



## Rainbow Woods News and Events

### AUTUMN TERM

#### Dear Parents

The first week either returning to pre-school or starting a new pre-school is always a nervous one both for the child and for you the parents/carers but we just wanted to ease your mind by saying we're the friendliest team with a passion for making sure both you and your child are happy. Please let us tell you a little more about us and what we do best....

#### Topic

Each half-term, we take on a new topic as a framework for our learning.

You will receive a termly newsletter from Rainbow Woods Pre-School with all the details, alongside a weekly bulletin from the Main School that will appear on your class dojo app every Friday.

#### Our Autumn Term 1 Topic

##### 'All about Me'

Over our first term we will be learning all about ourselves incorporating our celebrations 'Harvest and Diwali'. Our Topic covers our seven areas of learning which includes listening and creating activities around our topic and stories. Please see your child's tapestry account for our 'Termly Planning'.

#### A focus on your child's 'Well-being'.

From past global events and normal everyday life situations, we at Rainbow Woods Pre-school have been finding ways on how we can express our emotions, support each other by talking about how we're feeling and finding ways we can help to balance our bodies. Since Covid, we as practitioners have noticed small changes in our children's lives and we have found that this has affected them socially, making friends with their peers, interacting and it has also affected their speech and language development. In early years we're passionate about making sure every child has a voice because out of the seven areas of learning 'Communication and Language' underpins them all. We know children can be very intuitive and show different ways to express themselves however as parents and early year's practitioners, we also do not underestimate the indirect impact covid may have had on our little ones lives.

At Rainbow Woods pre-school we are focusing on supporting the children to express themselves, to know how to regulate their emotions and manage their behaviour: we will be doing some wellbeing exercises including practicing yoga and meditation. We will be using circle time to talk about our feelings, share positive moments, and help them to build friendships. We will be incorporating mirrors into our play so they can see their expressions, listen and see themselves talk.

There're so many simple ways we can encourage our children to communicate with us through play and we want to share this with you too. <https://www.family.co/blog/10-simple-communication-and-language-activities>

Let us introduce you to a wonderful resource we use called 'All emotions are ok' which is a real eye opener on how we need to help and support our children in Early years and THE IMPORTANCE of talking and interacting with them and about what their body is feeling when they feel "the words" sad, mad, angry, frustrated etc.

I can't encourage parents enough to click on the free links <https://www.ehcap.co.uk/news/all-emotions-are-ok>

<https://www.ehcap.co.uk/parent-support>

<https://www.ehcap.co.uk/handmodel> (click on 'An interpretation of The Hand Model by Becca O'Mahony - for Early Years Settings') because if anything it will help us all work together to further understand how their little minds cope with everyday life.

We as adults need to regulate our emotions first before we respond to a child's emotions so this helps us too to understand how we may be feeling and how we can understand how their emotions affect their physical body including their brain. We as practitioners and teachers want to make sure that when your child leaves pre-school they're happy responsible, independent and that they can communicate their needs with confidence. Talking, supporting and assessing helps us to understand how we can better support their needs as they develop through their life right up until their teens.

### **What we would like you to know about our Pre-school:**



#### **Mother Goose Club**

This terms 'Mother Goose' songs are:

Week 1-Head Shoulders Knees and Toes

Week 2-One Tomato, Two Tomato

Week 3-Old Macdonald had a farm

Week 4-Baby, Mummy, Daddy, Grandma, Grandad Shark

Week 5-If your happy and you know it clap your hands

Week 6-Ba Ba black sheep

Week 7-Na na na, I'm so happy

We love to sing and use musical instruments to encourage 'Rhythm and Rhyme' so join in at home with our termly mother goose songs.

#### **Family Pictures**

For those of you that haven't sent in your family pictures, can you please send them in with your children as they really do help them to talk and share stories about their families and at the same time help them to settle back in.

For our new children, can we please ask you to send in some pictures of your families, so we can pop them into our family book. This is a lovely conversation starter and helps us get to know you too.

#### **Nuts!**

We do have several children in the school and in pre-school who have nut allergies. As such we ask all parents to avoid sending in any nuts for their child's snack or lunch. We would like to thank you

for your continued support in ensuring that Weare is a safe environment for all our pupils and pre-school children.

### **Parent Pay Account-School Meals**

If you have just started with us, please contact the school office on 01934 732270 to request a login for your Parent Pay account. Once you have received this you will be able to order school meals. Please see this terms menu and allergy lists.

We have agreed a pricing structure which will be charged at £2.40 per meal.

**For existing children Please book your child's meals by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August. For new children please telephone the office on the number above on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September to request a login for your new parent Pay account.** Booking before the deadline will enable the kitchen to order the correct quantities and provide the meal that you have selected.

**Menu and Allergen Chart-** <https://weareacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/07/Autumn-Term-1-Allergen-Chart.pdf>

**Autumn Term 1 Menu-** <https://weareacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/07/Menu-for-Autumn-Term-1-05-Sept-19-Oct-2023.pdf>

### **Labelling items**

Please, please make sure that all items of clothing including **water bottles and snack boxes** are clearly labelled with your child's name. This is compulsory in school and we would appreciate it if you would do the same for pre-school as it saves us so much time. Thank you 😊

### **Change of Clothes**

Please provide a change of clothes (weather appropriate) in your child's bag which should include pants and socks. Please do check their bags at the end of the day just in case they have been used and need to be replenished. Also if your child is wearing nappies please provide a suitable amount of nappies and include your own wipes too. Thank you.

**Potty changing-** Please can you provide more than one set of clothes in your child's bag when they're potty training this includes, pants, socks, trousers, shorts or dresses. Children do have accidents and this is very normal. We don't mind how long it takes them as long as we have a good supply of their own clothes as we don't keep a lot of clothes onsite ourselves.

**A clothes plea-**If you have socks you don't need any more please can we have them!

### **Clothes and shoes**

We want all children to learn to be independent in dressing and undressing. We kindly ask you to help us, by sending your child to pre-school in easy pull-on/ pull-off clothing, and slip-on or Velcro-fastening shoes, and sandals. This allows us to spend more time in our activities. Dungarees, onesies and lace up shoes are hard for them to take on and off and sometimes this can result in accidents or they may require help that sometimes they don't like to have because they're so independent. Thank you for supporting them and us.

### **Wellies and waterproofs**

Can we please ask that you bring in your child's waterproofs so we can leave them at Pre-School. As the weather is changing daily and we do like to get muddy. Unless your child has a particular pair of wellies they like to wear we have lots to share at pre-school so no need to go out and buy more.

### **No personal Toys in Pre-School**

Please can we ask you not to bring toys including cuddly toys from home into the pre-school as these can go missing or get broken due to other children picking them up/playing with them. We have lots of toys and cuddly toys in the pre-school which they're encouraged to share. Sharing can be difficult for children when they bring in their own toys from home therefore can we please ask that no home toys be brought into the Pre-school. Comforters may be placed inside your child's bag instead.

### **Show and Tell**

Our Show and Tell allows our children to be able to talk to us about something they love, a place they visited, an animal they like or something else they have found when out exploring. How will this work? Because we want everyone to join in on our show and tell we will let you know when your child's day is each week. Your child will be passed the Show and Tell bag and then you can pop some items in of your child's choice into the bag and we will then pass the bag onto the next child. We had some lovely stories from last term so please support your child by talking to them about what they would like to say. This all helps with building their confidence when they are stood with us at circle time.

### **Fruit and milk**

Milk, fruit and toast are available every day and given to your child as a mid-morning/ afternoon snack. However we always ask you to bring in a piece of fruit to add to our snack times which help to encourage the children to share. Thank you 😊

### **Keeping our Teeth Healthy**

As part of your child's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage your child is taught about the importance of keeping their teeth healthy therefore in addition to our no nuts policy we kindly ask that you do not include sweets in their lunchbox either. Thank you for your cooperation.

<http://www.child-smile.org.uk/parents-and-carers/index.aspx>

### **Weare Academy Pre-loved Uniform and Friends of Weare Academy Facebook Pages**

If you have any pre-loved school uniform that you no longer need please join our '[Weare Academy Pre-loved Uniform](#)' Facebook page that is organised by Michelle Case. This is run by our PTA and full instructions on how to donate are provided on the Facebook page. If you already part of our Facebook page and you have donations please pop them into the pre-loved box at the side of the pre-school.

Also to keep you up to date with what our PTA are doing for our wonderful school and pre-school please join our '[Friends of Weare Academy](#)' Facebook page.

You can also keep up to date with them on our Weare Academy website.

<https://www.weareacademy.co.uk/friends-of-weare-pta/>

### **Illness- Safety and Safeguarding procedures**

As part of our Wessex Learning Trust guidelines can we please ask that you do not bring your child to Pre-school, if he/she is off-colour or recovering from an illness. Please note that if your child has been sent home from Pre-school with diarrhoea or sickness they must stay at home 48hrs after the last episode of Diarrhoea or sickness. This is to protect staff and other children.

### **On Arrival**

A member of the Pre-school staff are outside from 8.40am to welcome children into Pre-school including those who are wanting to do stop and drop.

### **Dropping-off and collecting your child**

The Pre-school officially opens from 8.40am and finishes at 3.15pm. After this time we feed our after school children and then go over to the main hall for after school club. Can we please ask that your children are collected on time and please can they be collected **before you collect your child's** siblings from school as this disrupts our after school club routine. If you're going to be late, please call us as we do know circumstances change all the time and we're more than happy to accommodate change as long as we are aware of them.

Our telephone number in Pre-School is **01934 733413** and our after school club telephone number is **07939 343916**.

### **Password-on-Collection system**

If you have arranged for someone unfamiliar to us to collect on your behalf, we will ask you to provide us with a password, which we will ask the person to repeat. If we're not provided with the given password, we will NOT be able to hand over your child, and we will need to contact you as part of our safeguarding procedures and policy.

### **Medical information and Parental Consent**

Please make sure that you inform us as soon as possible, if there are any changes to the information you have provided, with regards to allergies, medical needs and your permission for certain activities. In addition, with regard to shared information with other settings – if your child attends another preschool and you do **NOT** wish us to share information regarding your child's learning and development, please inform us. Thank you.

### **Communicating your child's progress-Tapestry**

For all our new children and parents, welcome and thank you for logging into your child's **Tapestry** Account. If you're still yet to do this, please do so ASAP so we can share your child's progress with you at parent evenings. I have also reminded you if you haven't already to please fill in your child's 'About Me' page.

### **Contact information**

If you have any other queries relating to pre-school can you please send a message on class do jo or call us on **01934 733413**. In-line with the Wessex learning trust staff code of conduct, can parents please refrain from contacting staff via text using their personal telephone numbers and email's or via social media . Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

If you have any other queries within school hours relating to school, can you please call the office on 01934 732270 or email [office@weareacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@weareacademy.co.uk)  
<https://www.weareacademy.co.uk/contact-details/>

### **Term Dates**

#### **2023/24**

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/weareacademy/UploadedDocument/2d04f285-0a7a-4395-ac61-a7414bdecfb6/wlt-somerset-term-dates-and-holidays-2023-24.pdf>

### **Keyworker/assessments-**

For our new children you will be given a key worker once your child has settled in. We normally estimate this to be a couple of weeks which allows your child and us to naturally see who your child gravitates to.

At the start of the year (September) our overall baseline assessment is carried out at the end of November which is the same as our Reception class. Your child's assessment will go onto their

Tapestry Journal either showing a concern or no concerns which again we can talk to you about in more detail. For our NEW 2yr old children depending on when they start we will carry out a 2yr check once they have been with us for 3 months. This 2yr check helps us assess where they're and their next steps on their individual learning plan. This is managed through the EYFS Reforms and New development matters.

Your child will be assessed 3 times a year Autumn, Spring and Summer.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) What you need to know.**

What parents/carers need to know? What is the EYFS?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was originally launched in 2008. It is the statutory framework for all early years' providers in England but it is held in high regard worldwide. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards that all early years providers must meet. Early year's providers in England who provide care and learning for children from birth to the end of reception class must comply with the EYFS Statutory Framework. Ofsted regulate and inspect all early years' providers against the safeguarding and welfare requirements and areas of learning to determine how well children are kept safe and healthy.

### **What has changed?**

A revised EYFS came into force in 2021. The key messages about the reforms included:

- ✓ Reducing practitioner/teacher workload and needless paperwork to allow for more quality time and interactions with the children.
- ✓ Improving the outcomes of all children and addressing/reducing the disadvantage gaps.
- ✓ The importance of workforce knowledge and professional development to inform assessments. Reflect upon the need to assess every child's development against 'check lists', saving formal steps of assessment for when they are necessary.
- ✓ Making early learning goals clearer and more aligned to Y1 curriculum.

### **What do the changes mean to me as a parent/carer?**

The safety of your child and the quality of the education provided will not change. You may not see any changes in terms of the activities and opportunities on offer to your child/ren. However, you may notice that we are not physically recording as many observations and assessments of progress. Sources of written or photographic evidence are not required and teachers are not required to record evidence (page 11 of the statutory framework for the EYFS).

However please be reassured that we will still be supporting your child's development and responding to their interests as we get to know your child through our assessments and observations. We assess each child at the end of Autumn, the end of Spring and at the end of Summer. The observations we will record will now be their 'wow moments' which could be your child learning to use the toilet or learning to recognise their numbers. Our professional judgements to assess your child's development during our daily interactions and activities means we're spending more time with them interacting and communicating with them so we can gauge their progress, reflect and decide upon their next steps.

The final assessment we do is our progress check at 2 years which is still a mandatory assessment point and we will still share your child's development and progress with you.

## **Our pedagogy**

At Rainbow Woods Pre-School we integrate our children's play experiences with our individual Early Years Curricular. We offer choices, learn together with and from others, we listen, we use open-ended experiences and resources providing a playful, joyful and generous learning environment. We carry out a mixture of adult led and child led activities, giving the child the flexibility to find their own solutions to both new and existing problems. We observe and plan in the moment and manage each child's next steps.

## **Our curriculum**

The 7 areas of learning and development within the EYFS have not changed, these are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The prime areas of learning (in blue) form the essential foundations for healthy development and future learning. Once a solid start has formed within the prime areas we continue to build upon these skills, opening to explore more learning opportunities within the specific areas of learning.

These 7 areas are the basis for our curriculum. Careful thought is given to inform our enabling environments (indoors and outdoors), to provide resources, activities and learning opportunities to meet each child's unique requirements. Ofsted call this 'curriculum'. Our curriculum is very flexible and responsive to follow children's interests and those totally unplanned learning opportunities that sometimes come out of the blue, for example it might snow one day therefore we can be flexible with our learning opportunities and teach children in the moment! Young children learn through play. The EYFS refers to the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

### **These are:**

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Every EYFS provider has their own bespoke curriculum, to support each child's unique developmental pathway, following their interests and fascinations.

Thank you everyone, enjoy the rest of your Summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September. We officially return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Kind regards

**The Rainbow Woods Pre-School Team**

Lana Whittaker (*Manager*)

Baishali Chatterjee (*Deputy Manager*)

Lisa Woollon (*Pre-School Practitioner*)

Kirsty Mail (*Pre-School Practitioner*)

Nikki Latimer (*Pre-School Practitioner*)

Alysia Sampson (*Pre-School Practitioner*)