

March 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

This month sees the beginning of Spring, although very much still feels like Winter. Let's only hope the feel of Spring is with us soon.

World Book Day actually takes place on Thursday the 5th. Due to our attendance numbers we plan to celebrate on Tuesday 3rd. You are very welcome to bring in your child, dressed as a favourite book character. Please could you also bring in a story book to share with the group. The day will be fun filled! Book tokens are being given out on arrival and collection, if you have not received one, please enquire.

Rob is now finalising the Spring/Summer menu. Due to the weather, we plan to start the new menu the week commencing the 16th, keep our "winter warmers" going a bit longer.

Unfortunately, next month the fees will increase, in line with the National Minimum Wage rise. The rise we are experiencing in staff costs is just over 6.1%, without taking the pension rise into consideration. The children's meals will also increase by 3%, lunch will cost £2.30.

Coronavirus

Having reviewed the latest advice from the Government, we wanted to pass this on to you to ensure that we keep our families health a priority.

The general advice remains, that if have travelled to one of the key regions and are experiencing symptoms including coughing, 38C + temperature and difficulty breathing then you should contact 111 and remain at home. Please see the full advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Planning

March continues with the theme of Construction and the sub-heading is Tools.

The early learning goals and prime areas being covered are-

w/c 2nd- The World and St David's Day and World Book Day

w/c 9th- Being Imaginative

w/c 16th- Listening and Attention/ Understanding and St Patrick's Day

w/c 23rd- Writing.

Book of the Month

This month we are focusing on the book 'Monkey Puzzle'. This is an endearing story about a monkey searching for his mum. Towards the end of the month, ask your

child if the monkey found his mum. This is great for developing the children's recall skills.

Song of the Month

Our song this month is 'Miss Polly had a Dolly'. This is a favourite in the setting, the children love completing the actions.

Home Learning Board

The board displays suggested activities on Understanding the World. The sub-headings are- People and Communities, the World and Technology. If you try any of the activities, please share on Tapestry.

Talk About Tip

The displayed poster discusses the importance of "show them the next step". You can copy what they have said, but by adding a little more information in.

Sector News

Soon, we will have the Government's first Budget since the December election. We can only hope the early years is included, if not it is inevitable we will continue with providers closing. Since the rollout of 30 hours we have seen thousands of providers close. Latest Ofsted figures show that the rate of pre-school, nursery and childminders closures is now hundreds a month.

It will get worse, regardless of what's in the budget. As discussed previously the National Living and Minimum Wage are set to rise by more than six percent next month. This will be the fifth consecutive annual rise of one of the sectors most significant outgoings and of course, another cost rise not met with a corresponding increase in funding.

After Boris Johnson's election as Prime Minister last summer the Government confirmed that its long awaited Comprehensive Spending Review would be postponed and replaced by a Spending Round, a series of one off announcements that included an injection of additional £66 million for early years settings delivering funded hours. The simple fact after three years frozen funding levels and rising costs, this extra cash will not come close to resolving an early years funding short fall that currently stands a £662 million in the private, voluntary and independent sector alone. On the ground, the money means a lucky few providers will see a funding rate increase of just two percent, the majority will receive far less.

At the Early Years Debate in January, the question was risen about early years providers going on strike. The next few months will be important for renewing the fight for fairer funding!

