**OUGHTRINGTON PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**January - February 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week Commencing** | **Colour** | **Letter & Sound** | **Topic** |
| 01/01/23 | Blue | N n | Numbers and shapes |
| 08/01/23 | Black |  | Numbers and Shapes |
| 15/01/23 | Silver |  | Being Healthy |
| 22/01/23 | Green | P p | Space |
| 29/02/23 | Orange | S s | Space |
| 05/02/23 | Brown | C c | Chinese New Year |
|  |  |  |  |
| Friday 10th February 2024 | Half term Break |
| **Monday 19th February 2024** | Half Term – re-open |

# Messages from the Supervisor

All the staff would like to say:

*‘Many Thanks for the lovely, generous gifts and the appreciative, kind messages in the cards’*

They really do warm our hearts and have certainly added to a lovely festive break.

We hope you too enjoyed the festivities, we wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

We are very excited to be welcoming back some familiar faces and new ones to Preschool, particularly hearing about the Big Day itself!

You will be aware that Ofsted inspected the setting last term, this report is now available, we are thrilled with the outcomes and will continue to look at how we can ensure our provision nurtures and promotes all of our children to their full potential.

Please see attached.

*Please advise your key person of any allergies your child may suffer with and any changes to addresses and contact numbers.*

More information on free entitlements and benefits towards childcare costs can be found at [www.childcarechoices.com](http://www.childcarechoices.com)

Including Childcare Tax free Accounts that can save you up to 20% on your childcare costs.

Two year funded places will become available at Preschool in April 2024, for those interested, please register your interest with Mrs Royle.

**Fees and costs**

As you are aware, that we have had to increase fees and pass on other costs due to continuing increases in service delivery, we are also going to be offering taster sessions to friends of Oughtrington Preschool, these will target a younger age group, where they can come and stay with their children, enjoy a coffee whilst their children enjoy an activity such as soft play, Yoga, PE and /or Orchard activities. Please help us spread the word.

We will alos be running a poll both on site and on Facebook to explore how parents would like our provision to expand, for example, are you looking for extended hours to our day? Or would a holiday club be more useful in fulfilling your childcare needs.

***And now for the good stuff!***

To start our new term, we will be focusing Numbers and Shapes’ where we will be focusing on how our environmental shapes, and embedding numbers, by ensuring that children relate to a quality. We will be making bird feeders, following recipes, using shapes to be creative and look at how numbers feature in measuring.

We will be sending a shape hunt home for you to share on a weekend walk.

Space is a topic full of opportunities to develop conceptual thinking, new understandings and provoke questioning. We will be looking at the changing moon cycles, stars and constellations. In addition, we will look at NASA and their role in exploring space. In doing so, we will introduce the different planets in our solar system, with a focus on Earth.

We will be looking at healthy lifestyles, focusing on how we maintain good health, exploring different means of exercise, the effects of exercise, a balanced diet, staying safe and other wellbeing activities.

Chinese New Year will start last week of term with the new full moon. 2024 is the year of the Dragon. At preschool we will explore the traditional celebrations associated with this cultural event, including dragon dancing, trying Chinese snacks and attempting Chinese writing.

We will continue to offer jolly phonics activities in developing phonic awareness, and support emerging speech sounds, Makaton time, Yoga sessions and Wednesday Cir – kid’s session promoting gross motor skills.

The Read, Write, Ink programme will allow us to introduce our weekly letter and we will continue to offer dough gym sessions that support literacy, language and fine motor skills.

We will also be delivering our yoga sessions on a Monday PM.

***PE sessions- Wednesday PM Session***

**You will need to provide a bag with a change of clothes: T-Shirt, Joggers/shorts and appropriate footwear (Velcro / slip-ons)**

We encourage the children’s independence skills in preparation for big school...... it does take some time!

Weekly activities will be posted on our Face book page. Please make a request to join

The focus on play is fostered at Preschool, this is the children work... and how we will be supporting their learning through the Early Years Foundation stage. We will also continue to implement loose part play and develop opportunities to foster the curiosity approach to children’s learning and development.

**Home learning links**

Please take a look at the links in supporting your child’s learning and development through the Early Years foundation Stage:

<https://www.eyfshome.com/>

Oughtrington Primary School use the Read Write Ink Programme for literacy, if you would like to support and familiarise your child with the programme follow:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

# Fund Raising

Thank you for you continued support our Christmas events have raised just over £xxxxx that will be spent on resources for the children

This term’s events are a dress up day and a cake sale … dates will be available nearer the time.

We are also registered with easyfundraising.com

Please take a look, as the link provides us with a percentage donation when your shopping online, including John Lewis, Amazon, Pretty little thing and many more !

*easyfundraising.org*

**Preschool logo clothing**

We do have a selection of logo’d polo (£9-00) and sweaters (£11-50) available, in a range of colours & shorts/joggers ideal for PE or school wear.

If you would like to pre-order please speak to Mrs Claire Royle

**Messages from the Volunteer Management Committee**

We would like to thank you for your continued to support with fundraising activities. These funds are earmarked for our children’s learning and development, where we can secure unique experiences and new resources to support their learning.

As you maybe aware, due to health and safety reasons we had to have the soft play area resurfaced, this was an unexpected cost this year, so far we still need to raise a further £2K to cover this rather expensive work!

We are experiencing lower numbers at Preschool, this is due to the fall in the birth rate, we would welcome any help with advertising and marketing, including branching out and incorporating social media.

If you feel that you could give some time to manage our social media accounts to enable more effective use, please speak to a member of staff.

As a parent committee we will continue to explore how we can increase our incoming expenditure against another year will projected rising costs.

At the end of Summer this year, Preschool will be celebrating a 50 year anniversary!

If you would like to share any ideas or would like to join our next meeting to explore future business options or plans for our 50th Anniversary event, please speak to a member of staff.