



February 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Please see the information below with important dates and times for your diary.

Term Dates 2022 & 2023

I have once again included the upcoming term dates and important dates for your diary, these are also available on the website throughout the year under the 'parents' area' drop down menu.

Spring Term 2022	Begins – Wednesday 5 th January Half Term – Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th February Ends – Thursday 31 st March Easter Sing Along & Family Picnic – Thursday 31 st March (Weather & Covid dependent) * Inset days – Tuesday 4 th January Occasional Day – Thursday 10 th February
Summer Term 2022	Begins – Wednesday 20 th April Half Term – Monday 30 th to Friday 3 rd June Ends – Thursday 21 st July Sports Day & Family Picnic – Thursday 21 st July (Weather & Covid dependent) * Inset Day – Tuesday 19 th April

*Please note there will be no lunch club or afternoon session after our Easter sing along and Sports Day event.

Autumn Term 2022	Begins – Monday 5 th September Half Term – Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October Ends – Tuesday 20 th December
Spring Term 2023	Begins – Monday 9 th January Half Term – Monday 13 th to Friday 17 th February Ends – Thursday 30 th March
Summer Term 2023	Begins – Monday 17 th April Half Term – Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June Ends – Thursday 20 th July

INSET DAYS to be confirmed for 2023

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day takes place this Thursday the 3rd of March, throughout the week the children in all three rooms will be participating in activities to do with our favourite stories. On the Thursday, we ask that the children who attend this session dress up as one of their favourite characters to celebrate in return for a £1 donation that will be given to the World Book Day charity. If your child does not attend a Thursday session, they can dress up on a day that they do attend.

Easter Sing Along – Thursday 31st March 11.30am to 1pm

On our last day of term, Thursday the 31st of March, we will be holding our traditional Easter Sing Along and it would be lovely if you could join us for this whether your child is usually in that morning or not. If your child does not normally attend a Thursday session and you would like to join us on this day, please come along from 11.15am and meet us in the church, we aim to be in the church by 11.30am when your child can then come up on stage and join us. Our Easter sing along starts with a small service and singing in the church, the doors to the church will open at 11.15am onwards. After the sing along we will then either move into the hall or into the garden for our picnic, depending on the weather. Please bring a picnic lunch for your child and yourself. After lunch, there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children which you can do with them.

Please note that there will **NOT** be a longer session this day and although the staff will be there for the picnic, they will not be responsible for your child/ren from 12pm onwards. If you are unable to join us for the sing along, please ensure that you are there at normal collection time of 12pm to either join us for the picnic or take your child home.

Sickness

Parents must keep any child at home who has an infection. You are also asked not to bring any child into pre-school who has been vomiting or had diarrhoea until a clear 48 hours has elapsed (this is a Health & Safety recommendation). If your child comes in before this time, they will not only infect the other children but the staff as well.

Please may I remind you to inform us before 09.00am on the following number (07480369531) if your child is sick and will not be in pre-school, as we need to keep a record of children who are absent. If a child is continually absent it will be necessary for us to inform Ofsted.

Parents will be informed if there are any infections such as head lice, impetigo or other infectious diseases which may affect other children or their parents.

Covid-19 Update

Covid restrictions have now been lifted however we still ask you NOT to bring your child into the setting if they have a temperature or cough and need Calpol before preschool in the morning please.

Nursery Places for September 2022

Please remember that the deadline to apply for a nursery place is [Monday 7th March](#).

Children's Belongings

If your child is not yet toilet trained, please could you include some nappies and wipes in their bags. Could I also ask you to name all your child's clothing as this would really help the staff at the end of the day when they are sorting out wet clothes that are drying on the radiators.

Lunch Club

As you know, Ofsted have made a few changes to the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and a big emphasis is now on healthy eating and good oral health. With this in mind, we have been looking carefully into how we can promote this in the preschool. As you know we have always offered a healthy snack during the session, and we would like to now continue this practice during lunch club also. Therefore, going forward, we would like to encourage the children to have only either water or milk (which we will supply) at lunch club rather than squash and we also ask that you do not put chocolate bars/ cakes into the children's lunch boxes after half term either. Thank you.

Whilst we are on the subject about healthy eating there are other foods that the children sometimes have that we all think are healthy, but they contain a considerable amount of sugar or they are not the best things to eat to promote good oral health, these include raisins, smoothies, and the fruit winders. However, we have decided to move slowly with this change which is why we are starting with the juice and chocolate. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but hopefully you will see that we are just trying to do our best for the children.

Change of Details

Please can you inform me if any of your details change from what you originally put on your registration form and continue to do this if anything changes throughout the year, this includes your contact number, your address, email address etc

Collecting Children

As you know the safety of your children is always important and therefore, we have the password system in place when a child is being collected. Please remember if you are not collecting your child, then inform either the member of staff on the door or the gate who is picking your child up and ensure that the person collecting them has the current password. We feel that this system, now widely used in pre-schools, is an extra addition to our usual thorough security measures. If you are unsure about the password system, please have a word with me.

Parent Board

The notice board in the garden which can be found at the top of the grass area each day, please take the time to have a look as we will continue to add any relevant information to it.

Library Service

We are also bringing back our Library system which gives you the opportunity to borrow books from Preschool to read to your children at home. Next to the parent's board at the top of the grass there will be a box, please help yourself to a book of your child's choice and then return it once you have finished.

Website

Please remember that our website www.urcpreschool.com is updated regularly with news and information about both the preschool and our PTA. You will be able to find most of the information relevant to our existing parents under the parent's area drop down menu, along with links to websites that might be of interest to you such as the Tapestry login page. On the website, we have a blog that is regularly updated with information about what the children learn about during their time at Preschool and other exciting news that we would like to share with you!

[PTA Facebook Page](#)

Please remember to join our PTA Facebook page, if you haven't already done so. It is a closed group, just for the parents of the children attending the URC. It would be great if everyone could sign up to the page as the PTA often put important and relevant information and notices on there.

Tapestry

We use Tapestry regularly to send updates about your child's time with us at Preschool, we also use it to inform you of what activities your child will be participating in. Please check your child's journal regularly and add a comment when you receive an observation, photo or video. We would also like you to add photos and videos of the things the children do outside of Preschool too. By doing this it will enable you and your child's key person to work closely in partnership together to provide the best support for your child. Due to the current situation, this will also be the main point of communication between you and your key person if you need to discuss anything, use the observation tool to add any information that you would like to share with us, and we will get back to you. Please note that these comments will not go into your child's learning journal and will be deleted once resolved.

Communication with your Key Person

If you would prefer to meet face to face with your key person during the year, please let me know and we will arrange a date and time that is convenient for you both.

Mobile Phones & Cameras

Please remember that mobile phones and cameras are NOT to be used whilst you are on the premises, this includes when you are waiting in the line to either drop off or pick up your child. If you receive a phone call whilst dropping off or picking up your child, please wait until you have left to answer it.

Snack Contributions

Before Covid restrictions took hold, parents were very generous in helping the PTA by donating food for the children to have at snack time, this included cheese, crackers, fruit, and vegetables. We now feel it is safe to ask for your help once again so if you would like to contribute something we would be very grateful.

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson (Manager)