

February
2024
Issue 2

Stawley and Swallows Preschools

Newsletter



APPLYING FOR FUNDING

TAs parents are beginning to apply for the new two year old funding, it is becoming clear that the instructions you're asked to follow are not particularly helpful! I have tried to do a guide, but without going through the entire process myself, I'm unable to access the later stages. I hope that this explanation will make things a little clearer!

After you have logged in or registered for a government gateway account, it seems to say that you need to put money into an account. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS unless you are hoping to use tax free childcare for hours over and above the funded hours.

What you need to look for is 'working families funded hours'. It will probably not be called 2 year old funding.

You need to apply for a code. It will be 11 digits long and start with 500 or 501. You will be asked to renew your entitlement every three months and will receive a reminder by email. I will try to keep an eye on when these might be running out, but it is your responsibility to ensure they remain up to date.

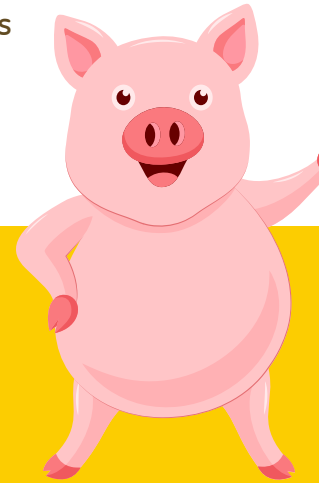
The final thing you need to do is fill in a permission form for GDPR purposes. You can find this in the useful links section on the website, or we can give you a paper copy at preschool.

If you are in receipt of 2 year old funding because you are on some kind of income support, you are unable to claim both, so there is still a total of 15 hours available.

Please ask if you have any questions.

SCHOOL READINESS

Each year, we run school readiness workshops, during which we attempt to bust some of the myths about starting school and give you the tools to ensure that your children are as prepared as they need to be for the next stage of their learning journey. We will offer an in-person date as well as a virtual date in order to allow as many people as possible to attend. Look out for dates next half term.



MORE PLEASE!

Thank you to the five parents who have kindly donated raffle prizes for our pig racing evening.

We really could do with some more!

Please scour your cupboards for unwanted items—that bottle red you were given, but you only like white, the gin that you know gives you a headache the next day, the candles you were given for Christmas that are bound for the charity shop, the box of smellies that just aren't your style... honestly, anything helps! If you're crafty, you could make something! We've had a beautiful carved owl and I will be donating a set of homewares. Do you knit, sew, crochet, make resin art? Anything goes! Do you run a business that you could donate a voucher for? A service, a class or a product? It's cheap advertising for you as well as a raffle prize for us!

JOIN US!

We're still after people to join the fundraising committee! Come along to pig racing, or one of our 'meetings' (it's definitely a social too!) to see what you can do to help. There's a sign up sheet at preschool for help at the pig racing event. Please sign up if you can.

THIS WEEK WE HAVE...



...TRIED NEW FOOD (EASTERN EUROPEAN FOODS), BATHED BABIES, FARMED, BUILT TOWERS AND SO MUCH MORE!

USEFUL LINKS

- [Preschool website](#)
- [A parent's guide to development in the early years](#)
- [A guide to synthetic phonics, the 'sounding out' that we use when writing](#)
- [NSPCC pants rule- a child friendly way to explain that 'privates are private'](#)
- [SASP \(Somerset Active Schools Partnership\) parent zone](#)
- [Our Facebook page](#)
- [Our Instagram](#)
- [Funding in Somerset](#)
- [Funding in Devon](#)

BOOK OF THE MOMENT!

The Book With No Pictures

E.J. Novak

This is probably the funniest book I've ever read to children. I can't believe I've only just discovered it!



DIARY DATES (NEW DATES IN RED)

Friday 9th February 24	Last day at Stawley before half term Last day to bring raffle prizes!
Monday 19th February 24	First day back at Swallows after half term
Wednesday 21st February 24	First day back at Stawley after half term
Friday 23rd February 24	Pig Racing event, 7.30pm, King George V Memorial Hall, Holcombe Rogus
Thursday 7th March 24	World Book Day
Tuesday 26th March 24	Last day at Swallows before Easter holiday
Thursday 28th March 24	Last day at Stawley before Easter holiday
Monday 15th April 24	First day back at Swallows after Easter holiday
Wednesday 17th April 24	First day back at Stawley after Easter holiday
Thursday 2nd May 24	CLOSED FOR POLLING
Friday 3rd May 24	INSET DAY (Stawley)
Monday 6th May 24	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 17th May 24	Trip to Quince Honey Farm
Tuesday 21st May 24	Last day at Swallows before half term
Friday 24th May 24	Last day at Stawley before half term
Monday 3rd June 24	First day back at Swallows after half term
Wednesday 5th June 24	First day back at Stawley after half term
Friday 19th July 24	Last day at Stawley before summer holiday
Tuesday 23rd July 24	Last day at Swallows before summer holiday
Tuesday 3rd September 24	INSET day (Swallows)
Wednesday 4th September 24	INSET day (Stawley)
Thursday 5th September 24	First day back at Stawley after summer holiday
Monday 9th September 24	First day back at Swallows after summer holiday
Tuesday 22nd October 24	Last day at Swallows before half term
Friday 25th October 24	Last day at Stawley before half term
Monday 4th November 24	First day back at Swallows after half term
Wednesday 6th November 24	First day back at Stawley after half term
Tuesday 17th December 24	Last day at Swallows before Christmas
Friday 20th December 24	Last day at Stawley before Christmas