

Norton Pre-School

Honeywood Corner, Ixworth Road, Norton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk



Welcome back.

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Easter and managed to get out and about, we look forward to hearing from the children all the things they have been doing. So, for our last term for this academic year. I say this every year but it is amazing how quickly our year goes.



Arriving at Pre-School

As you now know we have changed how the children come in each morning. If you can wait outside at the front and a member of staff will open the gate as soon as we are ready. Our official opening time is 9am, however, we do our best to open the gate at 8.50am if possible for those children who have siblings at Norton Primary School, so please be patient. Please can the children find their name on the whiteboard outside and bring to put on our beehive. We also have a register on the green table where the children can be encouraged to find their name on the sheet and have a go at writing their own name in the space next to it.

Our Summer timetable will be:

- 9am children arrive
- 9.15am – welcome time in the book corner
(this is for the children to choose to come to)
- 9am – 11.20am Free flow play
- 10am-10.30 rolling snacks
- 11.20am Tidy up time
- 11.30am Split groups times (Eagles and Kingfishers)
- 12noon – lunch time
- 12.45am -1.30pm Outside play
- 1pm – home time for lunch time children
- 1.45pm Group activities inside for afternoon children
- 2pm – Group snack time
- 2.15pm Tidy up time
- 2.20pm Storytime.
- 2.30pm-3pm Outside time for whole group.

30 hours funding

As you may have heard in the news. The government are introducing the 30 hours funding from September 2017. We are pleased to announce that Norton Pre-School will be offering fully funded sessions for all eligible 3 and 4-year old's.

All 3 and 4-year old's can already have 15 hours per week of free childcare the term after their third birthday. From September children that meet the governments eligibility are entitled to an additional 15 hours. If you would like to use more than 15 hours funding each week in the Autumn Term 2017 and are eligible for the 30 hours funding, we must advise parents to apply by using the digital Childcare Service **by 31st August 2017.**

Parents with children who are 3 and 4 can now find out information for 30 hours Childcare through the government's digital Childcare Service www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

Parents who have children who are 3 on or before 31 August 2017 (i.e. Date of birth after 31/08/2013) will be able to apply and receive codes to take to Providers from today. This is for places starting in September 2017.

Parents who have children who are 4 on or before 31 August 2017 are able to register with www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to receive an email alert to notify them when they can apply and receive codes.

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Summer 1st Half Term Newsletter May 2017

Warmer Weather

We are looking forward to the weather warming up soon, so we have a few reminders for everybody to help keep the children safe this summer.

Lunch Boxes

The children's lunch boxes must contain an ice pack as we are unable to refrigerate all lunch boxes and please avoid high risk foods such as shellfish and eggs.

Drink Bottles

Please can all the children have a named drink bottle. In line with our Food and Drink Policy we must ask that they contain water only. If bottles are filled with juice we will need to replace this with water. This may seem harsh but it is recommended by health experts that children only have juice or squash with meals and is good practice for the children when they start school as they will be encouraged to have water also.

A drink of juice or squash may be supplied at lunch time with your child's lunch. The children do have an option of milk or water at snack times which are at 10am and 2pm daily.

If anyone has a concern about drink bottles or would like some advice about healthy eating please speak to Anne or your child's keyperson who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Coats

The outside area is still chilly in the mornings as the sun does not come around until late morning. Please can we ask that all children have a small coat even on hot days, so that they can access the outside every day.

Sun Protection

On hot days, the children will need to bring with them a named sunhat (preferably one that covers the back of their neck). Please apply sun cream to your child before they arrive at Pre-School each morning. Children that stay all day should bring a named bottle of sun cream and a member of staff will help your child to reapply the cream before going outside in the afternoon.

Saying goodbye

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Wendy at the end of this academic year. After 10 years, Wendy has decided to move on to a new challenge. She will be sadly missed.

Vacancies

We are now advertising for a replacement for Wendy. We are looking for a level 3 practitioner to start in September. We would also like to recruit 2 staff for bank staff to start as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 28th May Parent Helping Hands Gardening Event.

Please come and help revamp our garden for the Summer.

Saturday 10th June –

Father's Day event
Details of all these events will follow in due course.

Spare clothes.

We are desperate for boy's trousers/jeans 2-3 and 4-5 years. If you have anything you can spare we would appreciate donations.

Holiday Club Dates

We are now taking bookings for the following holiday clubs.

MAY HALF TERM

Our half term Holiday club will be open **Tuesday 30th May – Friday 2nd June**

SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 24th July – Friday 19th August

Open 8am – 6pm.

Children aged 2-11 years are welcome, activities to suit all ages.

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Activities

Weeks 1 and 2 – Tuesday 18th – 28th April

The children have been busy over the last two weeks. We have been talking about growing, planting seeds, and learning how to look after our new plants. The children have been measured and we have talked about who is the tallest, shortest, and how they have grown.

We have enjoyed the Jack and the Beanstalk story and the children have explored a small world Jack and the beanstalk to use their imaginations to retell the story. We have also used butter beans for counting. Some of the children have been very keen to be police officers and have been acting out the role in the garden. The children and the staff have enjoyed getting back to our longer free play sessions and we have seen some great play and learning taking place outside. The mud kitchen and new sand pit being very popular.

Our Thursday children were lucky enough to try out some circus skills at Circus Ferrell on the playing field. The children have also been showing an interest in minibeasts in the garden and we have undertaken some minibeast hunts.

Week 3 Tuesday 2nd – 5th May

We will be following on from the children's interest of minibeasts over the coming weeks.

This week we have 2 small visitors. Sophie has loaned us her son's African land snails. We will be finding out about snails and slugs this week by holding and examining the land snails and finding some of our own in the garden (hopefully). We will be looking at the snail's shells and practicing drawing some spirals like we find on the shells.

Books of the week: Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell and The Whale and the Snail.

Our caterpillars arrived at the weekend and the children will be watching them grow and change in to butterflies over the coming weeks.

Week 4 8th – 12th May National Doughnut week 6th – 13th May. We will be tasting some doughnuts at snack time and baking some of our own.

Our Caterpillars have now grown bigger and we will of course be including some caterpillar and butterfly stories and activities over this week.

Books of the week: The Hungry Caterpillar and The Munching, Crunching Caterpillar.

What you can do at home: why not use the internet or books to find out more about caterpillars and butterflies. Our butterflies will be Painted Ladies. Can the children find a picture of a Painted Lady butterfly?

Week 5 15th – 19th May

Books of the week: What the Ladybird Heard and the Bad Tempered Ladybird.

This week we will be finding out more about ladybirds. Ladybirds are always a good opportunity to introduce some counting and calculating activities and the children will be given the opportunity to join in some ladybird counting games and fun.

Week 6 22nd – 26th May

Books of the week: Squash the Spider and Argggggggggh.

Spiders are our focus this week as we find out more about them. The children will be enjoying some web and spider activities. Singing spider songs and rhymes and making some spider biscuits.

We are hoping that by the end of this half term our caterpillars will have turned into butterflies and we will be able to let go free.

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