



# St Mark's Pre-School Newsletter

This Terms  
Activities

June 2024

We started off with our transport theme and we also looked at road safety within this fortnight. We had some new road signs that we have been using outside with the bikes and scooters, we talked about each sign and what they meant. On the easel we had cars and paint so we could make different tracks, it was fun to see the colours being mixed and we even created some new colours. In the water we had boats and we spoke how they float and what might sink if it went in the water. We worked well together to make a huge train track and in the tuft spot we had the chance to build our own road for the cars. We also worked on our cutting skills at the creative table by following a pattern and we also talked about scissor safety! We continued to work on our fine motor skills and worked hard to complete some transport puzzles.

The following fortnight our topic was occupations and people who help us. The children had lots of fun talking about what jobs they would like to do when they are older! In the math's area we had some matching cards, there were lots of different types of occupations all muddled up and we needed to sort through them and join them up correctly. To help with our literacy skills we had some special incident forms to fill out, we used clip boards so we could walk around with them trying to solve the crimes, this also helped with our pencil control and writing skills.

We were lucky enough to have two Mummies come in and speak to us about their jobs, thank you so much to Kimberley and Lucy. Kimberley spoke about her job as a police officer and even brought in some special items to look at, poor Mrs Odam ended up being handcuffed! The children enjoyed trying on bits of uniform and looking and looking at different items close up.

We then had Lucy, who works in a hospital and spoke about her job as an anesthetic practitioner, again we got to try on some of the items Lucy wears such as a special gown and hat. We tried out some of the equipment that Lucy uses, and we even had a go at bandaging some of our teddies and dolls.

In the forest we have been having lots of wet fun! We have been getting to grips with the rope swing and some of us can now swing really high! We also used some large sticks against a tree trunk to make a special den, we gathered some foliage and put this around some of the sticks. The children really enjoyed this and made the den into a cat home.

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.

# 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 couple of 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 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.

## Father's Day

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, we would like to invite the Daddy's in for a stay and play session. This will be a chance to do some fun activities with your child and then have some snack.

If a Daddy can't make it, we are happy for Grandfather's, Uncles etc. to come along instead.

Unfortunately, we don't have the space for siblings to come along and this is just open to those children who attend on a Monday.

Please come along 9.45am-10.45am.

## 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.

From Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September we will be 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.

## 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

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

- Monday 3d June – First day of term
  - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Father's Day stay and play
  - 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

Evie & Phoebe

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)**