

Newsletter – April 2019



83 Main Street
Witchford, Ely
Cambs CB6 2HQ

Information

Please follow us on Facebook.

Nicola updates Facebook regularly for everyone to see what has been happening at Pre-School. The link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/Witchford-Rackham-Pre-School-126256634094602/>

Our Facebook will have updates regularly about what is going on at Pre-School and will advertise our Fundraising events.

In April we are going to start putting onto Facebook weekly a post called 'Here is a snapshot of what we did/what the children chose this week' as not all of our activities are observations on Tapestry and we would like to keep you informed about the occurring themes and interests the children have at Pre-School.

Staffing Update

At the end of this term Julie, the Robins Key Person, will be leaving us. During Julie's absence Nicola has been the Key Person for the Robins and will continue in this role until a new member of staff has been appointed.

Julie is going to be sadly missed by both Pre-School staff and children and we would like to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment over the years. We wish her well for the future.

Join Our Committee

At our AGM in September/October time some current committee members will be stepping down. For the Pre-School to stay open we will need to fill these spaces.

If you would like any further information about joining the committee then please contact them on wrpcscommittee@gmail.com

Home Learning Bags (colourful bags) In the corridor you will be able to find 5 coloured bags which all have different themes to them. We have mathematical resources, painting and mark making resources, resources to support fine motor skills, making play dough/messy play and construction

These bags can be taken home and the resources used to continue a child's interest or support a next step they currently have. You can explore the resources together as a family and have some fun.

You will need to write in the signing in and out sheet which bag you are taking home so that we can keep track on which bags are being taken and replenish any of the items within it if needed.





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Chatter sacks (red bags)

We have different themed bags to help develop speech and language at home. If your child has a next step based around speech and language or you're concerned about their speech then it would be good to speak to the child's key person and find out which bag would be good to take home to look at together building on and developing speech and language at home.

The bags we have are; vehicles, out and about, shopping, farm animals, hands and feet, family, listening ears and zoo animals.

You will need to write in the signing in and out sheet which bag you are taking home so that we can keep track on which bags are being taken.



Spaces for September 2019

If you know of anyone looking for quality, local childcare then please ask

them to contact either Nicola or Tracey.

Phone number: 01353 666782

Tracey, Pre-School Administrator: wrps@talktalk.net

Nicola, Pre-School Manager: managerwrps@gmail.com

Stay and play

Previous years we have had parents or grandparents come in and stay for the session to play with the children if this is something you would like to do then on the parents board (within the entrance corridor) is a parents helper sheet which you can fill in the session you would like to do this.

If you are unable to come for a full session but would like to come in to read yours or your child's favorite book or be a helper on a walk within the village then please contact/speak to Nicola who can put this in the diary and check to ensure nothing else is going on during that session.

The children are always interested in professions and it would be lovely to have more people come in and talk about what they do. Vet, police officer, doctor are some that the children have recently shown an interest in. If you are able to spare a small amount of time to come in to do this then please get in contact with Nicola.

Fundraising

Smarties Tubes

Thank you so much for bringing back your smarties tubes you have helped to raise £170.

Sponsored Easter Treasure Hunt

The children at the moment are very interested in finding treasure, so we think it would be a lovely idea to do a Sponsored Easter Treasure Hunt. This will be placed in the children's trays on Tuesday



2nd April for the children to complete over the Easter break. When completed sheets can be brought back in along with the money by Monday 3rd May so that we can select 2 winners who will win a small prize. Some of the items for the children to look for are; Spring Flower, Something green and Easter Animal.

Committee Fundraising Events coming up

Helpers needed for events so please get in touch via wrpscommittee@gmail.com or contact Pam Singh Sahota via facebook.

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WITCHFORD RACKHAM
PRESCHOOL AND ST ANDREWS
CHURCH CO HOSTING

CURRY NIGHT

SAMOSAS, PAKORAS, POPPADOMS,
TWO CHICKEN OR VEGETARIAN
OPTION
MILD OR HOT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PAM AT
PKS27@OUTLOOK.COM
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA FACEBOOK EVENT, EMAIL
OR POST OFFICE

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL 2019
@ ST ANDREWS HALL
TAKE AWAY
£12 ADULTS/£7 CHILDS 2 COURSES
FROM 6PM
SIT DOWN £15 ADULTS £10 CHILDS
ORDER IN ADVANCE

Kids Easter Bingo Rules

FRIDAY 19TH APRIL 2019

Tickets from Witchford Post Office or comment on FB event

1. At Witchford Village Hall
2. Midday to 3pm
3. £8 per child payable in advance to include sandwich lunch (advise allergies)
4. Bingo calling at children's pace
5. Fun number learning
6. Three cards each for six games
7. Parents responsible for own children
8. Easter prizes
9. Tuck shop available
10. Age 0 -16 years
11. Adult lunch available from £2.50

Hosts: Witchford Rackham Preschool

Save the Date: Yard Sale: Sunday 19th May

What we were up to in March

World Book Day: For World book day the children dressed up as their favorite book character and brought in their favorite book to share with us. The children were discussing with each other whom their character was and details about their costumes.

Walk to look at flowers near Witchford Sign: We were lucky enough to have a parent helper to come into Pre-School on Friday 8th March which enabled us to go for a walk back to the Witchford Sign to see if any changes had occurred within the area as the children on our last visit spotted that some flowers were beginning to grow. When we got to the Witchford Sign the children noticed that the flowers had begun to grow. We then had a look into the allotment area to see what was growing, some of the children could see broccoli and commented on the equipment which was being used to grow the vegetables/ plants.

This started discussions about growing plants/ vegetables at Pre-School.

Walk to Millennium wood: Last week we went to the Millennium

Wood to have a look around the environment as well as set up a dinosaur hunt. When we got down to the Millennium wood we went and sat around the fire pit and Nicola read 2 stories "Dinosaurs love underpants" and "Aliens love dinopants". Whilst Nicola was reading the books, Claire and Amy went around and placed 10 dinosaurs out for the children to then find. Carole noticed that there was a birds nest in the tree and one of the children said that it was a nest for a pterodactyl.

Once the stories had finished the children were very excited to go and look for the dinosaurs, we all helped each other to look up high and down low to find the dinosaurs. Once all found we went back to the fire circle to talk about the different dinosaurs we had found and placed them into the bag to take home.

Before leaving the Millennium Wood we went down to the bottom and looked at the bug hotel, we spoke about the different mini beasts that might live inside of it, one of the children commented on the log piles which were beside it and said "Look snake lives in the log pile house like the gruffalo."



Dinosaurs: The children are interested in dinosaurs at the moment and this has been the main theme for our activities in the craft room. Here are some of the activities the children have been able to take part in.



Pirates and treasure maps: The children have also been interested in pirates and going on treasure hunts while playing outside. One morning the climbing frame became a pirate ship and the children drew creatures that lived in the sea on the black surface. The flags were left on the climbing frame so that the children could continue to use this



as a pirate ship, however we had the huge down pours and our flags became all wet. On that Friday however the children used coffee and tea bags to stain paper to create their own treasure maps to continue their pirate adventure.





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Exploring our new light panel

This week the children have had a chance to explore our new light panel. They created an under the sea image cutting up paper and placing collage materials into specific areas to create fish and seaweed.



What is coming up in April

Children's Easter Ideas are;

- Creating Easter bunnies
- Easter egg hunt at Pre-School or in the woods where we had our dinosaur hunt
- Create Easter eggs by cutting out and using circles
- Something to do with chocolate
- Egg and spoon race.

Previously the children have created some 3D chicks and birds at Easter time. As the children are interested in the animals relating to Easter this might be something we do again this year.

Chocolate nests are always a favorite with the children and help them to learn about solids turning into liquid and the process that does this through melting the chocolate to mix with the shredded wheat.

St George's Day: This is on Tuesday 23rd April, however upon return from the Easter break on Wednesday 24th April we will have out our Castle with knights and dragons as well as coloring sheets relating to St George's Day. At register time we have a short story and some information to inform the children about St George's Day. On the day we will then see what additional crafts the children would like to do in relation to St George's Day.

Boards

"Look What We Have Been Doing this Easter Time"

This is going to be our board by the snack area during April. The children are already talking about what they are going to be doing for Easter and with us having over 2 weeks off for the Easter Holidays it would be lovely to see what Easter activities the children have got up to outside of Pre-School, or places which you may visit over the Easter break. Please send any photos to Nicola or upload them onto your child's tapestry account.

Nicola will then display photos onto the board within the snack area for the children to talk about with their peers.



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Important dates

Last day of Spring Term: 5th April 2019

Summer Term Begins: 24th April 2019

May Day: 6th May 2019

May Half term: Friday 24th May-31st May

Pre-School Trip - Thursday 27th June.

Our Pre-School trip this year is going to be at Church Farm. Letters will be put into trays after the Easter break with more details about costs and times.

Reminders

1. If your child isn't going to be at Pre-School due to being unwell (cough, cold, temperature, sickness bug) or spending time with family please can you make sure that you call Pre-School to inform us. If on the day your child doesn't turn up and we haven't heard from you we will make a call after an hour in to the session to make sure that your child is okay.

2. Please could you ensure that your child's water bottle is clearly labelled. Some of the children are coming in with the same drinks bottle and we do not want children drinking from the wrong bottle. We would like to remind you that children should not be bringing in fruit shoots or fruity drinks like this, it should only be water or if needed then weak diluted squash. When the children start Primary School they will only be allowed to have water within their bottles.

3. Please can we ensure that when packing children's lunches you are using the sheet which was provided to ensure you are providing a healthy balanced lunch for your child as well as keep the prohibited foods/drinks out.

Here are some of the prohibited foods and drinks mentioned:

- Chocolate bars such as; mars, dairy milk, twix etc
- No nuts or nut based spreads in sandwiches.
- Fizzy drinks
- Meat on the bone
- No chocolate spreads.

4. We are aware that some children would like to bring toys in to show us or are reluctant to leave home without their favorite toy, however we have lots of toys at pre-school and it can be difficult to find toys that are brought in as they usually get put down when the child goes off exploring. Please can you ensure your child keeps their own toys at home. Some children still need to have comforters and we are not stopping them from bringing these into the setting, however can we ensure that these are small enough to be placed into their trays or in their backpack on their pegs.