

The Early Bird Pre-School Wheathampstead Newsletter



April 2025



| Term | Dates | Half Term | Setting Closed ** |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| Summer Term | Tuesday 22 nd of April – Friday 18 th of July | Monday 26 th of May – Friday 30 th of May | Monday 5 th of May – bank holiday |

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 23rd of April – St George's Day
Thursday 1st – Friday 2nd of May – Cake Sale
Friday 2nd of May – Space Day
Friday 23rd of May – Outdoor Classroom Day
Tuesday 6th of May - Arrival of the duck eggs
Saturday 10th of May - Family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)
Friday 23rd of May – World Ocean Day
Saturday 14th of June – Family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm
Friday – 20th of June – Tea party for King Charles' Birthday
Saturday 5th of July – Family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm
Thursday 17th of July - Graduation Day
Monday 21st of July - Summer Party



The Early Bird Pre-School Wheathampstead latest news . . .

We wanted to start off this newsletter by thanking all of the families that have purchased tickets for our fundraising raffle. We have raised over £550, which has gone towards a duck experience, supplied by Incredible eggs. On the day of the delivery of duck eggs, the company ensure the equipment is set up correctly and provide us with lots of information and learning resources for the children. The ducklings will usually hatch within three to four days in an incubator and we will then transfer them into their brooding unit. The children will have the opportunity to watch the ducklings hatch, name them, feed and care for them, handle the ducklings under adult supervision and even watch them as they have a splash around in a pool. We have also arranged for our Family Play and Exploration Group to tie in with this experience.

Fledgling News

We have had a fun term filled with lots of laughter and team work. As we have been experiencing drier and warmer weather, we have spent lots of time outdoors. The children have helped to make our very own Early Birds vegetable patch and had the opportunity to plant broad beans, peas, chard, sweet peppers, aubergines, tomatoes and a variety of herbs and wild flowers. There are many benefits to children fostering a love of planting and growing their own vegetables including, building a connection with nature, providing opportunity for responsibility and patience and encouraging healthy eating, as they show pride in what they have achieved. It also promotes communication and language, the use of fine and gross motor skills sensory exploration, creativity and many aspects of maths. The children also have helped to clear different parts of the garden and worked together to carry and transport logs and leaves to make room for new and exciting resources. This has provided an opportunity to explore a variety of bugs and insects and to watch how they travel across the ground and many have enjoyed holding spiders and woodlice. The children have used our new binoculars and magnifying glasses to look at the details of both wildlife and the signs of spring. The children have been very excited about some new resources and equipment in the garden including a slide and large construction blocks.

This term the children have taken part in a variety of baking activities and helped to prepare many snacks, they have made jam tarts, apple bites, bitesize vegetable omelettes, pancakes and biscuits. These activities have been proven very popular and the children have enjoyed using a variety of tools to slice, sieve, chop and mix the different ingredients.

Nest News

We have been working hard to enhance the garden for the children, there is now a new area where the children can dig and enjoy the sensory experience of sand, with blocks and diggers. The children have been throwing and kicking different sized balls around the garden and have enjoyed watching and popping bubbles in the garden. We have introduced some simple Makaton signs, with lots of the children now confident in being able to sign "please". We have also created an interactive story/song board which allows the children to make choices of what song they would like to sing and inspires communication and language.



New Funding for Working Families

From April 2024, 15 hours free childcare became available to working parents of two-year-olds. If your child turned 2 on or before 31st of December 2024 you can apply for this funding NOW, for January at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Reminders

- We are not able to allow children to come in earlier than their set drop off times due to staff to child ratios.
- Please DO NOT bring toys from home. These can get lost and can cause upset with peers.
 - Please remember to label ALL of your child's belongings, including jumpers, cardigans, lunch bags/boxes and water bottles.
- Nest families, could we ask that you provide yogurts that the children can use a spoon to feed themselves with, our aim is to build on their independence at lunch time.



Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to the local businesses and organisations that very kindly donated raffle prizes.

Lorimer Properties

- The Elephant and Castle (Wheathampstead)
 - The Swan (Wheathampstead)
 - DJ jungles
 - Kids Fun Zone
 - GJW Titmuss
 - Lucy Mayo Hair and Beauty
 - Rachel Jeffrey
- Heavens Above (Wheathampstead)
- Studio 12 Aesthetics and Skin Clinic
 - SpotOn Therapy
 - Willows Farm
 - Woodside Farm
 - The Chapel Gym
 - Pots of Art
 - Tropic Skin Care

**Thank
You**

A Note on Funding

From September, working families with children aged 9+ months will be able to receive 30 hours funding per week. Please bear this in mind when applying for your September place, as we anticipate there will be a high demand for full time places in September and it may be difficult to add more hours later in the year.

* All children aged 3 are eligible to 15 hours funding the term after their 3rd birthday.

You do not need to apply for this.

* 2 Year Funding: If your family receives certain government support, you may be eligible for 15 hours funding per week the term after your child turns 2

* Please speak to Denisse for more information or go to

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Wishlist

We would be grateful for any donations of bed sheets, computer keyboards and screens, binoculars, silicone cupcake cases, old bike wheels, notebooks and diaries. We are running low on age 2-3 and 3-4, boys and girls, trousers and leggings, if you are having a spring clear out, we would gladly take these of your hands.



The Early Bird Pre-School Wheathampstead - The Team



Denisse – Director, Early Years Manager, SENCO & DSL (Level 6)

Ella – Setting Leader, DSP and H&S Officer (QTS, Level 6)

Dawn – Deputy Setting Leader & Deputy SENCO (Level 3)

Juanita – Room Leader of Nest Room (Level 3)

Lyndsey -Senior Early Years Educator & DSP (Level 3)

Emma – Early Years Educator (Level 3)

Le'oshe – Early Years Helper (Level 2)

Mary – Early Years Helper (Level 3)

Sarah – Early Years Helper (Level 2)

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