



## March 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 – Stay and play session 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

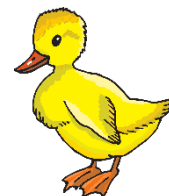
### Dates for your diary:

#### Spring Term 2024

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day – dress as favourite book character
- W/c Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of March – National Science Week
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm – Parents information evening
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Red Nose Day

#### Summer Term 2024

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Holiday Club 9am – 3pm (am , pm or all day available)
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April – The arrival of our duck eggs which will be due to hatch on the 24<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of April - Saturday family play and exploration group 10am-12pm
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of June – Saturday family play and exploration group – 10am – 12pm
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Saturday family play and exploration group 10am – 12pm
- 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of July – Graduation week
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of July – Summer Party, all children welcome with an adult (Setting open for the summer party only).



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

We wanted to start off this newsletter by thanking all the parents that have attended our family play and exploration groups. It has been lovely to see so many smiling faces from the children, being able to have a catch up with our existing parents and to welcome families and siblings from our waiting list. We have had some lovely feedback from the morning, if you have any comments, please do email us. We are running these sessions in April, June and July (dates above) so if you didn't make it this time, we hope to see you at one of our future sessions.

The children have been keeping very busy this term. There have been lots of pattern making with loose parts (jewels, shells and little treasures) which helps the children in learning to make predictions and to make logical connections. We have introduced weekly STEM activities where the children have explored objects that float and sink, what does and does not dissolve and a firm favourite has been making a paper-mache volcano. They got to paint it and then mixed white vinegar and bicarbonate soda to make it erupt. The children have been able to use both their natural curiosity of why things happen and their excitement to learn about the world to become our very own Early Bird scientists.

We have spent lots of time outdoors this half term and embraced the cold, wet weather by wrapping up warm - thank you so much to those that have donated hats and gloves. There have been lots of fun exploring planting, the children have had access to soil, bulbs, pots and water, using their imaginations to grow bean stalks and their growing vocabulary to talk about what their plants will need to grow. The children have helped to build wooden planters for our garden and the entrance to the setting, using their skills, ideas and enthusiasm for wood work. The children have also planted and decorated their own orchids as a gift to the special women in their life. Any donations of soil would be gratefully received.

This week we will be marking World Book Day, we will have lots of story themed activities including, making their own owls using tissue paper and cotton wool (owl babies), a frozen vegetable activity (Supertato), making their favourite story characters out of clay, exploring different coloured playdough (colour monster) and making and eating vegetable kebabs (the hungry caterpillar).

#### 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)

## Parent Information Evening - 14<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm

We will be having a short presentation on our curriculum, fees and funding and future plans. This will be followed by a question and answer session and an opportunity to chat with the team and other parents. Please do come and let us know if you can make it.

### Session allocation September 2024

Applications have now been sent home for sessions for children in the Autumn term.

Please return your completed form by

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

We will allocate places by

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

Places must be accepted by

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

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 and the children will be invited to wear red.

### Reminders

Please remember to cut your child's grapes in half, vertically to avoid choking. Please try and 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.

THANKS!

### 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 plenty of time, your child will master each skill. Remember to praise your child with specific praise e.g. "good tidying", "well done, you tried to put your coat on"! These skills are a core part of our curriculum and will help your child when they start in reception.

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'

**For inspiration follow thelittledreameruk on instagram**

## The Early Bird Pre-School (Wheathampstead) Team

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

**Ella** – Setting Leader, H&S Officer, EYFS lead & DSP (Level 6)

**Dawn** – Deputy Setting Leader and SENCO (Level 3)

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

**Emma** – Early Years Educator (Level 3)

**Fiona** – Early Years Educator (Level 3)

**Sarah** – Early Years Educator (Level 2)

**Mary** – Early Years Educator (Level 3)

**Anna** – Early Years Helper

**Niki** – Early Years Helper (bank staff)

Please **like** and **follow** us on Facebook: TheEarlyBirdPreSchoolWheathamsptead and Instagram: earlybirdpreschoolcic

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