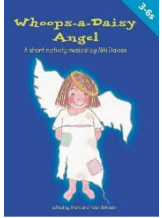


# Winter Newsletter 2024

With the first half term already over and a new one just beginning, Deepdale is well in the swing of things and things are all good.



Christmas seems such a long time ago, but we certainly cannot send this newsletter without mentioning the Nativity play and how amazing the children were. They, along with the team, worked hard to put on such a performance. Learning their songs and actions daily and having lots of fun whilst doing so. We were very proud of them all. We hope that you all enjoyed it too.

## Staff team

Our staff team for this term remains the same:

Kathy Hudson: Director

Vicki Norman: Settings Manager

Jane Lemon: Settings Deputy Manager

Katie Boothroyd: Pre-School Practitioner

Stacey Campbell: Pre-School Practitioner

Becky Massey: Pre-school Practitioner

Millie Cunningham: Pre-school Practitioner

Sarah Broom: Pre-school Practitioner

Helena Belaid: Accounts and Administration



## Availability

Availability is extremely limited for the rest of this academic year and with the new offer from the government of 15 free hours for all 2yr olds of working parents coming into place from April this year there is little room for movement. Please could I ask that if you are wishing to use these hours that you request your unique code from the government website and book any available hours that we have. Please be reminded that anybody who wishes to reduce their hours or terminate their contract MUST, as stipulated in our terms and conditions, give us half a term's notice.

## Activities for this term

This term's activities will include the usual arts and crafts, model making and construction. Messy play, where the children enjoy getting their hands into all sorts of goo and unusual sensory matter. It's good for the children to experience the sense of touch with different substances and it's good that we offer it at pre-school as I'm not sure it would be suitable in your own homes (:



The children have already been busy learning what our farmers do at work and how our food grows. They had a go at milking by using rubber gloves as a teat and that was lots of fun. They have learnt lots by exploring the planets, looking at day and night and learning to look after our planet. The children have been learning about recycling by taking items up to the bins in the car park. They have learnt about wild animals around the world, looking at the Zoo the jungle, Antarctic, and Safari, and finally for this half term they have been looking at lifecycles, with caterpillars, tadpoles, flowers, trees, chickens etc.

So, we have been very busy. This half term we will be covering literacy and letter recognition. Songs and nursery rhymes. Under the sea, Ramadan, Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, Easter crafts and lots more.



## **Messy Play**

As mentioned previously the children love playing in the messy areas, exploring their senses without a worry in the world. Please do not send your child/children to pre-school in clothes that you do not want to get messy. If you are going somewhere after school, then bring some clothes to change if that would help.



## **Tapestry**

Although we are following Ofsted's advice and not doing daily/weekly observations, we are still recording on tapestry on a half termly basis. As well as this there is a weekly observation that has an overlook on what has been happening through the week. Tapestry is also used to record a child's two-year-old check, so please log in and have a look.

## **Weather and clothing**

The weather has been very cold so far this term. It is extremely exciting when the snow falls and the children love to see it, but not all of them like to go out in it. No matter what the weather we like to carry on with our outdoor play. With this in mind please could I ask you all to remember to send your child/children with warm clothing, e.g. coat, hat, gloves, scarf. Also, for the wet days could you please send your child with wellies and shoes for changing.

## **Snowy days**

As mentioned, we have had the pleasure of a day's snow this term already and we may have more to come. Unfortunately, when we are faced with the dilemma of safety we must risk assess and make decisions on how safe it is for Parents/Carers collecting children and how safe it is for our staff team getting home safely. I am aware that this sometimes causes an inconvenience and I apologise for this, however the likelihood is that if you drop your child off at school when it is snowing, and the snow continues to fall, we will be calling for you to pick your child/children up, so please be prepared for this.





## Illnesses

It is that time of year when there are lots of viruses around and we are all coming down with colds and various illnesses. May I please ask that if your child/children are not feeling well and are in the need for some extra TLC that you keep them at home. We would love to be able to cuddle them all day but unfortunately, we do not 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.

## 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.



## 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 in a quieter environment. As we do not charge for consumables, we have always asked parents to provide a piece of fruit each week, so if you have a spare orange, apple, banana etc, please could you hand it to a member of staff or pop it in the basket on the lunch box trolley.

## Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that we are running a breakfast club from 8.00am-9.00am at a cost of £6.50 (£7.00 from April). 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 items. This is due to the size and shape which has been identified as a choke hazard for children. We currently have children with serious food allergies. We have always had a NO NUTS NO FISH policy in place, which is described in our information pack. We would like to highlight this policy to ensure that our children's health is not put at risk.



## Facebook

We have some amazing photos of the children that are entered on Facebook each week. Please take the time to have a look at Deepdale Pre-school Page:

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

## Dates for your Diary

Easter Holidays: **Finish on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**Return on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**