

23rd February 2021



Welcome

Since the beginning of term we have welcomed Eliza and Freya and their families to pre-school and we look forward to Matilda joining us later in the term.

Wow moments

Attached is a wow sheet for the things you have been doing at home. We have changed the wording as we appreciate that you are not visiting places and meeting up with others as you would normally, due to lock down.

The wording is only a suggestion - please add anything that is relevant for you! We would love it if you can add photographs - it really makes so much difference to the children when we look back at their learning journeys with them.

Please return on paper or by email.

Frogspawn

The frogs have been busy in Carrie's pond, very noisily laying their frogspawn!!! We will have some for a couple of months, so there will be lots of chances to observe them before they make that very special transformation into frogs - usually around the beginning of May. (They then go back to the pond)

We will share photographs as they develop.

World Book Day and Book week

World Book Day this year is on Thursday 4th March, and we will celebrate with a week of even more stories and activities than usual at pre-school!

In other years we have invited you to share your favourite books and stories with us, and for parents and grandparents to come in and read, in both English and the children's home languages.

Would anyone be interested in reading a story via Zoom?

Please let us know if you would and we will explore this further!!

Here are a few ideas for sharing books at home:

- try a different sort of book - a poem, a factual book, a song book
- share a story with your child in different places (sheet attached)
- Listen to stories online, the World Book Day team have shared a link to some they prepared earlier <https://www.worldbookday.com/share-a-story-corner/>

World Book Day Token

Did you know that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than family circumstances, parents' educational background or income?

(Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development)

For that reason World Book Day aims to encourage as many children as possible to be readers, book borrowers and book owners. World Book Day tokens can be used in any participating bookshops (click and collect in the current situation) and major supermarkets between 18th Feb and 28th March. There are a range of £1 books and other books can be purchased for £1 off their standard price.

We'll give you your book token on drop off or pick up. If you are not in at the moment we'll get them to you.

Invoices

Remaining invoices for term3 & 4 will be sent out this week - this will only affect some of you.

If your child is funded and has not attended due to coronavirus, the Government is still providing the funding to Early Years settings. The invoice will show all of these hours, although we will have made an adjustment so that there are no 'paid for' hours.

In addition, the term is 3 days longer than the funding period (11 weeks). We will use 3 days from next term's funding to cover this, as there are 3 training days next term.

Please talk to Carrie if you have any queries.

30 hours Funding

Childcare
Choices

Supporting families
with childcare costs

childcarechoices.gov.uk



HM Government

30 Hours Funding: If you qualify for the free entitlement from 1st April, or if you are increasing hours in April, you can apply now for your code.

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Tea spoons

We seem to be collecting tea-spoons!!!

If you are missing any, please accept our apologies.

Let us know and we will try to get them back to you
- a photograph may help us find the right ones.

Training Days

Training days for the remainder of this academic year are confirmed as;

Thursday 6th May

Thursday 22nd July

Friday 23rd July

There are Local Elections on Thursday 6th May, which means we are unable to have the hall. Usually we go on a trip for the day or use the local primary school as a base, neither of which are sensible options this year.

Reducing Parental Conflict - new App for all couples

The last year has added lots of extra stress to our lives and relationships. The Local Authority have made us aware of a free app to help support the relationships between couples, information below.

The App, called 'Between Us', is designed to help couples enhance their understanding of each other, and is available to download for free from the App Store and Google Play.

Honor Rhodes, Director of Strategic Development for Tavistock Relationships, says:

"What we long for in our couple relationships is to be loved, to be 'known', held by the other person as a precious and important being, for all our flaws and shortcomings. However, it can be hard to even have a conversation about what we long for, what we miss and how we hope things can be different. 'Between Us' is designed to help couples to have those conversations. To talk more, argue less, love better and be the best couple they can be. Investing time in this App, might be the best and most lasting Valentine's present couples can give each other."

'Between Us' is based on a highly successful programme devised by Tavistock Relationships for the NHS to support couples. Designed to be both accessible and simple to use, it offers a series of communication exercises and videos, guiding couples through different elements of their relationship, including ways of coping with stress, problem solving, sex and dealing with differences.

By offering the App for free at this time, Tavistock Relationships aims to encourage wide participation and generate informative feedback.

Andrew Balfour, CEO of Tavistock Relationships, explains:

"We have been innovators in relationship therapy and support throughout our 70 year history, and this App is the latest development in our commitment to deliver accessible relationship support as widely as possible.

"More than ever before it is vital that we take time to invest in the health of our intimate relationships, which are so important for our sense of wellbeing. 'Between Us' is a new way to help couples find ways to improve their relationship, benefiting themselves and their children."

Tavistock Relationships has developed 'Between Us' with technical support from Distributed, thanks to a grant from a charitable foundation.

To download 'Between Us', go to the Apple or Android App stores or the website [here](#). 'Between Us' is currently free to download. Tavistock Relationships welcomes reviews and feedback to help raise awareness of the App.

For more information go to www.betweenus-app.com

Diary Dates

Thursday 1 st April	End of Term 4
Monday 19 th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	Pre-School Closed - development day (Local Elections)
Friday 28 th May	End of Term 5
Monday 7 th June	Start of Term 6
Wednesday 21 st July	End of Term 6
Thursday 22 nd July	Pre-School Closed - development day
Friday 23 rd July	Pre-School Closed - development day

Best Wishes, Carrie, Emma, Laura, Danni, Wendy & Becky.