

# Newsletter March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you all had a lovely half term and managed to get out and about despite the changeable weather.



Ash Wednesday in 2025 falls on March 5, next week, marking the beginning of Lent, a significant period for many Christians. Lent lasts for 40 days, leading up to Easter, and is observed through fasting, prayer, and reflection, emphasizing spiritual growth.

## Green Fingers Garden Project

Children will take their seed pots home and care for them over the next few weeks until they grow into plants. Children are expected to bring the plants back to the preschool for our little garden show.



## Upcoming Events

- **Incredible Eggs experience, Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March** – We are going to **hatch some ducklings!** Through this experience the children will develop curiosity and understanding of the life cycle. They will practise patience and responsibility as they care for the eggs and observe the hatching process.
- **Pancake Day, Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March.** Children will listen to the stories about pancakes (“Pancakes!” by Eric Carle). There will be pancake races in the garden and pancake sensory play during which children will be able to touch, pour, stir, and feel the texture of the pancake mix and water.
- **World Book Day, Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.** Book Character Dress-Up day for both children and staff. We invite everyone to dress up as their favourite book characters. You can choose a character from any book you love or the one that you enjoy reading. If you don’t have a costume, please don’t worry. We will provide some dressing -up costumes at preschool. We will set up DIY Costumes Craft Station where children can make their own costume

using cardboard, fabric, paper, glitter, markers, etc. to create simple accessories or hats that fit their favourite book character. We will hold a Costume Fashion Show with a “runway” for the children to present their outfits. Finally, we will create a themed photo booth with props where children can take pictures in their costumes.

- **Holy Festival of Colours, Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March.** Holi is a popular Hindu festival that celebrates the arrival of Spring. To mark this special occasion, we will be doing some colourful activities including Traditional Music and Dance inspired by the festive tunes of Holi and large painting activities.
- **St Patrick’s Day, Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.** It is a cultural and religious holiday commemorating St Patrick, the patron of Ireland. We are encouraging all children and staff to dress in green colour to make this event colourful. We will introduce some simple Irish dance moves, play some Irish folk music and let the children have fun dancing around.
- **Mother’s Day, Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.** To make this event memorable for children we have special activities planned during the week of 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of March. We kindly ask if any mums are free during that week to come and spend 10 to 15 minutes reading a story in English or your native language to a small group of children. If you are interested, please let us know your preferred time and day.
- **Eid, Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March.** It is a time of celebration after a month of fasting, prayers and reflection. Muslims give thanks to God for the strength to complete their fast and seek forgiveness for past mistakes. To make this event special we will do stories about the festival, craft activity, crescent moon and star activity.

#### **Parent Rota**

**Now that the children are settled, we are happy to invite parents to come in and spend time with the children or engage in activities such as storytelling, singing, cooking, or crafts. Please let us know your interest.**

## **Reminders**

\* **Book Bags – Please bring your child’s book bag every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to swap the book.**

\* Absence – Please remember to call or email the preschool if your child is absent. We need to know to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.

**SNACK donation.**



Thank you so much to everyone remembering to bring a piece of fruit for snack time and to those donating money towards our healthy snacks. Please can we continue to encourage this from as many as possible.

**Staff's recent West Sussex Professional Development Update:**

Messy – Safeguarding and Child Protection training on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March

Messy – First Aid training on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March

Inhouse Speech and Language training for all staff on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March

Olivia and Darlene – SENCO – INCO network meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March

Friary Preschool Contact Details:

For general enquiries, these can be emailed to the Friary Preschool using the following email address: [info@friarypreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@friarypreschool.co.uk) or by telephone on 01293 403873.