

# The Early Bird Pre-School CIC Newsletter



## February 2024



Term	Dates	Half Term	Setting Closed **
Autumn 2023	Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept – open morning, new starters only Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Inset day, staff training Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas party
Spring 2024	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan–Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March	19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan – closed, staff training Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday Bank Holiday
Summer 2024	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April – Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> July	27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May – closed, bank holiday

### Dates for your diary:

#### Spring Term 2024

- w/c Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

#### Summer Term 2024

- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

Trike-a-thon fundraising for chick hatching experience  
World Book Day – dress as favourite book character  
Red Nose Day  
Stay & Play Session with parents 10.15-11.15am and 2-3pm

Parents' Evening 5.30-7.30pm  
Stay & Play Session with parents 10.15-11.15am and 2-3pm  
Visit to Shepreth Wildlife Park (no normal sessions)  
Stay & Play Session with parents 10.15-11.15am and 2-3pm  
Summer Party 9.30-11.30am (no normal sessions)

### The Early Bird Pre-School CIC latest news . . .

We wanted to start off this newsletter by thanking all the parents that attended our first Stay and Play session last week. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces from the children, parents and staff alike. We have had some lovely feedback from the morning, if you have any comments, please do email us. We are running these sessions in March, May and June (dates above) so if you didn't make it this time, we hope to see you at one of our future sessions.

Our recent Saturday Family Group was a great success too. We were delighted to welcome lots of families from our waiting list as well as some familiar faces. Our next group is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 9.30-11.30am, please email if you would like a space.

The children have been keeping very busy this half term. There has been lots of fun mixing with herbs and tea bags in the mud kitchen and the potion station – thank you to those of you that have donated items. There have been lots of maths provocations, and many of the children are now counting independently. Pop-up-Pirate has been popular and outside the children have really enjoyed playing on the climbing frame with the bucket swing and the round swing. We will soon be getting the rope ladder back out for some additional climbing fun.

We had our last visit from Imajica Theatre Group last week. The children have loved these weekly sessions and have been very engaged with all the activities.

We have a lot to fit in this week! We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with Friendship Week, promoting kindness throughout the week through stories and activities and the children will be making cards and friendship bracelets. Saturday marked the Lunar New Year. 2024 is the year of the dragon, so we will be looking at images, and mark making with cotton buds and black paint. And, of course, we will be making and enjoying pancakes on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February!

After half term we will be starting our Trike-a-Thon fundraising, so we would love you to get as many sponsors for your child as possible! Proceeds will go towards a duckling hatching experience in the summer term – always a real winner with the children - and provisions for our outside area. We will also be marking World Book Day, Science Week and Red Nose Day – more details to follow soon!



We hope you all have a lovely half term. We will be back on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February

### New Funding for Working Families

From April 2024, 15 hours free childcare will be available to working parents of two-year-olds. If your child turns 2 on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 you can apply for this funding NOW at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### Nursery Application September 2024

Nursery applications have now been sent home. Please return your completed form by

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

We will allocate places by

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

Places must be accepted by

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

After which time places will be offered to families on our waiting list.



### Special Events

#### World Book Day - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character. We will be sharing lots of stories and enjoying story-themed activities



#### Red Nose Day - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

We will be doing our bit for Comic Relief by enjoying fun themed play activities.

Children are invited to wear something red. Suggested donation for Comic Relief £1 per child



### Reminders THANKS!

Please remember to provide wipes for your child if they are still in nappies.

Please leave toys and special items at home. We have plenty of activities here for the children and it can cause upset if things from home get lost or broken



### Shepreth Wildlife Park

We are excited to have arranged a visit to Shepreth Wildlife Park on

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

All our Early Birds and their parents/family members are invited. We will have access to the soft play area and there will be an age-appropriate educational workshop. Letters are going home this week.

Please return your form by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Please note there will be no normal sessions running on this day



### Tip of the Half Term

#### Independent me...

Developing your child's independence is important to help them with everyday activities and routines and will support your child's self-esteem and confidence. Be consistent with your approach. At first, they might just have a go but given time, your child will master each skill. Remember to praise your child!

Here are some ideas to encourage independence at home:

**Give your child choices:** Allow your child to make their own decisions, give them a choice of two things and let them make the final decision. This could work particularly well at snack times!

**Dressing themselves:** Start with easier clothing like trousers or wellies then build up trying to put on their own top or socks. Encourage your child to put on their own coat using the 'flip over the head' method.

**Helping at mealtimes:** Encourage your child to pour their own drinks, drink from an unlidded cup, butter their own toast and cut their own food. Also support your child to feed themselves (even if they get a little messy). Slowly their hand/eye co-ordination will develop.

**Allow your child to take risks:** Taking reasonable risks is good for building strong connections in your child's brain. Let them balance across a log or jump off a high step, teach them how to land safely and how to keep themselves safe!

**Involve your child in household jobs:** this will give your child a sense of responsibility and can be adapted at each age and stage as they grow. If you are doing laundry, ask your child to help pair clean socks or ask them to help wash up (start with unbreakable items!)

**Tidy as they go along:** Once your child has finished playing with their toys, ask them to tidy away before choosing something else to play with! If they have got lots out, break it up into smaller chunks, give one instruction at a time, for example 'put your bricks away first'

## The Early Bird Pre-School CIC Team

**Natasha** - Director & Early Years Manager

**Ebony** - Director, Early Years Leader & Designated Safeguarding Officer

**Syreta** - Early Years Deputy & SENCO

**Kirstie** - Snr Early Years Educator, H&S Officer

**Katherine** - Finance Manager

**Kerry** - Early Years Educator

**Nick** - Early Years Educator

**Sarah** - Early Years Educator

**Hayley** - Early Years Educator

**Maisie** - Early Years Helper

**Caitlin** - Early Years Helper

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