



September Newsletter

Dates

Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn 2021

Monday 6th September - Wednesday 15th December (12:15 finish)

Half Term - Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021

Christmas Holidays -

Wednesday 16th December - Thursday 6th January

Spring 2022

Monday 10th January - Friday 1st April (12:15 finish)

Half Term - Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February 2022

Easter Holidays -

Monday 4th April - Wednesday 20th April

Summer 2022

Thursday 21st April - Thursday 21st July (12:15 finish)

Half Term - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2022

This equates to 37 weeks and 1 day, which is 4 days less than the funded 38 weeks. If you have any queries, please come and see us. Please note that you are not charged for bank holidays and INSET DAYS.

Covid Update

As before we will be monitoring the situation closely and should any guidance change then we will communicate this with you. As it presently stands the DFE have issued guidance stating that things can return to pre-covid status. Therefore, we will not be taking temperatures upon entry. We will however still be encouraging good hygiene practices with the children, ie washing hands frequently.

After a lot of thought we have also decided to keep parent goodbyes to outside of the main hall. The children settle a lot quicker with a kiss and cuddle before they walk through the door and as always should this not be the case then we will contact you.

Topic

Our first topic is KNOWING ME. KNOWING YOU, where we will be looking at what makes us, us. We will learn the names of parts of our bodies; talk about where we live and who we live with; our families and pets. We will also spend time recognising and naming feelings.

The new curriculum and observations

As you may be aware, the government have issued a new curriculum for the Early Years which has come into force this September. We are very excited about this as it is seemingly working for us and the child a lot more than the previous one! They are no longer wanting to see realms of paperwork and observations but rather staff that know the children in their care and have devised a curriculum that takes in the needs of the children that they have. We have spent the summer looking at the changes and devised what we think will benefit all the children in our care. We have attached a copy of this for you to look through, any comments or queries please come and see us. We will still aim to observe using our tapestry app but will make sure these observations are meaningful and highlight the skill that we are working on with your child. This is not to say that we will stop the WOW observations though.

Please be aware that we have updated our policy regarding medication. If your child has been given Calpol or any kind of pain relieving drug then we are asking that you keep them at home, as the medicine can mask how they are really feeling and they tend to go downhill quickly. Also, any child sent home with a temperature will

need to be at home for 24 hours before returning to Preschool to ensure they are fully fit.

Please also be aware that by law we have to follow up any absences and will aim to do so by 10am that day. If we cannot get hold of yourself or any of the contacts on your registration form then we are legally required to ring the police on 101 and request that a welfare check is done. Please let us know if your child will be absent in order that we don't have to do this.

Forest School

We are pleased to announce that Claire Beare and Gemma Miles have now completed their initial forest school training and are officially trainee forest school leaders. We have been busy over the summer clearing the space behind our garden and are in the process of installing firepits and all other necessary forest school items. As you can imagine the first half term is always full on with welcoming back our existing children and settling our new ones so every member of staff is needed. Therefore, we will aim to commence our first forest school session after the October half term. Prior to this we will be holding a parents meeting, for all interested parents, to show you our new space and give you all the information you will need in order that you can decide whether you would like your child to take part or not. Sessions will definitely be taking place on Tuesday's and if there is enough interest we will also add on a Thursday. Costs will be as follows...Any children attending on those days will be charged £5, any children who are wishing to come in for the sessions will be charged £10, this is due to staff ratios.

Funding forms

Just a gentle reminder to bring back funding forms asap. Please note that the top table on the form is for universal hours and can only

add up to 15 hours. Extra hours are put in the bottom table for extended provision. If you get stuck just come and see us.

Facebook and Instagram

Please may we ask that you sign up to our private Facebook group (Totterdown Harpers) and also we would really appreciate any likes, follows or reviews for both our Facebook page and Instagram pages.

School Places

The time for applying for your child's school place is nearly upon the parents of our 3 year olds. Schools are now holding open mornings and you can get onto these by phoning or emailing the school. We do recommend that you go and visit all of the schools that you like in order that you get a feel for them. It is also really important that when filling in your form, you give as many choices as they ask for, otherwise it means that should you not get your first choice then the council can place you anywhere. This is the website address of the surrey application website that will guide you through the process. Applications open on 1st November 2021 and closing dates for applications is 15th January 2022.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>

Mystery Reader/Library

We are pleased to announce the return of the mystery reader!! This is where we surprise your child by having you come in and read your or their favourite story to the group, without them knowing. If you would like to do this please see a member of staff and we will sign you up.

Within the next few weeks we will be setting up our library system. Each child will be able to come and choose a book to take home to share with you. Once you have finished with it, bring it back and they can choose another one.

Wesley!

Wesley, our roaming teddy bear is returning from his holidays and will be looking for a new home each week. If you are lucky enough to have Wesley please can you take some pictures of the special things that you do with him, stick them in his book and write about your adventures. We can then share this with all the children.

Magic Moments

Please remember that any special achievements at home can be shared and celebrated with us by filling in a magic moments top hat. Perry Como then sings his accompanying tune and we give out some special stickers. Please also remember to add them onto Tapestry.

Things to remember

Arrival

- Don't carry your child in.
- We don't allow them to have a dummy at preschool so please don't bring them with one, otherwise we become the bad guys taking it away.
- Please also don't bring in any toys from home, these tend to be put down quite quickly and then go missing.
- Always give your child a hug and a kiss and say you will see them later, sneaking out of the door makes them feel unable to trust you

- If they are upset a member of staff will come and console them, don't hang around it makes it worse, we promise to ring you if they don't calm down. If you need to talk to a member of staff about your child or family issues, don't do it in front of them.
- Always be on time both at drop off and pick up. It can cause a lot of distress for a child to either be the last to be picked up or to miss out on the morning routine. If you are running late LET US KNOW.

What to bring to preschool

- Water bottle with water in or juice if your child won't drink water.
- Suitable outdoor clothing depending on weather, sun hat and sun cream already applied, wellie boots and raincoat, gloves, hat etc Always bring a coat and if possible leave a pair of wellies at Preschool.
- In your green bag, your child will need two complete change of clothes that fit them and are suitable for the weather, 3 pairs of pants and socks, a spare pair of shoes, nappies, wipes if needed

A healthy lunch box

- We always encourage the children to eat their sandwiches first
- Don't pack too much as it is too daunting
- No bars of chocolate, fizzy drink or items with nuts in, please check labels of pesto etc
- A healthy lunch box is a sandwich or pasta, a piece of fruit, a yogurt, a drink and a treat ie either a biscuit or a few crisps
- Please remember to cut all grapes

What to wear

- Clothes that your child can move easily in and undo any clasps,
- Clothes you don't mind them getting dirty in

- No big dresses, flip flops, open toed shoes, wellies, dungarees

Illness

- Please do not send your child to preschool if they are unwell, or if they were sick or had diarrhoea the night before - even if they feel better in the morning!!! They are required to be off preschool for **48** hours to recover and not spread it.
- If your child has taken Calpol before coming to preschool then you will need to take them home. Calpol can mask symptoms and a child tends to go downhill quickly as it wears off. We will send children home that have been given pain relieving medication and also operate a **24** hour exclusion policy after they have had a temperature.
- If your child is on antibiotics or any has been prescribed medicine by the doctor they will need to be at home for the initial **24** hours of taking it to make sure that they don't have any adverse affects.
- If your child has head lice you will need to keep them off until they have had at least one treatment and killed the live lice.
- If your child has conjunctivitis you will need to keep them off until the eye is clear. Conjunctivitis is extremely contagious and because we use resources such as playdough, it can tend to spread quickly.
- If your child has chicken pox they will need to be off until **ALL** the spots have scabbed over, this usually takes at least a week.
- If your child is not going to be attending preschool, then you need to contact us either by phone, text or email by 10am on that day. If we don't hear from you then we will contact other

people on your contact list. If we cannot get hold of anyone then we are legally required to phone 101 and get the police to do a welfare check.

- Please also make us aware of any accidents that your child may have had at home. Should they have any in Preschool, we will note down the details on our accident form and require you to sign it at pick up. If they are seriously hurt or come down ill then we will contact you straight away. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU KEEP US INFORMED ABOUT ANY CHANGES TO YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS AND KEEP YOUR MOBILE PHONES SWITCHED ON.

Finally (phew!) we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our existing families and new ones. We are looking forward to working with you all and hope you will be very happy at Totterdown Preschool.

Best wishes

Claire and Shamira and the Totterdown Team