



Rainbow Woods News and Events

Spring Term 1

Dear Parents

We have welcomed in our new year with open arms and we have come back with a bang! We returned on Thursday 4th January 2024 and welcomed new children into Rainbow Woods Pre-School. We would also like to thank the parents for all your support over the last term and for all your lovely Christmas presents, thank you thank you! It seems like a lifetime ago already!

Topic

Each half-term, we take on a new topic as a framework for our learning. You will receive a half-termly newsletter from Rainbow Woods Pre-School with all the details, alongside a weekly bulletin from the Main School that will appear on Class Dojo every Friday. Please make sure you check your class dojo so you're up to date with any last minute changes.

Our Spring Term 1 Topic

'Winter Wonderland'

Over our first term we will be learning all about Winter and the woods, incorporating our seven areas of learning around our Topic-Bears. This includes listening and creating activities around 'We're going on a bear hunt', Goldilocks and the three bears and brown bear, brown bear. We will also be celebrating The Chinese New Year'. Please see attached our 'Termly Planning' which covers the seven areas of development in Early Years.

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

From 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. The government predicts that 2024 will be the last year this effects any children coming into pre-school.

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>

I completed an 'All emotions are ok'' course which was above ALL courses a real eye opener on how we need to help and support our children in Early years about 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:

This terms songs are:

Week 1-Here we go round the mulberry bush

Week 2-Incy wincy spider

Week 3-Jack and Jill went up the hill

Week 4-Teddy Bears Picnic song

Week 5-When goldilocks went to the house of the bears

Week 6-Ten in a Bed

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

Nuts and Kiwi

We do have several children in the school and in pre-school who have nut and kiwi 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.

[Weare Academy CofE First School](#)

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

Booking before the deadline will enable the kitchen to order the correct quantities and provide the meal that you have selected.

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.

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. Thank you for supporting 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

'Show and Tell' starts as from this week which 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.

This term our topic is '**WINTER WONDERLAND AND BEARS**'. They can bring their favourite bears and share with others. 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 and Fruit 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.

[Weare Academy CofE First School](#)

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. 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. I have also reminded you if you haven't already to please fill in your child's 'About Me' page. An email was sent on the 10th August with full instructions on how to do this. As from next week we will be putting weekly bulletins on both Tapestry and Class dojo so you can see what your child has been learning.

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](tel:01934733413). 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
<https://www.weareacademy.co.uk/contact-details/>

Term Dates

Please see the link for the Weare Academy First School Terms and holidays if you wish to print them out.

<https://weareacademy.co.uk/calendar/>

Dates for your Diary 2023/24

Please see a link to the Weare Academy First School dates that include Rainbow Woods Pre-School dates for your diary 2022/2023.

<https://weareacademy.co.uk/calendar/>

Spring Term 1 Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th Jan

Parents evening for reception, Yr1,Yr2,Yr3,Yr4

Tuesday 9th Jan

Parents evening for reception, Yr1,Yr2,Yr3,Yr4

Thursday 25th January

Burns Night

Friday 2nd February

NSPCC Day Number

Monday 5th - 9th February

Children's Mental Health Week.

As part of our PSED (jigsaw) we will be concentrating on Making Relationships, Self Confidence & Self Awareness and Managing Feelings & Behaviours.

Tuesday 6th February

Safer Internet Day

Saturday 10th February

Chinese New Year- Year of the Wood Dragon

Monday 12th-16th February

School Holiday

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.

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.

Funding:

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life.

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for. The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it And from next year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare. Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children –from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 5.30pm, also known as 'wraparound care'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to.

Visit the Childcare Choices website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to their newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/upcoming-changes-to-childcare-support/>

Thank you everyone and let's have a great Spring term!

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*)