



# Newsletter

## Frome Valley Preschool

### Dates to remember

**Friday 30th March-13th April**

**Easter Holidays**

**Monday 16th April.**

**School places released.**

**Monday 28th –Friday 1st June**

**Half term**

**Wednesday 27th June**

**Sports Day**

**Friday 13th July**

**End of Preschool BBQ**

**Wednesday 18th July**

**Preschool Trip.**

**Tuesday 24th July**

**End of Term**

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### CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

At the start of the new term there will be some changes to the preschool environment.

The reasoning for this is where our classroom is very open and spacious the reception room is very different, so to support the transition we have decided to rearrange the furniture during the holidays and change things on the walls, so it will look a bit different for the children's return.

### SCHOOL READINESS

The main focus of this newsletter is to let you know of the changes we will be making from next term in order to support school readiness. I have included a leaflet with the newsletter to explain all the things you can do to support your child at home as they get ready to start school. This can be a very daunting time for children and you may notice some unusual changes in your child's behaviour, this is completely normal so please do not worry. However, if you do have any concerns please do speak to your child's key worker for advice.

I have included a form for you as parents for things to encourage at home with your child to support them during this transition time.



### MORNING ROUTINE

As part of our school readiness initiative we are starting to introduce more structure into our day starting with a morning greeting session and registration or as a reminder of our weekly focus for the children. It is really important that all children are in preschool before 9:10am so they can be ready to start the session. The gate will be locked at 9:10am so if you are later then as a reminder we will collect your child from main reception.

We will also be putting up clock faces around the preschool clock to encourage children to recognise transition times for themselves so they can feel more confident and secure in the setting.



### LUNCHES

Our lunchtime is from 12pm till 1pm, but from September the children will only have 25 minutes to eat their lunch in the school hall. While we are aware that some of the children, if not all, maybe having hot lunches we feel that it is important to shorten our lunch time in preparation for this. When the children return after Easter, lunchtime will be 40 minutes long reducing to 30 minutes after the May half term.

In accordance with 'healthy schools' we encourage the children to eat their sandwiches, fruit and yoghurt first and then they can choose from what is left. To avoid wastage we advise limiting the contents of your child's lunchbox as they will not have as long to eat.

### TAPESTRY

We have noticed when completing our observations on Tapestry that there are some parents that have not yet accessed your child's online journal. Although we were experiencing some problems for a short period it is now up for you to access. Please feel free to add photos and comment on observations that have been uploaded. It is a great way to access your child's learning and development in preschool but also include their learning in the home environment.

If you are having trouble accessing your Tapestry account, please do speak to a member of the team who will reset your account for you.

We will no longer issue you with a paper copy of your child's report at the end of term as we no longer keep paper journals so have no where to store them upon their return, so they will be submitted onto your Tapestry account where you can access them from home.

We will still hand out comment slips for you to give us your valuable feedback but we will also provide you with a print out of how to comment on your child's review online so you can choose to do either.



## AIMING HIGH

In the final term our main focus will be the skills children need for school, so there will be a big drive on developing children's self help skills, mathematics, mark making, communication children's emotional well being.

We will continue on our phonics focus and using this skill to aid the children in recognising and writing their own name. For the children who can already write their own names, we will encourage their skills further by looking at forming other words and symbols, such as letters.

The children will be encouraged and supported to become more responsible for their own environment for example, in tidying up the classroom themselves, helping give out snack and cleaning up afterwards. We will also ask the children to help set up activities of their choosing throughout the day.

## CHANGE OF CLOTHES

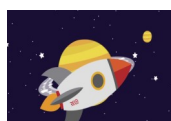
At preschool we do play outside a lot and engage in a lot of messy play. Could we please ask you dress your child for mess. We only have a limited amount of spare clothes so can you also provide a full change of clothes, including socks, in a labelled bag for any accidents that may happen, or if your child gets wet or dirty during activities.

## Makaton

We have had a number of parents ask about handouts so they can understand what their child is signing to them. From personal experience paper versions are not always clear, so in the next week and in the holiday, I will be uploading videos to Tapestry of myself doing the signs in sections. (Please be kind.)

## Our Success

- \* The children have been taking part in lots of turn taking and sharing exercises and their skills in this area are developing extremely well.
- \* Our new creative board has been a real success with the children, they are really enjoying seeing their work being hung up and take lots of pleasure in showing their parents.
- \* The children really enjoyed our space week and took on lots of information about the planets and the differences in space and earth. They also showed great knowledge of our focus story What-ever next.



## WHAT WE ARE DOING NEXT

We only have two weeks left of April when we return after the Easter break so for those two weeks we will be focusing on Spring and growing.

We will be discussing the signs of spring and will plant flowers, bulbs and beans in our outside area for the children to look after and observe changes.

The children will be listening to stories and audio stories on spring and also watching short stories on bulbs, frogs and butterflies.

As a surprise to the children this year we will observe the life cycle of a butterfly by looking after caterpillars and watching them turn into butterflies and releasing them into the garden when they are ready.

There will be lots of creative activities such as painting flowers and growing cress hair. The children will plant their own sunflower seed to watch grow and then take home with them to plant.



## HOME LEARNING

This half term we will be sending home a letter recognition activity for the children to complete and bring in and share with their friends when complete.



What you can encourage at home

As mentioned we have included a handout of things you can do to help your child with to get them ready for school, focusing on areas such as speaking, listening and attention. If you have any questions about this then please speak to a member of the team.



Go out for walks with your child and look out for signs of Spring. Take photos of your child with what they find and upload them to Tapestry.

Read books with your child on Spring.

Bring in Spring items from home to share with friends.

Thank you again for your continued support .

Gemma and your preschool team.