

 January 2022

 Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would like to start by welcoming our existing parents back to preschool and welcome all our new parents whose children will be joining us this term. We hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas!

# Term Dates 2022

Term dates and important dates for your diary are available on the website throughout the year under the ‘parents’ area’ drop down menu. Here is a reminder of some key dates for the rest of this academic year.

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

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

**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**

We will continue to watch the Government guidance carefully and will act accordingly if we need to and I will keep you updated of any changes we might have to make.

If a member of the immediate family in the home tests positive for Covid we ask that you get your child tested before they come back into the setting. We know this isn’t the official guidance however I am conscious that if staff become sick and there is not enough of us to keep the children safe, Preschool will have to close.

We also 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. If your child develops a cough or high temperature, please could you book a PCR test before you bring them into Preschool and then let me know the result.

**Fees**

I will be emailing out the invoices during the first week of term to those parents who pay fees for their children.

**Funding Forms**

For those children who are entitled to 15 hours free funding you will receive a form during the first week of term. Please can I ask you to fill in the details required if you haven’t already done so and change any information that might not be correct and then fill in the section headed Spring Term, please.

**Reception School Places**

If your child is currently in Red Group, please remember that the deadline to apply for your school place / Reception is January 15th 2022.

**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**

We have a new notice board in the garden which you will find on 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 2 boxes, 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.

Happy New Year to you all!!!

Kind Regards,

Lorraine Robinson (Manager)