

February 2020

Newsletter



Hello everyone. It's been a very busy half term at Happy Faces! The children have enjoyed thinking about winter, exploring ice, making icy collages, thinking about animals that hibernate and making dens for bears in forest school.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents/carers in on 14th February for a special Valentines share session. Happy Faces will then be closed for half term the week beginning 17th February.

We hope that you will all have read our Ofsted report by now. Ofsted visited us on 16th January and rated Happy Faces Preschool as outstanding in all areas. Everyone was thrilled, particularly as the criteria has changed, making the outstanding grade harder to achieve. The report is lovely to read and reflects our aims at Happy Faces.

All the staff were highly praised for how well they know their keychildren and try their hardest to support them to help them grow and develop. The inspector commented on how safe and cared for children are when at Happy Faces.

If you have not received a copy of our report, please let me know. Or you can read it online on our website www.happyfacespreschool.co.uk Please continue to discuss your children with their keyworkers, upload your messages or observations onto Tapestry and let us know if you have any concerns.

Diana André

Preschool Manager

Reminders

Parent Share Sessions

Friday 14th February

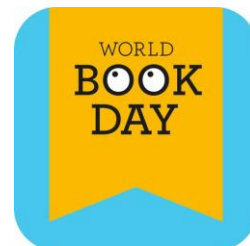
Either: 11.15am- 12.00pm (you can take your child home at the end of this session if they attend just the morning session)

Or: 2.30pm – 3.15pm (children can go home at the end of this session)



World Book Day

This event is on Thursday **5th March** and celebrates everything about books and reading worldwide! We will be celebrating with lots of fun activities. Children who attend on this day are invited to bring their favourite book in with them and dress up as a character from their favourite book.



Parents meetings

We are holding parent's meetings during the **weeks beginning 9th March and 16th March**. This meeting is an opportunity for you to come and meet with your child's keyworker to talk about how they are getting on at preschool and to discuss the progress they are making. There will be sheets to sign up for a time in the coat peg area. Please make sure you sign up.

Snack Time

Thank you for contributing to snack time, we ask that all parents bring in some fruit, vegetable, crackers, breadsticks or cheese each week for the children to eat for a snack. We cut the fruit up and share it when it is snack time, recently we have had days without a lot of snack to share. Please remember to bring some in each week.



Don't forget to check our Facebook page, which you can follow. We often post updates to show you what the children have been doing. Feel free to add your comments. 😊



Nappies

If your child is in a nappy please could they have nappies in their bags to be changed into and not pull ups. This is because children need to be undressed completely to change them into a pull up, sometimes causing nappy change time to be longer and more stressful than needed.

If your child is in a pull up for a specific reason, such as toilet training, please speak to your child's keyworker.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2020

8th January 2020 – 3rd April 2020

Half Term: 17th February 2020 – 21st February 2020

Easter Break: Begins 6th April – 20th April 2020

(Children back on 21st April 2020)

Summer Term 2020

21st April 2020 – 17th July 2020

Half Term: 25th May 2020 – 29th May 2020

Independence

It's time to leave and you are running late. So, what happens when coats have to be put on? It may be quicker to do up the coat for your child rather than watching little fingers slowly tackling the task, but how important is it for children to do things for themselves and become independent?

Independence is important for children to learn as they grow up to become confident and resilient individuals. At Happy Faces there are lots of opportunities for children to develop independence. As they master new skills or take on some responsibility, they begin to see themselves as being capable. This gives them added confidence and makes them more likely to try out new things. This means that your child will be encouraged to hang up their coat or pour a drink. Your child is also given plenty of opportunities to choose what to play with, which allows them to explore and learn independently. These activities are sometimes known as 'child initiated', as they are designed to let children learn and do things for themselves

What can I do for my child at home?

Home is an ideal place to practise becoming independent. Start by looking to see what your child can do already and build on this. If your child can put their coat on, maybe they can have a go at doing up one of the buttons or pulling up the zip once you have started it off. Working alongside your child is often helpful so that they can learn skills by watching you, children often learn best by simply enjoying being with you and chatting.

You can help your child to be more independent with their toileting by dressing them in clothes that are easy to pull up and down. If their clothes have lots of buttons or are tight, children will find it difficult and may not try to go to the toilet. Simple tracksuit bottoms that can be pulled up and down easily are ideal.

Children do need extra time to manage even simple tasks, but gradually, they will speed up and become capable. It is worth ignoring the temptation to immediately take over a task if a child is struggling. Sometimes a little more time or a few words of encouragement are all your child needs.