July – St Marks Olympics (sports day)
    - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Splash Day
    - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Last day of term
    - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – School leavers trip
  - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Leavers to download Tapestry
  - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September – New starters morning
    - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – First day of term
  - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – New opening hours start
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## Birthday Stars

Jessica

Keep up-to-date with the latest information, diary dates, Forest School sessions and more,  
on our Website and Facebook page;

**[www.stmarkspreschool.info](http://www.stmarkspreschool.info)**