

The Early Bird Pre-School Wheathampstead Newsletter



October 2024



Term	Dates	Half Term	Setting Closed **
Autumn 2024	Wednesday 4 th of September – Tuesday 17 th of December	Monday 28 th of October – Friday 1 st of November	Wednesday 18 th of December, there are no sessions but we are open for our Christmas party 9:30am – 11:30am

Dates for your diary:

Autumn Term 2024

Saturday 12th of October - Saturday family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm

Friday 25th of October – Autumn party and dress up day (this will happen in the children's sessions)

Saturday 2nd of November - Saturday family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm

Tuesday 12th of November – Odd sock day

Friday 15th of November – Children in need

Wednesday 20th of November – Parents evening (time to be confirmed)

w/c 2nd of December – We will be starting a collection for the Food Bank

Saturday 7th of December - Saturday family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm

Thursday 12th of December – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 17th of December – Last Day of Term

Wednesday 18th of December - Christmas Party – Parents and children are invited for our Christmas party 9:30 - 11:30



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

Nest Room

We have loved welcoming under 2's in our nest room for the very first time. The children have settled amazingly and you, the parents have been great in supporting us. The children have enjoyed invitations to play that have been set up, following their new and expanding interests. This has helped them to feel comfortable and secure during their session. We have spent time outdoors, both in the garden and going for walks exploring nature and the change in seasons. As we approach the build up to Christmas the children will be exploring lots of sensory activities, with the use of lights, a variety of colours, glitter, shaving foam and much more. We are very much looking forward to the second part of the Autumn term and if you ever want a chat about your child's/children's learning or development please don't hesitate to send us a message on tapestry, give us a call or ask us at the door and we can arrange a suitable time to meet.

Fledgling Room

There are so many learning opportunities during the Autumn term. The children have been able to observe seasonal change out in the local community as we have explored local parks, the community orchard and the allotments. It has been amazing to witness the wonder and awe of the children as they have harvested and prepared their own fruit and vegetables for snack, which in turn has meant the children have been more willing to try new tastes for example, pumpkin soup and puree. The children have also enjoyed collecting natural, autumn resources including, different coloured leaves and conkers. The children have engaged in lots of activities involving conkers for example, conker rolling with paint, conker and spoon races and exploring their texture and appearance using magnifying glasses. The children have used their fine motor skills to investigate pumpkins, they have hammered golf tees into them, decorated them with pens and different materials and scooped the seeds and fibrous strands out using spoons.

The children have been growing in independence over this past term. We have really focused on encouraging them to hang their coats and bags on their pegs, to try and put their shoes and coats on themselves and many of our children are attending to toileting needs independently. It has been lovely to see how proud and determined they are to learn these new skills. As we go into the new half term and during the build up to Christmas some of the seasonal and curriculum activities we will be exploring include, light and colour in line with fireworks night, going on a listening walk to Devil's Dyke to investigate nature and making and sending Christmas cards. We will also be collecting and delivering food to the food bank at St Helens Church and the children will be making their very own Christmas dinner with the vegetables they have grown and harvested.

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 1st of September 2024 you can apply for this funding NOW, for January at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Sign up at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=3AD16S&char=114322&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox

Special Events

Wednesday 20th of November

We will be holding a parent's evening where you will be invited in to meet with your child's/children's key person and to discuss their learning and development. This is also an opportunity for you to talk to us about any concerns you may have. Times and slots will be shared with you in due course. We look forward to seeing you there.



Reminders

- Could we ask that you label your child's clothing, in particular coats, cardigans and jumpers.
- Please could you update your emergency contact details, this can be done on tapestry.
- Grapes must be cut vertically and not horizontally as this can still cause choking.

Thank you!

Wishlist

We would be grateful for any donations of bed sheets, scarves, hats, computer keyboards and screens, binoculars, silicone cupcake cases, old bike wheels, notebooks and diaries.



Online Safety

Children are now more aware and have more access to the world of being online and using a range of technology to watch videos and to play games which can put them at risk of being exposed to inappropriate content. The NSPCC have an informative website which can support parents in talking to their children about online safety and have tools to make this a little less daunting, with their very own character Techosaurus. Techosaurus is aimed at young children that are starting to use the internet, it promotes the use of positive language and conversation to help children to understand how to be safe whilst enjoying the benefits of internet use. It promotes not just talking to your children about your views and what could happen but also allowing children the time and space to talk to their trusted adults about what they are playing, watching or seeing. The NSPCC website also have tools and advice in using parent controls and the importance of them, activity packs for the children and explains their four key messages in regards to online safety. These are:

Play and be Kind Online

Protect your Personal Information

Ask before you try something new online

Say if anything has made you feel upset



Another great website with a variety of online safety tools is www.internetmatters.org. There is information and advice specified for different age groups including, an online safety checklist for parents and a preschool guide for parents. This will help parents to ensure the information and conversations they are having with their children regarding online use is age and stage appropriate.



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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