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Term Dates

Start of 2nd Half of Spring Term: Monday 19th February 2024

Spring Term ends: Thursday 28th March

Return to Playgroup for Summer Term: Monday 15th April 2024

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th March - Book Bus Visit p.m.

Wednesday 6th March - Darlington Court Residents coming to read to children p.m.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day (no need to dress up unless you want to)

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief

Thursday 21st March - 'Rock your Socks' - World Down's Syndrome Day

Thursday 28th March - Easter Concert - 2pm

Welcome Back

We hope you all had a lovely half-term break. A big **HELLO!** to the new families we have starting with us this week.

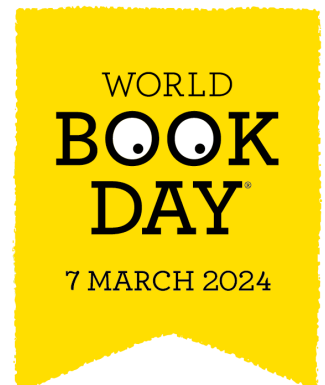
We have a couple of big events coming up, the first being World Book Day and the events we put in to support it. Reading / storytelling is a vital part of our ethos and curriculum and each day our children are read to, either at group time or individually, for those children that request it. We and the children have favourite stories that they know and love. Recently we have noticed some of them wanting to take on our role and 'read' to a group. This is fantastic to see and we support this by encouraging them to look at the pictures and say what they see if they cannot remember all the repeated refrains of the story.

Over the past month or so we have recorded some of these lovely moments and will be feeding them out gradually on Facebook / Instagram, in the run up to World Book Day. Please 'like' or 'love' these posts so we can see who has viewed.

In addition to this, we also have a few of the more able residents from local care home, Darlington Court, coming in as they did last year, to read some familiar stories to our older children. This was a big success with both parties last year.

Also, we have liaised with St Margaret's School and invited groups of year 6 children to come over at different points of the week of World Book Day, to read in small groups with the children.

We have noticed that although all of our children in their last year have been given a home / school bookbag, there are some children that rarely, if ever, bring them in. Please use us as a resource for books and reading. Time spent in reading / sharing a story is so valuable to their



development and research has shown time and time again the benefit this brings to pre-school children.

Finally, the children love a story, especially from a familiar adult. We would love it if any of you could bring in a favourite story and read it to the children. It should be short as their attention is limited, with pictures you can show them, around 5 minutes is usually enough. Props are welcome and the staff will not be looking at you and judging your reading! The older children can have a slightly longer story (around 10 minutes). We will have a slip at the end of this letter which you can fill in and return if you would like to do this.



Fundraising Events

We have a couple of fundraising events this half-term.

On Friday 15th March it's Comic Relief - 'Do Something Funny for Money'. We are asking families that would like to participate to dress up, as comically as you like. Children in their last year with us can also bring an envelope with a joke in, which they can tell to the group (let them practice this at home a few times). We will record some of them to show you on Facebook / Insta. We would ask for £1 minimum, voluntary donation from families today, if they can please.

We are also supporting one of our current children by participating in 'Rock your Socks' for World Down's Syndrome Day on Thursday 21st March. The idea from Rock your Socks is because Chromosome 21, which Down's Syndrome children are born with, looks like little socks.

Today, please send your child in wearing their brightest, most funny socks—preferably on show! Again, voluntary contributions of at least £1 would be much appreciated.



Easter Concert - Thursday 28th March, p.m.

Parents will get a separate letter detailing this afternoon's fun event soon!

Thursday 28th March is also the last day of term.

Outdoor Areas

We are currently in the process of developing a little more land that the William Older's School Charity are leasing to us. This will adjoin our current AstroTurfed large area and be divided up into 3 separate play spaces. The first 2 that we will be working on will be 1, train based and 2, sand / sea / treasure island / pirate area.

Although we already have some exciting plans in store, we would love to hear your and your children's views. Attached is a pictorial / written questionnaire for you and your child to fill in together using words, drawings or both. If you have a spare sheet of paper, we would also love your child to draw / pint / colour their dream outdoor play space, which we can then make a display of so please send back when complete. If you would like a sheet or 2 of paper then just ask a member of staff.

Towels

We could still do with some large towels if anyone is thinking of replacing theirs or has old ones that need a new home.

Gardening

We have several growing areas and like to make the most of the season with the children. It is impossible to do all the prep to beds, pots etc. with the children and then still have time for the fun planting, watering and growing. Although I do quite a bit in my own time, I am never quite caught up. If you or a family member enjoys gardening and has some spare time for weeding / bed preparing etc., then please see Sue a.s.a.p.



Many thanks!

Sue & the Team



Please complete and return if you are interested in reading to the children at Story Time during Book Week

Morning Slots around 11am

Afternoon Slots around 2.30pm - we can have 2 readers in the afternoons, one in each room

I would like to read a story in the (please tick as applicable):

Morning Session

Afternoon Session

On : _____ (ideal date)

Signed: _____

Parent/ Carer of: _____