



Newsletter Autumn 2023

We are well into the second half of this term and there has been lots of exciting activities going on at Deepdale. We were happy to see all our children returning after the summer break and our new starters have settled in nicely.

We are happy to say that our staff team remains the same other than Emma leaving us last term to join the Martin's House team and Sarah, who started working with us in September. Sarah was previously employed for 17 years at Little Learners and Brooke Babes in Wetherby.

As always, the team have an amazing array of activities planned for this next academic year and they and the children are enjoying all the autumn activities so far.

Staff team

Director: Kathy Hudson

Settings Manager: Vicki Norman

Settings Deputy Manager: Jane Lemon

Pre-school Practitioners: Millie Cunningham, Sarah Broom, Stacey Campbell, Becky Massey, Katie Boothroyd

Accounts and Administration: Helena Belaid



Session availability

We have had a busy start to this academic year as we had low numbers leaving us last year. We currently have vacancies for 2-year-olds and any children who reach 3 after the 1st of September 2023. Deepdale has always been successful through word of mouth, so please recommend us to your family and friends.

Notice period

Please could I remind you that as per our Terms and Conditions, there is a half term notice period to be given should you wish to terminate your registration with Deepdale Pre-School. Could I also ask that you give notice if you are wishing to change the sessions that your child attends, as it may not always be possible to accommodate this.

What's happening this term.

As always, the first term of the academic year focuses on the areas to support and nurture the children to settle into Pre-School life. Separation from Parents/Carers is always a difficult and emotional time and building confidence with the children in the setting enables them to play freely, explore and enjoy the wonders of the activities on offer.



We have lots of activities on offer this term. We have already been busy making pizza's, making gingerbread men, and looking at the change of seasons. We have been looking at our families, cultures and who we live with. We have been looking at feelings using the colour monster reference. We have looked at children around the world, festivals and celebrations and climates around the world. We have lots of fun singing at circle time and listening to lots of stories.

The outdoor area has been used well over the past few weeks. The children love playing in the construction area and, as always, the mud kitchen is a firm favourite. It is amazing what you can make with a little bit of mud and a great imagination.

Our indoor sensory area is also an excellent place for our children to use their senses. Using lots of textures, smells, and messy play, which I am sure your child gets covered in whilst having lots of fun.

There were lots of exciting celebrations this term, which gave us lots of great activities to work on: Halloween was a big hit, with pumpkins and spiders and lots of spooky offerings; Bonfire night is always a colourful occasion, and it also gave us the opportunity to speak to our children about staying safe.



Last week we had sessions on people who help us. We had a visit from our local PCSO's and the fire brigade. The children loved talking to the police and they were very excited when the firemen sprayed the building with water from their hose.



Then we have Christmas. Christmas is a time when our school and your home will be filled with glitter, and lots of Christmas creativity. The children have been busy learning their songs for the Christmas performance (Whoops a Daisy Angel) and are doing very well.

From previous experience we are aware that not all children are comfortable with dressing up. Please do not feel that your child needs to wear a costume. They can come in whatever they feel comfortable in.

On 8th, 9th and 10th December Deepdale Pre-school will be displaying our Christmas Tree at Boston Spa Methodist Church. This annual event holds lots of Christmas activities and celebrations and all free of charge. Everyone welcome!!

Our children are always kept busy, whether that is at a table learning new skills or simply playing and learning how to socialise with their peers. It is all extremely hard work when you are so young, but they are all lovely children, and they are doing a great job. Your children's interests are always a priority, and as always, we build these into our daily planning of activities to enable us to support their learning.

Each week Helena uploads photographs of the activities that are been delivered and puts them on our Face Book Page. This is a great way to have an insight as to what goes on in pre-school, so please have a look and like our Page:



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100047034385990>

Rising 5's

Our Rising 5's sessions will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, starting from the last term in the academic year. These sessions are more focused for our 3- and 4-year-olds, as we work to prepare them for school. We need to make sure that each child is ready to work in a larger group before we commence the rising 5's sessions, so in the meantime, your child's key worker will be supporting your child's progress on an individual basis or within small groups. All our learning is carried out through play. Information on the activities taking place in rising 5's will be on the wall outside the Pre-School room (on the left-hand side). We will remind you of this nearer the time.

Warm clothing

Autumn is truly here. The mornings are getting a bit nippy and wet so could we ask you to send your little ones in with clearly signed: coats, hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear. We like to get outside no matter what the weather, so wellington boots will be a must for the wet days. Could you also remember to send in a change of clothes, just in case? On the note of clothing!! We love messy play at Deepdale, so, please do not send your child in clothes that you do not want to get messy.



Illnesses

It's that time of year when there are lots of viruses around and we are all coming down with colds and various illnesses. Could I please ask that if your child/children are not feeling well and are in need for some

extra TLC, that you keep them at home. As we always say, we would love to be able to cuddle them all day, but unfortunately, we don't have the capacity to do so, which means that your child is not getting the care that they need whilst feeling poorly. This is also the case when children have had a bad night's sleep and are very tired.

Snack

Snack is provided each morning and afternoon and is a special part of the day where the staff get time to spend quality time with the children. As we do not charge for consumables, we have always asked parents to help by providing a piece of fruit a week, so if you have a spare orange, apple, banana etc, then please could you pop it in the basket on the lunch trolley, or hand it in to a member of staff.

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that we are running a breakfast club from 8.00am-9.00am at a cost of £6.50. This can also be paid through your government funding hours. Breakfast is included in the price. To book on, please call into the office.



Packed lunch

Please could we ask that if you send your child with **grapes** in their packed lunch that you **cut them in half, length ways**. This also applies to **cherry tomatoes, blueberries, and any other small round item**. This is due to the size and shape which has been identified as a choke hazard for children. Also, we have noticed that there is a lot of sweet foods in some of the children's pack up, and although we do not want to be telling you what your child should eat, it does make it difficult to encourage them to eat their sandwiches etc first. May I also remind you that we have a **No nut or Fish policy**. This is important as we have children who have allergies towards these ingredients.



School uniform

Just a reminder that we do have a school uniform if anybody wishes to purchase one. If you would like to put in an order, please do so as soon as possible as the company that we use is very busy at this time of year. Order forms are available from the office.

Dates for your diary

- Christmas performance Thursday 21st December
- Finish for Christmas Thursday 21st December (after the performance)
- Return to pre-school Monday 8th January 2024

Parents evening

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Tuesday 2nd July 2024

Training Day dates:

- Friday 22nd December
- Monday 22nd July
- Tuesday 23rd July

Thank you for choosing Deepdale Pre-School to care for you child/children. Remember we are always here if you need to talk.