



WWW.URCPRESCHOOL.COM
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL - PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS

September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome back all our existing parents and welcome all the parents who are going to be joining us at Preschool this term.

Please take the time to read this newsletter as it contains important information, dates, and updates.

Inset Day / 'Meet and Greet' and 'Stay and Play'

Just a reminder that preschool will be closed tomorrow for an Inset day, Monday 1st September however, we are open for our:

Red group 'Meet and Greet' (there are 2 sessions to this 9.30-10.30am and 11-12pm) Please see the letter you received at the end of term from the red group teachers

and our

'Stay and Play' session (to which everyone is welcome) in the main room and Rainbow room from 10am – 12pm.

Preschool starts back on Tuesday 2nd September for the main room children and the Red group children.

Rainbow room children will start the week commencing Monday 8th September.

Gates

For extra security, over the summer we have had a new camera installed on the main gate that leads into the garden. This means that when a member of staff is not on the gate you will need to ring the bell to enter the premises and we will release the gate from inside the preschool. (Please note this will also include the 8.30 am drop off). To release the gate when leaving the premises please push the **GREEN** button on the church wall and ensure the gate is securely closed and the bar is slid across.

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.**

Coloured Group Bears

Each colour group now has its own teddy bear and at the end of each week the key person will give it to one of the children in their group to take home for the weekend. All we ask is for parents to take some pictures and write a few lines on Tapestry in your child's journal of what your child and the bear did during their time together. Please don't worry if you have nothing planned for the weekend your child brings the bear home, this is just a bit of fun!

Extra Sessions

If you would like to increase your child/ren's sessions this year, please could you email me and let me know.

Clothing

Please may I remind you to name all your children's clothing.

Parent's Notice Board

Please remember to take the time to have a look at the parent's notice board which is situated on the wall to the left of the white front door as myself and the PTA will keep it updated with any relevant information.

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.

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. Lastly, now the weather is getting hotter it might be an idea to put a small icepack in your child's lunchbox to keep their food cold.

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 have a Library system which gives you the opportunity to borrow books from Preschool to read to your children at home. At the top of the grass there is a box, filled with books. Please help yourself to a book of your child's choice and then return it once you have finished.

We also have another 2 boxes this half term filled with jigsaws and games which you are also welcome to borrow too

Website

Please remember that our website www.urcpreschool.com is updated regularly. 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.

Please see Term Dates on last page.

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 contact Laura Valle on **07539314472** and she will 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 it's 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. At the end of the observation the Key person will write what they are going to be working on next with your child/ren, so you can work on this at home too. We would also like you to add photos and videos of the things your child/ren do outside of Preschool, so we can then show them on our Interactive whiteboards and your child/ren can share their experiences with their friends. It will also enable you and your child's key person to work closely in partnership together to provide the best support for your child/ren. 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.

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 one multipack of Pom Bears to share with all the children on the day.

Kind regards

Lorraine Robinson

Autumn Term	<p>Begins – Tuesday 2nd September 2025</p> <p>Half Term – Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October</p> <p>Ends – Tuesday 16th December 2025</p> <p>Inset Day – Monday 1st September</p> <p>Inset Day – Monday 6th October</p> <p>Occasional Day – Wednesday 17th December</p> <p>Inset Day – Thursday 18th December.</p>
Spring Term	<p>Begins – Monday 5th January 2026</p> <p>Half Term – Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February</p> <p>Ends – Thursday 26th March 2026</p> <p>Easter Sing Along & Family Picnic – Thursday 26th March *</p> <p>Inset Day – Thursday 12th February</p>
Summer Term	<p>Begins – Monday 13th April 2026</p> <p>Half Term – Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May</p> <p>Ends – Thursday 16th July</p> <p>Sports Day & Family Picnic – Thursday 16th July (weather dependent) *</p>