



Lytchett
Matravers
Pre-school

Newsletter February 2020

Children's voice

The children have said that they have liked:

Isla: "Heart for Mummy"

Cosette: "I like doing painting"

Harry B: "I like building"

Finley: "Going outside & things because I like it"

Ariana: "Making stuff for Mummy"

Kaspar: "Playing in the cars"

Isabelle S: "Building towers"

Teddy R: "Building blocks"

Eli: "Baby Shark"

Jenson: "Building with the Lego"

Dates for your diary

14th February: **Bills sent for March sessions**

17th—21st February: Half term

24th February: First day back after half term

28th February: **Payments due for March sessions**



5th March: World Book Day

5th March: **Pyjama Party (6pm) and AGM (6.30pm)**

6th April—17th April: Easter holidays

20th April: First day back after Easter holidays

8th May: Bank holiday

25th—29th May: May half term

1st June: Staff Training Day

20th July: Start of Summer holidays

Bookings for September

Children who are staying with us in September will be given a form before February half term, to request their sessions for September 2020 onwards. Please ensure these are returned to Pre-School as soon as possible. Thank you!

Pyjama Party and AGM

On **Thursday 5th March at 6pm**, we will be holding a Story themed Pyjama Party, which will be followed by our AGM. There will be various activities set up in the rooms, including a bedtime story area, space to act out their own helicopter stories, and resources to explore letters and sounds. A sign up sheet will be on the office door. We have a maximum capacity of 50 children so unfortunately we are unable to accommodate siblings, but please let us know if this causes any major issues for you, as it will depend on capacity. If we have more children wanting to attend than we have spaces for, we will arrange another date.

The 'after-party' (**Our AGM**) will begin at **6.30pm**. This will be a presentation of our accounts from last year and will include the stepping down of our current trustees and re-election. **If you are interested in joining our team of trustees, please**



World Book Day

World book day this year, is on Thursday 5th March, therefore we will be having a dress up week from 2nd–6th March. Children are welcome to dress up as a character from a book, or they can wear their pyjamas, or their normal clothes. Please ensure children bring spare clothes and wear outdoor shoes.

Parents and Grandparents

To celebrate world book day, we would love to have some parent/grandparent volunteers drop in to read stories with children. Children love to listen to stories read by new people. If you would be interested in doing this, please let us know and we will book you in when convenient for you!



Trustees

We are on the lookout for some new trustees to join our team. We are unable to run without our team of volunteer trustees. If you would like to be more involved in the running of Pre-School and help behind the scenes, please let us know ASAP! We would particularly be interested in individuals with a background or knowledge in HR, Safeguarding, Finance, Fundraising and Education.

If anyone you know would be interested, please pass our details ASAP (below)



Sponsored Reading Challenge

This year, we will be holding a sponsored reading challenge **from 24th February to 6th March**, to raise money for our **outdoor area** at the rear of the Pre-School. We are kindly asking people to sponsor children to do a fun 3-step challenge! Sponsorship forms will be sent home after half term.

1. Read 10 books

After half term, we will be sending home your challenge book marks and stickers. For each book you read with your child, you can give them a sticker for their book mark.

2. Visit a Library

There will be a 'sticker spot' for you to put a sticker once they have visited a library. You can also upload a photo of their visit to Tapestry if you want to.

3. Read a book in a funny place

Please take a photo of your child reading a book in a funny place, for example in a tree or under a table, and upload to Tapestry. We will be using these photos on our display board at Pre-School.

Once your child has completed their 3 challenges, they can bring their bookmark and sponsorship form to the office, and collect their medal! All sponsorship forms will be placed in a draw for a special prize. Please ensure sponsorship money is brought in by 18th March.

Words from the Woods

With spring just around the corner, this term has been all about getting the site ready.

The cold weather hasn't stopped us from accessing the open space. We give the children the opportunities to dress themselves in their wet weather gear and welly boots, which helps to develop their physical development and independence in their own self-care routines. Once all the children are ready, it's off to the woods we go. We have been introducing new songs to the children, and the children enjoy singing them on our journey up to the woods.

Walking through the woods provides opportunities for children to walk on uneven surfaces and steady themselves. They can experience different ways of moving around the woods: under, over, through, around, in, on and behind.

After months of cold and wet weather, the woods was in need of some TLC. Children were introduced to the loppers and secateurs. Whilst watching an adult use them safely the children recognised "they are like scissors".

"We can cut the trees down"

"They are sharp"

The children talk about safety, for instance how to use them, how to look after them and where to put them when not in use. Using tools safely develops ability manage risks.

We have been cropping, sculpting and clearing the area, ready to plant and create structures within the woods.

The children had their own ideas about how to clear the woods and managed their own risks while sorting the fire circle area. They have successfully created a larger open space to run and smaller safer circle to cook and to keep warm. They used wheelbarrows, gloves and rakes to remove the dead apples from the floor.

'They all squishy'

'We don't eat them they give us poorly tummy'

'We put them in the garden bin, composter'

'What happened? They nearly all gone'

Which brings in a conversation about why the apples were on the floor, what happened, who could have eaten them and seasons of change.

During our time up at the woods, children take time to connect and notice what nature has to offer.

"Look what's that?"

"It looks like snow"

"Are they caterpillars or wiggly worms?"

With a closer look and some investigation we found it was "catkins" a beautiful variety of willow, something the woodland is covered in, and another change that spring brings.

The next couple of weeks will see the planting of new bulbs roots and seeds, pruning our willow and hazel, and cutting the trees and hedges to support further growth before the birds start nesting.



What will we discover next...?