



## Pre-School Newsletter

### Summer term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all our Pre-School children, and a very warm welcome to our new friends joining us for their first term at Whinstone. We are excited to begin the Summer term together and hope for lots of lovely weather so we can enjoy plenty of outdoor learning and activities.

We hope you find the information on this newsletter useful. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you need any further information or questions answered. As the term progresses, we will send information to you via parent mail and we are contactable or available to speak on the door or by phone.

### Pre-school Staff

Tulip Key Workers will be Miss Quartley

Rose Key Workers will be Miss McNaughton

Daffodil Key Worker will be Miss Edwards

Lavender Key Worker will be Miss Yeoman

### Key Dates and timings this term

Friday 22nd May - Break up for half term

Monday 1st June - School reopens

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Pre-school Sports Day

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Pre-school graduation (this is for the children who are moving to Reception this September)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Visit to Play Factory/last day of the academic year

Please see parent mail messages for ongoing information and updates. Further details regarding all the above events will be shared with you.

## School Uniform

There is no uniform expectation in Pre-school, children should wear what they are comfortable in and what they can easily go to the toilet in. We recommend tracksuit bottoms or leggings with trainers rather than school shoes. Some children wear the school colour jumper or cardigan which is royal blue. **As the weather turns warmer, please can we ask that children bring a hat with them on sunny days. Please can children also come to school with long lasting (8 hour) suntan lotions applied before the start of the school day, when appropriate.**

## Labelling

Please can we ask that all clothing and items are clearly labelled. It's much easier to find missing items and avoid mixing up water bottles if everything has your child's name on.

## Learning focus for Summer Term 1

This half term, our learning will be inspired by "The World of Books". We will be diving into a wonderful range of stories to spark curiosity, imagination and early language skills.

We will begin with growing plants and lifecycles, using stories such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Jasper's Beanstalk, Oliver's Vegetables and The Very Hungry Caterpillar to explore how things grow, where food comes from and how we look after living things.

Our maths focus will begin with using positional language, then progress to identifying the number before and the number after in a sequence. Our early phonics will continue to introduce single sounds, plus recognising rhyme, initial sounds and hearing 'Fred Talk'.

**If your child cannot already, and they are joining Reception in September 2026, please can you help them to recognise numbers to 5, recognise their own name, and start to write some of the letters in their name.**

As always, we will continue to ensure our curriculum is heavily influenced by each child's own interest, so themes can change as we move through the term.

As we enter the final term, and the last term in Pre-school for some many of our children, we will be focusing on learning all those things that will make our move into Reception much easier. We hope our children can do most if not all of the following key skills:

*✓ I can ask and answer why questions*

*✓ I can follow stories read to me*

*✓ I am able to listen to others*

*✓ I can tell you a rhyme or talk about my favourite book*

*✓ I can understand what is right and what is wrong*

*✓ I am able to share and turn take*

*✓ I am independent with my toileting*

*✓ I am able to put on shoes/coats*

- ✓ *I have good pencil grip, holding the pencil near the end, with good control*
- ✓ *I can turn pages of books*
- ✓ *I have knowledge of at least 15 nursery rhymes*
- ✓ *I am able to join in with repeated refrains in familiar stories*
- ✓ *I can hear initial sounds in words.*
- ✓ *I can say if a word rhymes.*
- ✓ *I can clap the syllables in a word*
- ✓ *I can colour fairly accurately and draw/paint recognisable pictures*
- ✓ *I can recognise my own name and attempt to write the sounds in my name*
- ✓ *I understand the value of numbers to 5, then 10*
- ✓ *I can match numerals, number names & quantity to 5, then to 10*
- ✓ *I know the names of common 2D and 3D shapes, and find shapes around me*

As well as our themed learning, we will continue to develop ways to show friendly and kind behaviour, and learn how to express our feelings. We will continue to learn how to be ready, respectful and safe and how to keep our classroom tidy and safe. We will focus on speaking and listening skills, mark making, development of gross and fine motor skills, using tools for a purpose and exploring different families. Further information on our curriculum including what and how we learn, can be found on our [school website](#).

### **Super 7 Books**

Alongside our key books each half term, we have our 'Super 7' key texts for the year. The aim is to introduce children to a wide range of quality texts and genres during their time in early years. Our Pre-school 'Super 7' texts are;

The tiger who came to tea

Dear Zoo

We're going on a Bear Hunt

The Gingerbread Man

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Each, Peach, Pear, Plum

Animal Pants

### **Homework**

Our homework in Pre-school is listening to stories - as many books as possible! Children will get a special bag and

get to choose books from our library as often as they want.

### **Water bottles**

All children are asked to bring in an individual water bottle. Again, please can bottles be named in order to avoid any confusion.

### **School lunches**

Please can we remind parents about our school packed lunch policy. We are a nut-free school, so children are not able to bring peanut butter or hazelnut chocolate spread. To avoid choking hazards, we ask that grapes are cut in half lengthways. More guidance on foods that are a choking risk can be found on the foods standards website. [PowerPoint Presentation \(food.gov.uk\)](#) To help us promote the concept of healthy eating, please can we ask that chocolate and sweets are not included.

**\*\* Due to school allergies, it is essential that no nut-based foods are brought into school.\*\***

### **Parents as Partners**

We value the relationship between home and school including good communication, contributions about your child's learning at home and inviting parents into school for activities and events. We will be in touch regarding future 'stay and play' dates and forthcoming events.

### **Pre-school fund**

Thank you so much to all parents who contributed to our fund this half term. It has allowed us to offer baking opportunities, more crafts and topic resources. Next half term, we hope to use the fund to offer more topic related crafts and treats leading up to Christmas!

### **More School Information**

For further information on our curriculum, school policies and procedures (including term dates), please click on the below link to the [school website](#).

We are looking forward to a fantastic term in Whinstone Pre-school!

Thank you

Pre-school Team