

# Newsletter March 2024




## 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. It has been nice to see the signs of Spring appearing on fields, in parks, with some snowdrops and daffodils.

During the half term, on Ash Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February the season of Lent has begun. Lent is the six-week period that leads up to Easter and is an important observance in Christian faith. The Lent period lasts for forty days, to mimic the forty days in which Jesus fasted in the wilderness.



**Green Fingers gardening project**



Children would have taken home their plant pots with herbs planted in them over this week. Please encourage your child to look after their herbs and bring them back to the Preschool for our Spring Garden show after Easter break. Your child will receive a certificate for taking part in this activity. ***Planting seeds and watching plants grow help children learn the value of patience, respect, and responsibility.***

Upcoming Events	News
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> March, Incredible Eggs</b> - A duckling kit comes to the preschool with 5 living duck eggs. Children will have an opportunity to watch the eggs hatch. <u>We are asking all parents for a voluntary donation of £1 towards the cost of this event.</u></p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> March, Holy Hindu Festival</b> - A festival of colours. Children are welcome to wear their favourite colour clothes.</p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> March, World Book Day</b> - Our Theme book is 'Pirate Loves Underpants'. Staff and children will dress up as pirates and princesses. <u>Please do not buy costumes if your child does not have one as we have spare costumes at the preschool.</u></p> <p><b>18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Parents Consultations</b> - Please book an appointment to discuss your child's learning and development across the early year's foundation stage.</p>	<p><b>Parent Rota</b> – We have a parent rota in the preschool. and we would love to invite parents to come and spend some time with your child's learning journey and share your talents with us.</p>  <p><b>Preschool Spring Garden</b> – We are in the process of making our preschool garden more inviting for the children. If you would like to donate soil or any plants, summer bedding, please bring it to preschool. We are always very grateful for any donation.</p> <p><b>Mother's Day – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> 

## Reminders

- Last day of Spring Term – Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. Preschool will be closed for Easter break. The first day back after Easter holidays is Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.
- Apply now for 15 hours free childcare from April 2024/ for 2-Year-Old children. [How to claim 15 hours free childcare including how to get your code - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#) The deadline to apply is 31st March. We recommend you do so by the end of February to get your childcare code in good time.

### **FUNDING – Funded 2-year-olds and 30 Hours Extended Free Entitlement**

Parents and Carers are reminded that it is their responsibility to apply and obtain the necessary codes (if entitled) to cover the costs of additional childcare sessions. If you have not obtained a code in good time, then the Friary Preschool will potentially not be able to claim the cost of your child's place and we will need to charge you for the sessions that Funding is not available to be claimed.

- Please collect your child promptly at the time their session ends. Collection times are 12pm, 3pm or 3.30pm. **A late collection fee of £5 will be charged.**
- **PACKED LUNCH**
  1. If your child brings yoghurt for lunch, please provide a spoon to eat it with.
  2. No chocolate, biscuits, sweets, or crisps etc. – encourage good eating habits.
  3. No popcorn – the highest choking hazard food for young children.
  4. No nuts, Nutella, or Peanut butter sandwiches – staff with severe allergies.
  5. Please cut chunky fruit pieces in half and grapes, tomatoes, cocktail sausages lengthways to protect your child from choking.



### 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.

### 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.