



# St Mark's Pre-School Newsletter

## This Terms Activities

August 2023

We hope you are all enjoying the start to the summer break? We hope the weather improves soon! We are looking forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September it will be our first full day session back in the forest. Please remember that pre-school will now be open Monday-Thursday 9.15-2.30pm, and will be closed on a Friday. Once we have enough interest, we will be able to reopen on a Friday.

We all had a very busy last two weeks at pre-school! Our last topic this term was all about camping. The children really enjoying playing with the playmobile campsite in the tuff tray. The children helped support each other in their role-playing games and enjoyed sharing their own camping stories. In the literacy area the children enjoyed making camping lists using the white boards and pens. We had fun exploring colours at the art table where we designed our own ice creams.

Our last week was full of fun! The children got to enjoy 2 splash days, despite the weather much fun was had splashing each other and their teachers! We had a range of water trays and toys and all the children had fun exploring, there was lots of laughter!

For our school leavers we had a wonderful day at Birdworld, all of the children's behavior was exemplary and we were extremely proud of them all. We enjoyed watching the penguin feeding and listening the talk. We had fun talking to the parrots which the children found very funny. After lunch we went to watch the pig feeding and had fun in the park. To finish of the day all the children got to enjoy an ice cream. We wish all of our children off to school a wonderful summer and wish them well on their school journey.

We would like to say a very big thank you for all of the wonderful cards, words and gifts we received, we were all very overwhelmed at your generosity.

We also have some amazing news, Mrs Walker will be staying with us for just a little longer, at least until October/November.

## Half Term Topics

This half terms topics will be.

Week 1 – 11/09/23 – Settling in

Week 2 – 18/09/23 – Settling in

Week 3 – 25/09/23 – Nursery Rhymes

Week 4 – 2/10/23 – Nursery Rhymes

Week 5 – 9/10/23 – Autumn

Week 6 – 16/10/23 - Autumn

# 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.

## Summer Footwear

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

## 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 back of hall on the left. 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. 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 increasing our Consumables contribution. This will now be £10 per half term; the cost will cover items such as;

Wipes  
Additional snack / Milk  
Tissues  
Hand sanitiser

# Testimonies

We would like to be able to display some testimonies on our website, if any of our parents would like to write a testimony, we would be very grateful. These can be emailed to Lorraine.

Thank you

# 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 back pack 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 back pack.

From Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September we will offering a full day in the forest, 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

# Fees

From 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 will shall be increasing our fees slightly in line with inflation.

Our fees are as follows;  
2yr old, 3hr session was £19.20 to £20.40  
2yr old, full day session was £33.60 to £35.70  
Top up of funding hours was £5.15 to £5.40

# 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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

# Healthy Lunchboxes

At St Mark's Pre-School, we will provide a piece of fruit ready to eat (i.e., a banana or apple) during snack time. 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, 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

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September – First day of term
  - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Full day forest session
    - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of term
  - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Half term
    - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – First day of term
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## Birthday Stars

August – Pearl

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)**