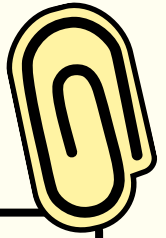


Little Birch News



LITTLE BIRCH PRE-SCHOOL
Blandford St Mary, Dorset

Spring 1 Half Term

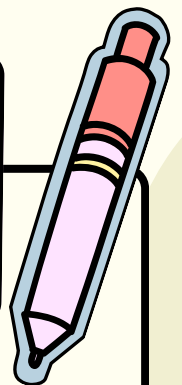


Welcome Back to to the Spring term!

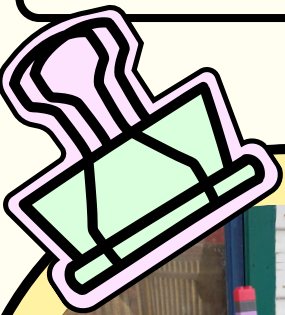
Last term was all about letting children settle and get use to the new pre-school routines, this term is where we really start to see the amazing learning happen. Our themes for the half term are Winter, Emotions, Colour and Birds. We will begin the half term extending last terms learning about winter, we will look at arctic animals, snow and ice. We will then be using the Colour monster book to help us think about colours and emotions before looking at Chinese New year towards the end of January, and we will finish the half term by using the RSPB Schools Birdwatch week that is happening during the first week of February to learn all about birds.

If your child is due to start school in September 2025 please don't forget that the school application deadline is January 15th 2025, if you need any support in making your application please let us know.

2024-25 Term Dates



- 17/02/24 - 21/02/24 - February Half Term
- 24/02/24 - Staff Training Day
- 04/04/24 - Staff Training Day
- 07/04/24-21/04/24 - Easter Holidays
- 05/05/24 - May Bank Holiday
- 26/05/24-30/05/24 - May Half Term
- 23/07/2024 - Last Day Summer Term 2025



What to bring - Spring Term

As the weather has turned cooler can we please remind our families about the need to layer up and bring plenty of spare clothes. We have the doors open all year round for the majority of the day to allow children to have free access outside. This means that it can get pretty chilly in the winter months and so layers that we can add or take away is really important, please also ensure that all children have the following **named** items;

- Closed toe shoes.
- Jumper
- Coat
- Drinks bottle
- Full change of clothes

Toys From Home

Please can we ask that families avoid sending their children into pre-school with toys from home, this is partly to avoid their treasured items being lost or broken, but also to avoid any unnecessary arguments amongst the children, we always encourage sharing at pre-school and this can feel really hard for children if the toys are their own.

Home Book Bags

Each term we choose one of our favourite books to go in our home book bags. Every child will have the opportunity to take one of the book bags home each half term, the book bags include paper and crayons for your child to draw a picture of the story if they would like to, and a few resources to help the child talk about and explore the story with their family at home. We will also be recording a member of staff reading the story for the children to listen to at home. Please feel free to keep the book bags for a couple of nights before bringing it back for another child to enjoy.

This term the book bag story is

Gruffalo



Maths Stay and Play

This year Little Birch is taking part in a Maths Champion project with the aim of improving children's maths outcomes while at pre-school. As part of this work we are looking at ways we can support our families to build confidence in supporting their child's maths understanding. We will be holding special Maths Stay and Play sessions the week beginning 10th February, during these sessions we will have a range of activities available for you to explore with your children all with a maths focus. Stay and Play dates and times will be as follows;

Tuesday 11th February 10.30-11.30am

Wednesday 12th February 2-3pm

Thursday 13th February 2-3pm

We do hope you will be able to join us for one of these sessions.

LUNCHBOXES

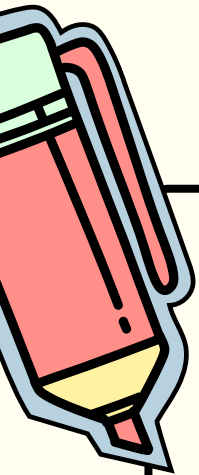
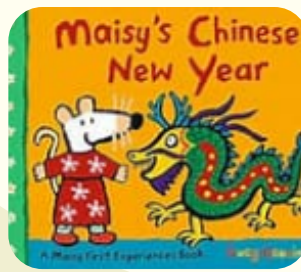
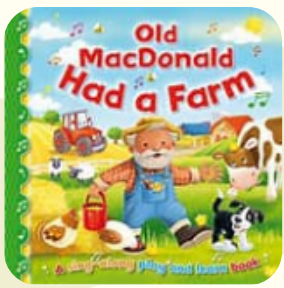
Please can we give all our families a gentle reminder that lunchboxes should only contain 1 sweet treat, grapes, sausages and tomatoes should be sliced lengthways, and we operate a whole setting NO NUT policy, we do have a child with a nut allergy so this is really important. If you would like any advice on what to put in lunchboxes please do let us know.



Website

We have been busy developing the website with the aim that it can be used as a source of daily information for our families, this is still very much work in progress but the plan is to have a Parents/Carers page where our families can find all the latest information about what your children are learning, our curriculum focus for the half term, useful diary dates, recordings of our focus books and lots more. Please do keep an eye on the website and let us know if there is anything you would like added;

www.littlebirchpre-school.co.uk



Spring 1 Reading Spine

To help support our learning we have carefully chosen a set of books that we will be focussing on for the next half term, all the children will have multiple opportunities to engage with and to hear and experience this range of high quality literature. We will be using the books to incorporate all areas of our learning and will be sharing some of our fabulous work with you throughout the half term. The chosen books are shown above, each book is selected to meet the following criteria, a classic fairytale, poetry, PSED, Festivals and celebrations, Diversity, Toddler focussed reading and Enrichment. If you have any questions about how we use our reading spine please ask.

TOILET TRAINING

Learning how to use a toilet is a huge milestone for children and its really important that we work together with our families to be able to support children as they learn. The ERIC website (link below) has huge amounts of helpful information to help you prepare to toilet train your child, If you have any concerns or are worried about anything please do speak with us or your health visitor.

There are a few things that can really help your child to succeed at pre-school during the toilet training process;

- Please bring lots of spare clothes and dress your child in clothes that they can take on and off independently.
- Using Pull-ups instead of nappies so that your child can be independent in taking their pull up down.
- Encourage your child to practice sitting on the potty or toilet as soon as they start showing an interest.



<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>