



February 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome all our new parents whose children have joined us this term.

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

Term Dates 2024

I have included the upcoming term dates and important dates for your diary.

Spring Term 2024	Begins – Monday 8 th January. Half Term – Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd February Ends – Thursday 28 th March Easter Sing Along & Family Picnic – Thursday 28 th March
Summer Term 2024	Begins – Monday 15 th April Half Term – Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May Ends – Thursday 18 th July Sports Day & Family Picnic – Thursday 18 th July (Weather dependent)

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

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March and the children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character any day next week if they want to or alternatively, they can come in their pyjamas and bring in their favourite bedtime book instead. However please don't stress about finding a costume or worry if your child doesn't want to join in, it is only a bit of fun!

Consultations

This term red group and the main room staff are going to be inviting you in for a consultation to discuss with you how your child is getting on and progressing at preschool. Over the next couple of weeks your key person will contact you and arrange a day and time that suits you both.

Easter Sing Along – Thursday 28th March 11.30am to 1pm

On our last day of term, Thursday 28th 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. 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 remember that at Preschool we must always adhere to ratios to keep your children safe therefore if too many staff go off sick from an illness, Preschool may have to close!

Therefore, we ask please **DO NOT** bring your child into preschool if you have had to give them Calpol in the morning because they are feeling poorly.

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.

Nursery Places for September 2024

If your child is due to move on to nursery in September 2024, please remember that the deadline to apply for a nursery place is **Monday 4th March**. Please note that you must apply directly to the nursery that you would like your child to attend.

Lunch Club

Please remember that you should not give your child anything that contains nuts or sesame in their lunch box. Things that may include nuts and sesame include certain types of pesto, tahini and nut butters. Please remember to cut up fruit and vegetables such as tomatoes and grapes (lengthways) to prevent choking.

We have always offered a healthy snack during the morning session, and we would like to continue this practice during lunch club also. Therefore, we are continuing 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 either. Thank you.

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.

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 and WhatsApp Group

Please remember to join our PTA Facebook page and the WhatsApp group if you haven't already done so. They are both closed groups, just for the parents of the children attending the URC. It would be great if everyone could sign up to both as the PTA often put important and relevant information and notices on there. If you'd like to join the WhatsApp group, please message Sarah Ward on 07503756659 (Chair of the PTA) and she will then add you.

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. However, this might not be after every session your child attends as its important the staff spend time just playing with the children. 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. You can also use Tapestry as a form 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 outside 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. **Can you also pass this information on to anyone else who might drop off or pick up your child please. If a member of staff sees anyone using their phone whilst on the premises, they will ask you to either put it away or end your call.**

Snack Contributions

In the past parents have been very generous in helping the PTA by donating food for the children to have at snack time, this included cheese, crackers, fruit and vegetables. If you would like to contribute something there will be a basket at the top of the grass at, drop off time every morning.

Birthdays

When it's your child/ren birthday we will celebrate it with them during the session with their peers and we will put the video/ pictures on Tapestry for you to see. We ask parents to bring in a pack of Pom Bears to share with all the children on the day.

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson (Manager)