**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024**

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a lot of rainy, cold days this month, but it hasn’t stopped us from all wrapping up, putting on waterproofs and venturing out for short periods. We have been playing on the trikes and scooters which has been a really good physical experience for the children.

Our core stories this month have been “Whatever Next” and “The Three Little Pigs”, so we have been exploring themes around space, and house building, as well as all the wonderful ideas and projects that your children initiate.

**Late collections**

It is vital that you collect your child promptly please. Children can become very upset if their routine is disrupted by late collections. However, we do understand that there will be occasions through no fault of your own, that you may be a bit late. In these instances, can you please call us on 0117 958 4075 to let us know that you will be late.

It is also important to stick to your child’s usual times, rather than changing their pick up time on the day. This is particularly important if your child has been told they are staying for lunch, and have brought a packed lunch with them, but are collected before the lunch. Again, this is disruptive to children’s routines. We understand there will be times when you have to collect at a different time, so please let us know in advance if this is the case.

**Parent Helpers**

We would really value any help you can give us at drop off time, with preparation of the children’s snack for that day. It only takes twenty minutes, but would be so helpful to us. Please let us know if you can offer that at any time.

**Natural Resources**

We are always using an abundance of natural resources in the children’s play, so we regularly run out of these items. We would be really grateful if you could bring in any of the following items please:

Old spent flower heads

Seed heads

Bamboo sticks

Flower petals

Nice pebbles/stones

Pinecones

Wood shavings

**World Book Day (Thursday, 7th March)**

Next Thursday is World Book Day, an event which we love to participate in. We want to foster a love of books, reading and stories, so this is a good day for us all.

If your child would like to dress up, they are very welcome to do so, but there is no pressure at all for them to do so.

We also would welcome your child to bring in one of their favourite books/stories to share with us on the day. If any parent would like to come and read stories for a short while at drop off time, you would be very welcome.

**Changes in April and September**

I hope you have all seen the information I previously sent about the government changes to the funding of Early Years, which will include all eligible two year olds from working families (2.5 years at sticky fish) to receive government funding. This starts from April 2024 if your child is under three up to March 31st. You will need to set up an account with HMRC and obtain a code which I will need to be given please. Let me know if you have any questions about this change.

We also will be increasing our fees and starting additional charges, so please see the attached letter about this.

From September 2024, Sticky Fish times will slightly change to 9 until 12, 12 to 12.30 for lunch, and 9 until 3 full days (continuing to be for children over 3). Again, please see Liz if you have any questions about this.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Term 4 - Tues 20th Feb – Thurs 28th March**

**Term 5 - Mon 15th April - Fri 24th May**

**Term 6 - Mon 3rd June - Tues 23rd July**

**SPRING WALK FOR ALL - FRIDAY, 24TH MAY 10-12**

**Sticky fish will then be closed for the half term**

**Inset day to be confirmed.**