



## Newsletter Spring Term (2) 2020

Welcome back after half term and welcome to all our new starters.

We hope that you have been interested in our Makaton signs of the week and have been practicing them with your little ones over the half term. Look out for more signs on Facebook and displayed on our preschool door.

This term is going to be a busy one with lots of wonderful celebrations and interesting events. Look out for updates on Facebook and make a note of the dates and events listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

During this half term we will be looking at and exploring "our senses" especially the sights, sounds and smell of spring!

### Parent Consultations

If you missed our parent consultations last half term our doors are always open if you wish to meet with your child's key person - just pop in and make an appointment.

### New Staff

We would like to welcome Jade Price to our preschool team as a play assistant, she has settled in well and is having fun getting to know all the children.

### Nursey Applications

Barley and Barkway Federation are now taking nursery applications for September 2020 start for children who are 3 before 31 August 2020. If you are interested please find attached application forms to apply for a nursery place. They have asked that applications are returned by the end of this term as allocation letters will go out at the end of April.

### Bedtime Story Box

It is so important that children are read to at a very early age so that they can develop a love for



books and reading so we have introduced our Bedtime Story Box. It's a little like a library so encourage your child to choose a book, write the name of the book and who borrowed it in the notebook provided and pop it in a bag and take it home to share with your child. Once you have finished with the book return it to preschool and choose another one. We hope you enjoy this.

## Activity Packs

If you are at a loose end and can't think of an activity to do with your child help yourself to one of our activity packs. These packs contain all sorts of activities from cake baking to bug hunting. All we ask is that you sign a pack out, enjoy and then return the packs after use. Don't forget to load your photos onto Tapestry so we can see you having fun and let us know if there is anything that needs to be replaced.



## World Book Day - 5<sup>th</sup> March

We will be taking part in world book day - over the week we will be looking at our favourite books and ask that your child bring to school their favourite book to share with their friends and staff. On World Book Day those children who are in preschool can also dress up as their favourite book character too.

## Sports Relief - 13<sup>th</sup> March

Preschool and Barley and Barkway Federation will be joining children across the UK on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** by dressing up in sports kit for **Sports Relief 2020** in return for a small donation. All money collected will go directly to Sport Relief to help towards the causes they support. All we ask is that your child dress up in their favourite sports kit or as their favourite sporting hero and bring in a donation of a £1 on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March and we will provide sporting activities throughout the session for children to join in with and enjoy.

## Mother's into School - 18<sup>th</sup> March

Preschool are joining the main school and taking part in Mother's into School Day to celebrate Mother's Day. All mother's, grandmothers, aunts are invited into preschool for a stay and play session between 9.30am - 11am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. All are welcome even if it is not your child's day in preschool.

## Committee - We Need Your Help

As a committee led preschool we **can't** open without a committee. We are looking for people to join the committee as soon as possible to take over from some of our existing members who will need to step down as their children will no longer be a part of preschool. Please let us know if you would be interested in joining our committee and help secure a future for our lovely village preschool. Attached is some more information about our Committee and what they do.

## Storm Ciara and Dennis

Our poor shed was repaired before storm Ciara and Dennis was forecast but unfortunately did not survive well after the storms. The shed is now in need of replacing. The shed roof has no felt left and nothing to nail new roofing felt too as the wood is rotten! If any parents/carers have any connections with shed companies who might like to donate one to our preschool or know of anyone who is able to fix our shed so that it can carry on for a few more years we would love to hear from you.

## **Outside play**

Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for the time of year - we highly recommend fleeces, coats, wellies and waterproof trousers so we can go out in all weathers and to keep warm during the cold days at preschool. Please also ensure that clothing/shoes/wellies etc are labelled.

Please also check your child's spare clothes bag to make sure that the clothes still fit and are weather appropriate.

## **Facebook**

For up to date preschool information we highly recommend that you join our closed Barkway Preschool parents page. If you wish to join this page just send us a request via Facebook.

## **Term Finishing Times**

We have changed our finishing times for the end of each of each term. Preschool will now be finishing at 1.15pm and not 1.30pm on the last day of each term to help parents and carers collect older siblings from their relevant schools.

## **Trays**

Please check your child's tray regularly for artwork and information.

## **Coronavirus**

We ask parents to keep up to date with Public Health warnings regarding the Coronavirus. Please inform us if you have visited any of the affected areas.

Please be assured that as early years practitioners we encourage good levels of hygiene when at preschool and we actively encourage the catch it, bin it, kill it principles to keep infection at a minimum. We have also introduced anti-bac handwash for the children to use when washing their hands as an extra precaution.

## **Planning on Increasing or Decreasing Sessions?**

Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to increase, decrease or change your child's preschool sessions. Don't forget that the term after your child turns three, they will be eligible for 15 free funded hours!

## **Notification of Leaving**

If your child is leaving us please give us notice in writing in order that we can make the necessary arrangements.

## **Reporting an Absence from Preschool**

May we remind parents/carers of the necessity to telephone/text Preschool and advise us of **any** absence on 07964 151288. We prefer a telephone call/text please as we do not always check our preschool email while the preschool is in session.

Please remember that if your child has a sickness and/or diarrhoea bug they must be absent from preschool for **48 hours** after the **last** bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. Also in order to keep the

nasty bugs at bay we ask that if you feel your child needs to have calpol or nurofen before attending preschool that they do not attend until they are feeling better.

### **Water Bottles**

Please can you ensure that water bottles only contain water and not juice and are clearly named.

### **Lunchbox Reminders**

We ask that you do not include any foods containing nuts. This includes cereal bars, homemade cakes, etc. Also to avoid the possibility of your child choking on foods, such as grapes, olives, cherry tomatoes, mini sausages etc., please ensure that these are cut in half, length ways.

Please do not include sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks - keep these as a treat for home.

### **Parent Helpers**

Just a reminder that parent helpers are always very welcome to come and join us for part or whole sessions. If you are interested please drop Charlotte an email, [leader@barkwaypreschool.co.uk](mailto:leader@barkwaypreschool.co.uk).

### **Comments and Suggestions**

We always welcome any comments and suggestions you have with regards to the preschool. We are happy to receive these in person, or email Charlotte at [leader@barkwaypreschool.co.uk](mailto:leader@barkwaypreschool.co.uk)

### **Uniform**

If you would like to purchase uniform for your child, we have a selection available in preschool to buy - just ask a member of staff for details.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Term Starts	24 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	5 <sup>th</sup> March
Sport Relief	13 <sup>th</sup> March
Mother's into Preschool	18 <sup>th</sup> March
Term ends	3 April at <b>1.15pm</b>
Summer Term Begins:	22 <sup>nd</sup> April