

Chipmonks Preschool

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Spring NEWSLETTER March-April 2022

The aim of our newsletters is to keep you informed and updated on key events, dates, and information you may need to know. A copy of the most up to date one can be found on our parent information board.

Term dates:

Monday 24th Feb - Thurs 3rd Apr 2025

All term dates can be found on the parent information board/window outside building and on our website.

(We break up for Easter break on Thursday 3rd April and return on Tuesday 22nd April 2025).

Returning children to Chipmonks in September 2025

During March all parents of children due to return to Chipmonks in September will receive a preference of Session slip. This will be your chance to confirm your child is returning in September and to select the sessions you would require. We recommend you complete and return the forms asap so we can try our best to accommodate as many sessions selected as possible. Confirmation of sessions and key person will be confirmed by End of April.

Are you eligible for 30hrs in September? To check go to [Apply for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working).

Allotment Alert!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chipmonks Preschool have taken on 2 raised allotment plots at the local allotment site of Kemsley Crescent. This a lovely secure allotment area, within walking distance of preschool, which will be an amazing opportunity for children to grow and learn, "whilst being very hands on". Over the next few months, we aim to visit the site weekly with different groups of children to start growing our very own vegetables for our snack time.

We would hugely appreciate any **seed** donations, children's handheld garden tools or equipment to help get us started, and of course any expert advice is always welcomed. A wish list of things needed include:

- *Waterproofs
- *Handheld spades/forks
- *Potting pots/bamboo sticks
- *Seeds
- *Buckets
- *Netting
- *Wellington boots

A wish list tub for any kind donations will be left outside the gate for the rest of the school term 😊 Thank you in advance for your support.

Pancake day Tuesday 4th March 2025. The children will have opportunities to make and taste pancakes week commencing 3rd March, (A variety of tasty toppings and pancakes will be available during snack all week).

Fun Activity at home: Using the following ingredients (300ml milk, 2 eggs, 100g plain flour, oil) Allow your child to add the ingredients, to a bowl. Encourage your child to take turns mixing the ingredients with family members. Adult can now Add oil and mixture to a frying pan and cook until ready. * IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE TO FLIP THE PANCAKE, WE WOULD

SUGGEST PUTTING THE PANCAKE INTO A COLD UNUSED FRYING PAN TO REDUCE ACCIDENT RISKS. Learning opportunities include Counting, turn taking, social skills/listening, following instructions, talking about the products and where they come from (understanding the world) Engagement, Confidence that they can carry out a task, tasting new ingredients, modelling language /new key words.

World book day 6th March 2025 "read your way"

During the week of 3rd March, children are asked to bring in their favourite books from home to share with preschool. This will provide opportunities for children to retell their favourite story, talk about their favourite characters/parts of the story, rein act their stories through role play, whilst listening to lots of new stories being shared by peers. We ask that all books are named to minimise upset.

"Read Your Way" World Book Day's 2024 research shows that children see reading as something they have to do, rather than something they choose to do. World book days "Read Your Way" campaign encourages everyone to let go of reading pressures and expectations and empowers children to have fun discovering reading on their own terms. The Early Years are a fantastic time to introduce the six elements that are likely to ensure that children enjoy reading for pleasure - and that it becomes a habit. They are: *Finding time to read *Being read to regularly *making reading fun*having books at home and preschool *having trusted help to find a book. [Families - World Book Day](#)

Children due to start School September 2025

All parents who applied by the deadline of 15th Jan 25, will get to know your school allocation on 16th April. Could we ask that all parents please let your key person know the school which has been allocated. We like to know this so that we can start sitting children together in their school groups at mat time, allowing them to become familiar with their new school peers. It also allows us to contact all schools and invite them to preschool to come and meet their new pupils.

Lunch boxes

All lunch boxes and water bottles **MUST** be named clearly pls. We currently have a large amount of unnamed water bottles causing a lot of confusion. Any unnamed water bottles will be placed in lost property box to be collected going forward.

Please follow this link for healthy lunch box ideas and **portion size guidance** [Lunchbox ideas and recipes - Healthier Families - NHS](#)

Staff /Training:

*Well, done to Karly, Mina, Becci, Terri who all attended A defibrillator awareness cardiac arrest response course held by the parish council during January 25.

*Becci has completed a refresher course on Prevent duty.

*Danielle and Mina both completing their refresher safeguarding course.

Collection times!!

All parents **must be here 5 minutes BEFORE THE doors are opened.** We ask that all parents arrive 5 minutes before, so that all messages can be relayed in a safe manner, before the children exit at 2:45.

Polite Reminders

*Please Please please could all coats, scarves, gloves, hats be named!!!! All unnamed items will be placed in our lost property box or yellow tub at the end of each session.

Top tip: As lovely as it is for so many of our children having different coat options from home, it can cause your child confusion and even upset when they are looking for a different coat "every" day. To promote independence, we would recommend the 1 same coat (helps children look for a particular colour/pattern they know) for preschool to help ease any confusion for them during the day. (Having a name in the coat also helping them to identify it).

*All children must come to preschool with a school bag, containing a change of named clothes EVERYSESSION. Water play, mud, puddles, toilet accidents etc etc can happen on any day so it is important that ALL children always have spare clothes pls.

*Toys from home must be kept at home pls.

*All Bikes, Scooters, BUGGYS must be securely left at the bike store at the front of the building and not at the bench area at the back. (All items left at owners' risk).

*Collection at end of session: Could we please ask that once children's names are called (and the member of staff is watching children return safely to parents), could any further questions you have, pls wait till all children have gone and the practitioner can safely chat. (Practitioners will ask anyone wanting to chat/ask questions during this time to politely wait till the end).

*Again, for safety Could we ask that all parents wishing to put children into buggy's do so at the bench covered over area, as it can cause congestion at the gate area where children are trying to return to parents safely.

*If you are running late at pick up, you must call preschool to inform us at least 5 minutes before the end of your child's session.

*Morning drop off times are 8:45 and 9am only.

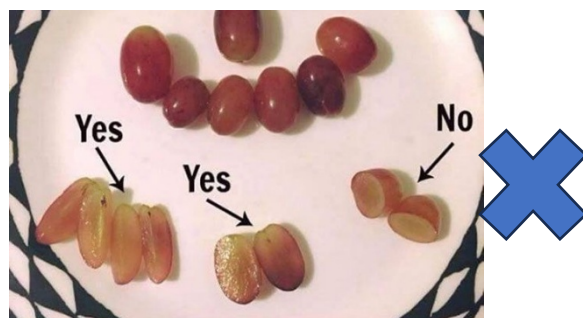
*Parents dropping off their children must arrive at 11:55 ready for a prompt 12:00 drop off. There is only 1 drop off time in the afternoon that is 12:00, lateness impacts lunch club, staffing availability to children, and the garden not opening on time for children to play.

*If you child has had sickness or diarrhoea they cannot return to preschool until 48 hrs after their last "episode.

*Children prescribe antibiotics can not come to preschool until 48hours after first dosage.

***Please inform a practitioner at drop off if your child has had broken sleep/ has not eaten their expected meal before their session (Ie Breakfast/lunch) it's important we know this information to support your child's needs correctly.**

*Grapes/cherry tomatoes must be cut long ways in to at least 4 pieces.



Change of address/contact details/allergies/medicine

Have you informed us of any changes to any of the following- home address, mobile numbers, new/old allergies your child has, different medication prescribed/stopped? It is vital that all essential information and relevant documents are kept up to date. So please inform us ASAP If So.

30HR FUNDING

Please refer to childcarechoices.co.uk to see if you are eligible.

Can all parents in receipt of 30 hr funding ensure all renew dates are kept to and new codes/expiry dates are emailed to chipmonksbp@yahoo.com

***Chipmonks safeguarding policy can be found on our website: www.chipmonkspreschool.com**

Chipmonks Preschool Ltd are totally committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people in our care.