

## A cartoon illustration of a young girl with brown skin and hair in pigtails, wearing an orange shirt and pink shoes. She is holding a large bouquet of colorful flowers (orange, purple, green, and white). To her left is a yellow duck, and to her right is a blue bird and a small black and white butterfly. The background is a light blue sky with a white cloud.

Monday 28th February - Friday 8th April 2022

Return to Playgroup for Summer Term: Monday 28th April

**Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day**

**Thursday 17th March - Crackerjack Charity PJ / Onesie Day**

**Friday 18th March - Red Nose Day**

**Thursday 7th April** - a.m. - Easter Hunt  
p.m. - Easter Hunt & Easter Concert

**Welcome back** to all our families, we hope you had a good Half-Term break.

We are looking forward to a healthier Half-Term as well, although no guarantees there!

Thank you for all your patience in understanding our often changing policies and procedures in how best to keep on top of the COVID situation. We do our utmost to try to keep things as normal as possible, whilst maintaining a safe environment for both staff and children.

## Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

All our children will be receiving a book voucher during this week. In past years we have celebrated Book Week by inviting parents in during this time to share favourite stories. Unfortunately, this year, we feel this is not possible as part of storytelling is looking at facial expressions (not ideal with a mask on).

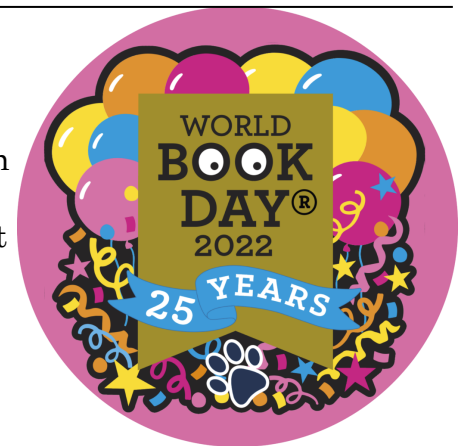
As you know, we already place a strong emphasis on books and storytelling, with designated areas for this in both our rooms and children usually finishing sessions with a group story. During our sessions, staff also often read one-to-one to children or in small groups and our older children have a Bookbag which they can use on a daily basis to take our books home to share with family members.

During next week (7th—10th March), you may send your child in with their favourite book - clearly named please - and we will try and read either in small groups or at the end of the session.

If your child is a younger one, with at least another year with us, then the story should ideally be short, visual and punchy if possible.

For our older children, slightly longer books are suitable, ideally with colourful pictures and should take between 5 to 10 minutes max, to read.

We look forward to sharing some new stories!



## Thursday 17th March - Crackerjacks Children's Trust - Pyjama / Onesie Day



Crackerjacks are a charity that provide specialist disabled equipment for children such as wheelchairs, wet rooms, Eyegaze systems, sensory toys or much needed respite breaks at their holiday home (Ray's Sunshine Holiday Home) for disabled children and their families to spend quality time together.

Our event was planned for January but unfortunately, we had to postpone due to our Coronavirus outbreak that week.

We know the following day is Comic Relief, which we usually support but have decided on this occasion that Crackerjacks takes precedence.

Today, the children and staff may dress up (we suggest on top of clothes if weather very cold or inclement). During the day we will engage in a variety of related games and songs.

We are sending a sponsorship form home with all Thursday children. If possible, please return with sponsorship or donations, either on the day or during the following week.

Many thanks in advance.

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## Red Nose Day / Comic Relief

Crackerjacks are our main fundraising organisation this year but we recognise not all families attend on Thursdays and many like to support Comic Relief.

We will have donation tins on doors for any families that would like to contribute and are also suggesting handing in a donation of 50 pence with a child friendly joke enclosed which the children can enjoy together with us.

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## Thursday 7th April - a.m. Easter Egg Hunt p.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Concert (older children)

A separate letter will be distributed for these events however, for your information in the meantime, younger children will have an Easter Egg Hunt in the morning and, in the afternoon, the older children will do the same followed by a ticketed Easter Hat Parade and Concert for parents to enjoy,

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## Other News

Hopefully by the time this letter reaches you, our new outdoor Art Room will be on the road to completion, with the buried Time Capsule underneath.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for pictures but we have designed a room that children will be able to use all year round as we have also had power installed. We will give the children other opportunities to use sand until we can begin work on the new sandpit site.

## Hours for Summer Term

If you would like to change or increase hours / sessions for the Summer Term, please see Sue and also put your request in writing.

## Car Park

The car parks all belong to St Margaret's School and are for teaching staff only. Please leave time at drop off and pick up top park on surrounding roads. We know this can be stressful but unfortunately, this is a problem for most schools / preschools with an ever increasing population.



### **Nuts (Reminder)**

We have a No Nuts policy. Please remember that Nutella as well as peanut butter etc. should be avoided in packed lunches. Packed lunches should not be too large, we ask you provide a healthy selection and do not include sweets, fizzy drinks and too many salty snacks. If you would like ideas / help with ideas for lunches, please speak to a member of staff, we have booklets in the front foyer which we are happy for you to look at.

### **Snack Pot**

A reminder that all children here are provided with a healthy mid-morning snack with milk or water to accompany it. We have a money 'Snack Pot' outside our front door for voluntary donations. Please use this if you can to help us keep our costs down. Donations have been quite sparse of late and we appreciate every contribution, thank you to all those who have been regularly donating,

### **Trustees**

We still have a Trustee Vacancy. If you or perhaps a relative with a little time on their hands and an interest in Playgroup long-term would like to apply, then please talk to Sue a.s.a.p.

Although this is a position of responsibility, Trustees usually only meet up about 4 times a year as many issues can be sorted through emails etc. and this is a very rewarding role with a wonderful team.

### **Finally...**

For those of you that live in Angmering, please keep an eye out for April's 'All About Angmering' magazine where we are hoping to have a feature on our new Art Room and Time Capsule.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's Keyworker or myself.

Here's hoping the weather warms up and to us all having a lovely Spring!



*Sue & the Team*

**PS. Please use the Crackerjack sponsorship form on the reverse**

