

The Early Bird Pre-School Wheathampstead Newsletter



July 2025



Term	Dates	Half Term	Setting Closed **
Autumn Term	Wednesday 3 rd of September – Wednesday 17 th of December	Monday 27 th of July – Friday 31 st of July	

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 17th of July – Graduation Day (9:30am)



Friday 18th of July – Summer party (2pm – 3:30pm – sessions as normal)

Monday 1st of September - New starter home visits. This will be with your child's key person and one other member of staff.

Tuesday the 2nd of September - Open morning for new starters or those moving rooms. 9:30am – 11:30am

Wednesday the 3rd of September – First Day of the Autumn term.



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

Fledgling News:

The children have had a fantastic time creating their own treasure maps, which led to some exciting group treasure hunts around the garden. It's been lovely to see them working together—giving each other directions, using rich positional language, and helping one another find where 'X marks the spot.' We've especially enjoyed watching their conversations grow, as they listened to each other and shared ideas during their adventures.



The children have continued to show a wonderful curiosity about the world around them, particularly when using binoculars and magnifying glasses to take a closer look. This summer term, they have explored all that nature has to offer. A highlight was discovering ladybird larvae in the garden. We had the chance to observe them closely as they grew, formed cocoons, and eventually emerged as ladybirds. It's been a joy to hear them using their newly learned vocabulary during daily activities, often excitedly noticing and commenting on any changes they have observed on a daily basis. The children have enjoyed going on bug hunts around the garden. A particularly special highlight has been seeing some children who were initially fearful of bugs grow in confidence — they're now happily picking them up, holding them, and watching as they crawl across their hands and arms. Along the way, we even discovered a few insect species that were new to us!



We've welcomed a new resident pet, Barry the African Land Snail, and the children have absolutely fallen in love with him. They enjoy watching him munch on vegetables, and some have even braved holding him.



We've been busy with lots of fun activities that help strengthen the children's fine motor skills. The children have been interested in the letters that make up their name and practicing forming these letters using large chalks, pens and paints. They have also been practicing their scissor skills, which we have seen massive progress in. All Key People have completed transition reports for the children who are leaving, and end-of-term reports for those who are staying. It's been wonderful to reflect on how much progress each child has made and to see just how far they've come across all areas of development.



Nest News:

This term, we have welcomed new starters into the Nest Room and have been delighted with how well they have settled in. Our Nest children have enjoyed exploring a variety of textures and creating patterns through activities such as manipulating playdough and participating in a large group handprint painting. They have also shown curiosity in learning about animals, closely observing the differences between those with shells and those without.



Their love for stories and books continues to grow, enriching their language development. With the lovely weather we've experienced, the children have enjoyed staying cool through a range of water play activities.



We've observed their fascination with cause and effect as they tip and pour water using different containers.

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 2025 you can apply for this funding NOW, for January at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Mealtimes at Early Birds

We are excited to be offering homemade meals at the setting from September. We have been busy preparing the kitchen, designing a menu, trialling dishes and attending courses to ensure that we introduce this effectively.

Please ensure you have informed us as soon as possible if your child will be having meals or bringing in a packed lunch. Over the holidays we will be sending out a questionnaire and a copy of our planned menu for the first half term. If you have any recipes that are a winner for your children, please share with us.

If your child is bringing in a packed lunch please refer to our new lunchbox guide that we will be following from September in line with the new Government guidelines.

Saturday Stay and Play Groups

Due to a reduction in attendance over the last year, we are changing the format for the next academic year. We are reducing the number of days from 8 to 4 and we will require booking to ensure it is viable and we have parents coming. The dates for the groups next year are:



4th October - Den Building and menu tasting

6th December - Christmas arts and crafts

7th March - Woodwork and campfire (weather depending)

6th June - Ducklings experience



Goodbye and Good Luck to our Leavers

This time of year, is always bittersweet as we prepare to say goodbye to some of our Early Birds. We'll miss each and every one of you, but we're so proud of all you've achieved.

Wishing you the very best as you start your exciting journey at your new schools or nurseries — may it be full of fun, learning, and new adventures!



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)

Roxiiee – Early Years Helper

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