

South Normanton Pre School-Newsletter

January 2025

Dear Parents/carers

Happy New Year and welcome to spring term 2025.

Please read the following information and make a note of any important dates/events coming up

Parents morning – Butterfly room

Our parents' morning for children in the Butterfly room (pre-school room) will be on **Saturday 8th February 9am-11am**. This is a great opportunity for you to come into preschool and have a chat with your child's key person. Together you can share important information regarding your child's learning and development and create a next step of learning for your child. You will be given an appointment time week commencing 27th January. **If you require a specific time, please inform preschool ASAP**. As this is a time to talk about your child, it would be greatly appreciated if your child does not attend the appointment with you. If your child does attend with you, please ensure that your child remains with you at the appointment. All staff will be busy with parents so parents must be responsible for their own child. Please also note, the main door to preschool will be open on the day to allow parents to enter the pre-school.

Forest School

We are excited to introduce to preschool Forest school sessions. Forest schools are beneficial to outdoor learning in the following ways

- Promote holistic development
- Give children a greater wealth of experiences of what the outdoors can offer

- Endorses children's physical well being by getting them to be active and enjoy the fresh air
- Stimulate creativity and imagination in children
- Engage all the senses, providing rich sensory experiences that support sensory development in children
- Allows children to connect with nature fostering a sense of appreciation and care for the environment
- Supports motivation to learn
- Helps children to gain more independence, self-esteem, reduce anxiety and build resilience.

These sessions will be held in our preschool outdoor environment and will be led by Emma Owens. Emma led forest school sessions in her previous employment and has been busy training our staff in Forest schools.

If anyone has any cardboard boxes laying around at home, we would greatly appreciate you bringing them into preschool so that we can use them in our sessions. Please ensure that your child comes in a coat every day (old one if possible). We will be having a fundraising event (sponsored find) in February and hope to raise money to purchase waterproof coats and trousers for the children to wear outdoors. If you have any old wellingtons that your child has outgrown or if your child has more than one pair of wellingtons and you would like them to have their own pair at preschool, please bring them in.

Over the next term we will be updating our website with information regarding our Forest school sessions and we will be uploading our forest school activities on our facebook page so look out for those in the near future.

Makaton

Makaton is a communication process using signs, symbols and speech. We use Makaton at preschool to help children and adults to communicate and it is a skill that all children will benefit from. We will be introducing a sign a week into both the Caterpillar and Butterfly room to help all children communicate with all their peers and out in the

community. The sign of the week will be displayed in both rooms and out in the reception so please look out for it. If you would like more information on Makaton please speak with staff.

Toilet training

If your child is in the Butterfly room (3-5years) and is not yet toilet trained, please ensure they wear a pull up and a vest without poppers. Staff can encourage your child to go on the toilet at changing time and work with you to toilet train your child.

If your child is in the Caterpillar room (2 years) and your child's next step is toilet training, your child needs to be wearing a pull up and a vest without poppers.

Sessions for the Summer 2025 and Autumn term 2025

If you wish to change/add/reduce sessions for summer 2025 and Autumn 2025 please speak or email Heather ASAP. If your child is moving to another Early Years setting in any of these terms, please notify preschool immediately.

If you qualify for working families funding or extended entitlement funding (30 hours) please ensure you renew your code every three months. You should receive an email from HMRC however it is best to log into your account and note down the expiry date to ensure that you do not miss your deadline. Failure to renew the code will result in the loss of your funding.

Afternoon session children

Afternoon parents who collect at 3.45pm may have noticed that your children are ready to go home from the cloakroom and we are handing them over to you from the door into reception. This will continue in the spring and summer term. This method allows the staff time to reset the rooms and prepare activities for the following day. If you need to speak with staff at the end of the session, please let us know so that we can accommodate your request.

Family photographs for our wall.

If you haven't already done so, please can you send in a photograph of everyone in your household for our wall in preschool. Children love to look at photographs (especially one with them in it), the photograph creates a bond between home and preschool and becomes a focal point

for children to speak to each other about their own family. You can either bring in a print or email your photographs to southnormantonpreschool@gmail.com .

Dairy dates

Below is a list of up-and-coming school holidays and events. Don't forget we have an extra week off in May as we put all our inset days together. Please make a note of all the dates below.

Parents morning (Butterfly room only) Saturday 8th February 9am-11am

February half term – Preschool closes on Friday 14th February at 3.45pm and reopens on Monday 24th February at 9am

Easter- Preschool closes on Friday 4th April at 3.45pm and reopens on Tuesday 22nd April at 9am (Good Friday 18th April/Easter Monday 21st April)

May day- Preschool is closed on Monday 3rd May and reopens on Tuesday 4th May at 9am.

May half term- Preschool closes on Friday 17th May at 3.45pm and reopens on Monday 2nd June at 9am.

And finally, if you have any concerns, queries or need support or information, please do not hesitate to speak with us at the beginning or end of session. We appreciate that drop off and collection times are busy however once children are in the session, staff will have time to speak with you. Other ways to contact us are by telephone or email. We are here to help and support you in any way so please speak with us.

Many thanks

Your preschool team.

