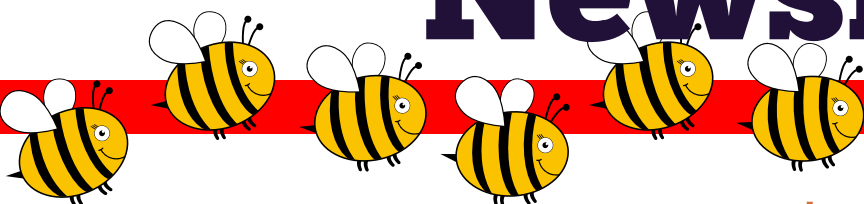


**May 2024**

**Stawley and Swallows Preschools**

**Issue 1**

# Newsletter



## QUINCE HONEY FARM

Our trip to Quince Honey Farm on Friday was a huge success! The staff there were wonderful with the children and had planned a packed day for us. The children loved seeing the bees and holding them from behind a screen with special gloves on. The candle making was a huge hit, not to mention the soft play and the beautiful gardens. I'd highly recommend it if you're looking for somewhere for a family day out this summer. We took SO many photos, it was hard to choose, so I've included as many as possible on the next page.

## TRAINING

You may have noticed some changes to the layout of preschool over the last week. This is as a result of some fantastic training that staff did a couple of weekends ago. We spent the day with Anna Ephgrave, who is the most inspiring Early Years Educator and the person who has most influenced our ethos at Swallows and Stawley. The changes we've made have meant that the environment supports effective learning even more than ever before. Anna even gave us an amazing new water toy, which explains some wet shoes earlier in the week... sorry!



## GENERAL ELECTION

As you have probably heard, a general election has been called for July 4th. This means that we will need to close again, but I am doing my best to come up with an alternative for the day. One option is to hold a forest school-type day based outdoors. I will update you as soon as I have any more information.



## GARDEN

We have been talking about doing a garden renovation for a long time, but it does now seem as though things are about to move ahead. The first thing we need to do it to remove a paving stone path and small patio area. As soon as I have the final OK from the pavilion committee, I will be putting some dates together to try to get some of the work done.

I would be very grateful for any help from parents. As well as removing the patio/path, we will be taking down the old wooden sheds and putting together a new one, taking up some of the astro-turf and moving the sand pit.

We'd love to make the garden a really fabulous space for the community as well as for preschool!







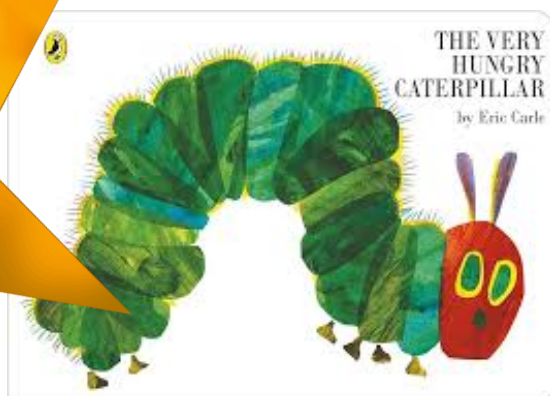
## NEW (OCCASIONAL) FEATURE: OVERHEARD IN PRESCHOOL

Just as I'm sure they are at home, the children are often a great source of amusement at preschool. Some of the things they say are absolutely hilarious, so we thought we would share some with you. These were our favourites this week! I was the subject of both of these this week. Luckily I've been working with children long enough to know not to take it personally!

"I tried to engage a child in conversation. She replied, 'Get back in your chair and do some work!'"

"A child asked my age. I replied that I am 43. This was met by raised eyebrows, a shocked expression and the sound effect 'dah, dah, daaah!'"

BOOK OF THE  
MOMENT!



An absolute classic! We will soon be watching caterpillars turn into chrysalides and then butterflies, so this is a great one for this time of year. You can watch it being read by the author here.



This is a song we love to sing about a Tiny Caterpillar



### 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](#)

## DIARY DATES (NEW DATES IN RED)

Monday 3rd June 24	First day back at Swallows after half term
Wednesday 5th June 24	First day back at Stawley after half term
Thursday 4th July 24	General Election– arrangements tbc
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