

Newsletter January 2020

Severe weather conditions and impact on preschool sessions.

If the school closes due to severe weather the pre-school will also close, this information will be posted on the school website which is updated regularly, so if you are concerned about the weather or in adverse weather conditions please check this website (you may need to click the 'refresh' icon to get the latest news). The primary school website address is:

<http://www.kingsburyepiscopiprimary.co.uk> we will also post this information on our website <http://www.kingsburyepiscopipreschool.co.uk> and on our Facebook page. An effort will also be made to email everyone.

School admission application

A reminder that parents of children due to start school in September 2020 the deadline for applications for school places is 15th January 2020. Parents can apply by visiting

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-learning-and-schools/choosing-a-school/apply-to-start-school/> or by contacting schools admission team on 0300 123 2224.

Peanut and nut allergy awareness, preschool will now be a *Nut Free Zone!* Foods to avoid at preschool

Peanut butter

Nutella

Cherry bakewells (almond marzipan); Christmas cake (almond marzipan)

Battenburg (almond marzipan)

Macaroons (almonds); Chicken satay (peanut sauce)

Curry and Chinese sauces (some contain peanuts, cashews, almonds)

Reeses chocolate bars (peanuts); *Snickers* chocolate bars (peanuts)

Picnic chocolate bars (peanuts)

Sesame seeds and sesame oil and Pine nuts (pesto sauce)

Plans for this half term.

We have an interesting start to the term learning about winter and the story of the Gruffalo and the Gruffalo's child prompted recognition of rhyme and story structure as we retell this familiar and brilliant story. Later this half term we will be focusing on 'cooking' so that should be fun and tasty! If your child has any allergies or food intolerances please let us know.

Outside activities are a regular part of the sessions, so children need to come with suitable warm outdoor clothing, we have several pairs of wellington boots children can use, but warm coats, hats and gloves are almost essential during the winter's cold and wet weather. Help your child (and us) by labelling coats and outer clothing.

Early Years Entitlement

Your child is eligible for this funding the term following their third birthday; parents apply for this funding by completing a form detailing the number of hours their child has used for

each term. Basically each child is entitled to 15 hours each week of funding, hours in excess will be charged by pre-school at the usual hourly rate. If you have applied for the extended entitlement and received a URN code from HMRC please ensure you have shared this with us, and renew this entitlement by the date given by HMRC. Kirstie has simplified this task by calculating the hours each child attends over the term before asking parents to complete the form. These forms have to be returned to Somerset County Council by a very strict deadline, so please return the forms promptly. Thanks!

Literacy skills in early years

Supporting early reading and writing skills in young children can happen in a range of activities that you probably already do every day. Reading stories with your child daily is fun, and the learning can be extended when you ask them what they think the characters will do next, how they feel, what would your child do and what would happen next. Telling a story from a picture is also very useful as they children start to be aware of how a story is structured. Learning letters can start with the letters in their name or familiar logos 'Tesco' or TV programmes they enjoy. Writing is not only about learning letters but is also a physical skill; we practise lots of fine motor activities to improve co-ordination and dexterity. Using tweezers to pick up cotton wool balls, balancing marbles and sorting small objects into egg boxes. We also do exercises that promote co-ordination and making shapes as they move their arms - circles, zigzags, lines and waves. Children's mark making can appear as scribbles for a long time as they learn to control their pen and movements, sometimes they make shapes and they say they are writing, go at your child's pace, and encourage their 'writing' perhaps they could have their own notebook and pencil to take around with them. Sometimes dot-to-dot shapes mean they can copy letters and follow letter shapes; sometimes they just enjoy making wavy lines. Holding a pen between the thumb and two fingers can also take plenty of practice, this is when threading activities can support the correct pen holding technique, and even pegging clothes pegs onto boxes can help build up the strength in their fingers. Make it fun and praise their attempts, practise makes perfect!

Reminders

Snack time fruit

Please provide fruit for snack that can be shared with the rest of the group, chopped up and counted, making snack time a learning opportunity as well as a social experience.

Lunch club

Please provide your child with a drink when they stay to lunch, water in a named bottle is the healthiest option; avoiding sugary squash.

Term dates

Last day of this half term - Thursday 13th February

Inset day - Friday 14th February

Return to preschool - Monday 24th February