Welford Pre-school - Newsletter Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are about to come to the end of Term 1, and it has been a very busy 7.5 weeks so far. We have loved welcoming our new and returning families to the pre-school, and it's been great watching the children settle in and make new friends and enjoy their time here with us. We've spent time getting to know each other again, learning about our families, and supporting new friendships as the friendship dynamics have changed now that lots of our children from last year have now started primary schools, and new children have joined us. We have had lots of autumnal activities, such as leaf treasure hunts, and using these for our tree display, doing leaf and bark rubbings, and making autumn crowns! We have also been using our magic to make a pumpkin appear in our garden, using one of Winnie the Witch's spells, from her pumpkin story we've been reading. We have enjoyed roasted pumpkin, pumpkin soup, and also exploring the seeds and insides of the pumpkin, once Ellie had cut it up.

We have continued to have visits from Miss Aimee, the dance teacher, who teaches the children some fun dance moves, and then encourages them to put the moves all together to the music. The children really enjoy these visits, and we are grateful for the EYPP money that we receive, that we use for these classes. We will continue with her visits next term too. We have also booked a visit in November from a company that will bring large insects, snakes, and spiders for us to have a look at.

Staff Changes

We have been very sad to say goodbye to Jude. She has worked with us for 11 years, and has been a firm favourite with so many of the pre-school and after school children over the years. She will be very missed by us all. We will be doing a farewell/send-off for her soon.

We advertised for a new staff member, and have now employed 2 lovely ladies. Jude's position has been filled by Sarah. Sarah worked at pre-school for many years, and left in 2018 to do other things, but is now returning to us. She will once again be a firm favourite with the children, as she brings a lot of early years experience as well as bags full of fun and ideas with her. She is due to join us after the half term break. The second new staff member is Sally-Anne, who started with us on the 14th October. She is new to working in early years, but does has experience of working with older children, and has a very positive and engaging approach. We hope you will join us in wishing them both well, and a happy time as part of our team.

We are also being joined by 2 students, who attend local colleges. They will be here to gain work experience within early years.

Tapestry

We hope you have all managed to access, or continue to access Tapestry, so that you can see what the children have been up to. If you have any difficulties accessing it, please do get in touch.

Key Person

Due to the staff changes we are experiencing, we will be reallocating some of the children's key staff. We will let you know who your child's key person is (if it has changed), and you can always see this information on the notice board next to the office door.

Pre-school T-shirts

All children receive a free pre-school t-shirt when they start with us. If you haven't received yours, please let us know. We will shortly be ordering more t-shirts and sweatshirts, for parents to purchase soon.

Dates for your diary

Christmas Nativity – Thursday 3rd December, 2026 in the Church at 2.30pm (further details nearer the time)

Christmas Party – this will be held on Friday 18th December, from 12.30 – 2.30, in pre-school. All children are invited to attend this event, regardless of whether they usually attend at that time/day. Lunch will be provided on this day, so no packed lunches will be needed.

Reminders

Lunches – please make sure your child's lunch box is nut-free. We have someone in the setting with a severe nut allergy, and although we do check the lunches, we'd be grateful if you can support us being a nut-free pre-school, thank you.

Spare clothes – Please make sure you bring a bag with named spare clothes for your child to change into should any toilet accidents/outside mud play/outside accidental puddle-sitting should occur. Thank you.

Wellies & Waterproofs – please make sure your child brings a coat on rainy/cold days, and has named wellies if it's a rainy day, so they can still make the most of outside play. We won't go out in a downpour, and we do have our undercover garden, which stays mostly dryish. Thank you.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 10th November at 8pm in the pre-school building. You are all invited to come along and hear our review of the past year, and find out about what the committee roles entail. We do have a couple of members leaving the committee this time, so we are very keen to invite some of you to join us. In order for Pre-school to remain open, we do need to have enough committee members to be able to fully function and meet the legal requirements of our charitable status. The committee member roles are mainly focussed on the fundraising side of the business, and the whole committee meets just 3 times a year. Other meetings sometimes take place prior to a fundraiser event, to discuss the planning arrangements etc. Please do either have a chat to Sophia, or come along to the meeting, to get a better insight into the work we do to ensure that Welford Pre-school can continue to serve the families of Welford and the surrounding area. We look forward to seeing you on the 10th November, where you will receive a very warm welcome.

Term Dates

Autumn term 1	Thursday 3rd September – **Friday 23rd October**
Autumn term 2	**Tuesday 3rd November** – Friday 18th December
Spring term 3	Tuesday 5th January – Friday 12th February
Spring term 4	Tuesday 23rd February – Thursday 25th March
Summer term 5	Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May
	Closed Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May
Summer term 6	Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July

We would all like to wish you a happy and safe half term break, and look forward to seeing you soon.

The Pre-school Team