



Holding Hands Preschool Fortnightly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 3rd February 2025

Celebrating Chinese/ Lunar New year!

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

Sensory

- Different art techniques
 - *Papercraft – making lanterns for Chinese/ Lunar New Year.
 - *Painting – using stamps, hands, fingerprints and brushes to paint in different ways.
 - *Colouring/ drawing – early mark-making using crayons, pencils, colouring pens and chalk.
- Sensory Play
 - *Playdough – using the dough to create noodles, dumplings and other pretend treats!
 - *Noodles – exploring noodles with our hands, and having a go with chopsticks
- Small world play – building our own farm and playing with the animals from 'The Great Race' (Chinese New Year)!

Outside

- Garden
 - *Growing area – continuing to turn over the beds and prepare them for spring. Discussing change, growth and decay.
 - *'What's the Time Mr. Wolf?' – Playing collaborative games.
 - *Sensory Trays – water play, toy washing, sprinklers, funnels, pots and pans!
- Bank
 - *Rolling down the hill and running in the field.
 - *Investigating our new summer house and playing inside!
 - *Allotments – Digging over, in time for planting.
 - *Caring for and feeding the chickens.

Story Corner

- Our favourite action songs – 'Old MacDonald', 'Tommy Thumb' and 'Hickory, Dickory Dock'.
- Our favourite books – 'Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons', and 'Zog'.

Gym

- Free-play and construction - obstacle courses, Large collaborative train track building, rocket launcher, musical instruments, stickle bricks.
- Interactive Board – exploring Chinese/ Lunar New Year by watching BBC Teach and My First Festivals, as well as the story of 'The Great Race'.

What's happening over the following weeks?

- The children will be exploring what is meant by feelings and emotions and talking about loved ones.

Dates For Your Diary (Updated)...

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.

Monday 3rd March - Friday 7th March 2025- Communication Week

Annual campaign across Buckinghamshire looking to start conversations about interaction with young children and babies, promoting the values of 'Engage with Chat: Explore with Play: Read together'.

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.

*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 has been 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.



Holding Hands Preschool EXTRAS

From Summer 2025, our summer club will be back up and running! Dates and further information will follow soon.

Holding Hands Preschool is excited to announce that we will be hosting baby and toddler stay and play sessions following the February half-term. Get in touch if you would like to find out more about this!

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.



Family Displays

We are continuing to update our large community display and would ask that if you haven't already done so, please provide a family photo to be used on the wall. Ideally this should be a photo that you will not need returned in perfect condition, as the children will have access to this area and enjoy touching and talking about the display. Thank you!



Donations

Preschool is always greatly appreciative of any donations given by the families of the setting. We have included a copy of our 'donations suggestions' in the main email. Also, if you have any out-of-date rice, pasta, lentils, etc. we would be keen to make use of these for sensory play. Thank you!

Childhood Illnesses and Keeping your Child Home from Preschool

It is the time of year, where we see many unwell children and we would like to remind our families that if a child isn't well enough to carry out their session normally, then please do keep them home to give them time to recover and avoid the spread of viruses and illness.

Great many common childhood illnesses at home. You can also get advice from your GP, pharmacist or health visitor. Information on common childhood illnesses can be accessed using this link...[Childhood illnesses | nidirect](#) Please remember to follow our policies and that these may not always align with NHS advice. If you are unsure whether to keep your child home, give us a call to discuss. Thank you.