



Holding Hands Preschool Fortnightly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 20th January 2025

Embracing the cold and looking forward to spring!

Take a look below to find out what we have been up to...

Sensory

- Different art techniques
 - *Junk modelling – making binoculars for investigating our environment.
 - *Painting – using cooler tones to represent snow, frost and our cold outdoor experiences
 - *Colouring/ drawing – following the children's ideas and interests to create beautiful pictures.
- Making playdough – Naming and combining the ingredients, mixing with our strong muscles and using the dough in various ways!
- Builders yard – using cardboard, foam bricks and tools to build, knock down and build again!

Outside

- Outings
 - *High street – a simple walk, looking at both the built and natural environment, discussing door numbers, nature and signposts!
- Garden
 - *Growing area – removing weeds, rotten plants and digging over, in time for future planting.
 - *Wendy House – Role-play with friends, building relationships and imagination.
 - *Sensory Trays – water play, toy washing, sprinklers, funnels, pots and pans!
- Bank
 - *Allotments – Digging over, in time for planting.
 - *Caring for the chickens and collecting eggs.

Story Corner

- Our favourite action songs – 'Wheels on the Bus', 'If you're happy and you know it' and 'Open, shut them'.
- Our favourite stories – 'The Gruffalo', 'Don't Wake the Bear' and 'Oliver's Winter Adventure'.

Gym

- Free-play and construction; obstacle courses, Duplo, beanbags, musical instruments, train track, click-clack cars, wooden blocks etc.

What's happening over the following weeks?

- The children are looking at seasonal changes and preparing for outdoor planting.
- Using our interactive board and stories to find out more about Chinese New Year.

Dates For Your Diary (Updated)...

Wednesday 8th January 2025 – Spring Term (1st half).

Preschool returns with normal operational hours from this date.

Friday 14th February – Half Term

Preschool will close at the end of the afternoon session on this date, for the spring half term.

Monday 24th February – Parent Feedback

Additional parent feedback, without a report, is available on this date. Speak with your key person to arrange a suitable time, if required. NO preschool provision availability on this date.

Tuesday 25th February – Spring Term (2nd half)

Preschool returns with normal operational hours from this date.

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Preschool will be celebrating World Book Day and we invite the children to join in by dressing up as their favourite book characters throughout the week (w/c 03/03/25).

Friday 4th April – End of Spring Term.

Preschool will close at the end of the afternoon session on this date, for the Easter period.

Baby and Toddler Stay and Play – To be confirmed.

Holding Hands Preschool are looking into running a stay and play session regularly in 2025. Please make sure to get in touch or chat to a member of the team to express an interest...

*Please always check subsequent newsletters for updates to our key dates!

**Keep reading
on the next
page...**



Extended Hours of Operation from February half-term

After-school provision, beyond 4.15pm will be introduced from after the February half-term. An email will be sent out regarding this information and if you would like to extend your child's hours, please get in touch with Sandra via email, to arrange this.

Childcare Choices

Help paying for your childcare

Government help with childcare costs for parents. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness of the financial support available for childcare costs and help parents to understand the benefits of early education.

We want to help all parents to understand the different childcare options available to them, helping to juggle family life and making it easier for parents to manage their budget.

The Childcare Choices website helps parents to find out what they might be eligible for, now and in the future, and when to apply.

Parents can also the website sign up to the newsletter (<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>) which will give them further information as the expansion is rolled out.

Outside Spaces

We are working hard on our outside spaces, and you may notice some changes over the coming months. If you have any materials, tools, compost, plants, etc. that you think may be beneficial, please do chat to a member of the team.

We will be placing some crates outside the preschool very soon and we ask that if you are out on walks, please try to collect cones, different sized sticks, large pebbles, bark and willow and place them in the corresponding crates to build on our bank of natural resources.

Additionally, if you plan to do any pruning of trees, such as hornbeam, hazel, elder or willow before the spring, please bring along your cuttings for use in our outdoor areas.



Colder Months

Whilst the weather remains colder, we would ask for everyone to please ensure they provide hats, gloves/ mittens, coats and warm socks, as well as wellies or snow boots. The children continue to freely access the outdoor areas, despite the colder weather and keeping them warm is essential if they are to enjoy their experiences outside.



Holding Hands Preschool is excited to announce that our summer club will be back up and running for summer 2025! Dates and further information will follow soon.

Excellent Websites for Families, with everything from Activity Inspiration to Communication, Health and Developmental Support.

Take a look and follow these links for some great tips, activities and support on everything baby, toddler and preschooler.

[Toddler - Start for Life - NHS](#)

[Big Little Moments | SSBC](#)

[BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

[Start for Life | Words for Life](#)

[Home Page - Buckinghamshire | Health for Under5s](#)

Furthermore, we have included a link to the curriculum that we use within the preschool setting for you to take a look at too...

[Birthto5Matters-download.pdf](#)