



September Newsletter

Dates

Autumn 2024

Thursday 5th September - 17th December (finish at 12.00pm)

Half Term Monday 28th October - Friday 8th November

INSET day (closed to children) 20th September

Spring 2025

Monday 10th January - Friday 1st April (12:00 finish)

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

Easter Holidays -

Monday 4th April - Wednesday 20th April

Summer 2025

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

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

A big welcome to all of our parents and children, both our returning ones and our new ones. We hope you had a lovely holiday and made good use of the bit of good weather we sporadically had.

We have lots of exciting things happening this year and as we are always striving to improve what we offer, we have a few changes too! Preschool starts back on Thursday 5th September, and please remember we have an INSET day on 20th September when we will be closed to children.

Staff

Shamira Lumsden: Manager, Owner, Lead DSL, QTS

Claire Childs: Owner, Lead SENCO, QTS

Karen Cull: Deputy Manager, Deputy SENCO, Level 3 Practitioner

Joe Spence: Deputy DSL, Level 3 Practitioner

Katy Goodship: Level 3 Practitioner

Harriet Heywood: Level 3 Practitioner

Lyndsey Phillips: Apprentice Level 3 Practitioner

Clare Scrivener: Level 3 Practitioner

Our three golden rules

We only have 3 rules at preschool and these are what we instil in the children from the moment they walk in through the door:

1. In preschool we walk and use quiet voices.
2. Whatever we play with we put away when we are finished.
3. We use kind hands.

Your help in reinforcing this is much appreciated.

Pictures

Please can we ask, that you provide a picture of your family that they children can bring into preschool on their first day back. These are so useful in helping to settle any children that are a bit upset and will provide a great talking point for our first topic which is all about me!

Observations

This year we are trialling a new way of recording observations. As you may be aware our preschool uses in the moment planning. This means that we teach through the child's play. They decide what they want to do and we go to them, rather than us initiating the activity. Each week each key worker will devote their time to one of their

children and record what they have been doing and how they have helped to support them. Prior to this we will send a form home , informing you that it is your child's week and asking for some extra information about them. Once the week's observations have been completed then we will invite each parent in to come and have a chat with their key worker on what they have observed and to answer any questions that you may have. As numbers stand, each child should have a devoted week each term, a total of 3 per year, this does not mean that the rest of the time they will be left alone, as they will still be interacting with each other and other staff members. The children will be chosen depending on how settled they are as we are sure you will appreciate, that a child can only start learning and reach their full potential when they are happy and settled and this is individual to each child.

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. This also ties in very nicely with our PSHE of being able to look after ourselves ie washing our hands, cleaning our teeth, putting on shoes and coats and going to the toilet.

Absences

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 Suzanne will be returning as our Forest School leader. She is absolutely amazing and the look on the childrens faces when they make fire for the first time is priceless. It is such a valuable addition to our curriculum which is why we have made it compulsory that every 3 year old that attends on the forest school days (Wednesday and Thursday) will take part. The cost is £10 per week and will be added to your invoice. Please make sure that on a forest school day your child is equipped with a long sleeved top and trousers, and a jumper if it is chilly. Their wellie boots should already be at preschool and we will provide an all-in-one to keep them dry.

Funding forms

Just a gentle reminder to bring back funding forms asap. We have sent out a guidance to help you understand them. If you get stuck just come and see us.

School Places

It seems so wrong to be writing about school places this early in the year but for children who will be starting school in September 2025, the time is nearly upon you to start visiting any schools that you may be interested in. All schools should offer show rounds and you can find out when these are by phoning/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.

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 signs his accompanying tune and we give out some special stickers.

Lunches

Lots of children, have allergies to foods and as a preschool we are incredibly aware of our practices in how we can keep the children safe and reduce their interaction to such foods. As such we are a nut-free setting and therefore things like peanut butter, buenos, chocolate containing nuts, pesto containing nuts etc are not permitted in the preschool. Please can you be vigilant in what you put into your child's lunch box as anything containing nuts will be removed and sent home. Please make us aware of any allergies that your child may have. Please note however there is a difference between allergy and intolerance and we will discuss with you about steps that can be taken for intolerances.

We are also conscious of children's health and as such adhere to a healthy eating policy. A healthy lunchbox may contain a main savoury item, this could be a sandwich with savoury filling, pasta, rice etc: a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables (please remember grapes should be cut into quarters to reduce choking hazards); one small yogurt and maybe a handful of crisps/ snack bar (no chocolate bars or fizzy drinks please). In our experience some parents pack like their child is going on an expedition or give them such a wide choice of foods that the child is overwhelmed with what to eat. Bento boxes, whilst looking like a good idea, does not get the children into the habit of eating their savoury items first so should be avoided. Remember your child is only with us for 6 hours maximum and will also be having a snack and milk, so they will not go hungry.

Things to remember

Arrival

- 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. Our phone number is 07846 993052.
- Don't carry your child in, walking in is part of them becoming independent.
- 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.
- Leave home toys at 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 doesn't build trust and can unsettle a child.
- If you need to talk to a member of staff about your child or family issues, don't do it in front of them. It's amazing what they pick up!

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 rain coat, 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

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.
- 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

The Totterdown Team