

Newsletter October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers



Autumn Half Term – Monday the 26th of October – Friday the 30th of October. **Preschool will be closed.** The first day back after the Autumn Half Term is Monday, the 2nd of November.

St Francis Feast – A Friend of Animals and Nature - 5th October

St Francis of Assisi loved animals and nature. St Francis believed that animals, birds, trees and flowers were special gifts from God, and he cared for all living things with kindness and love. He talked to the birds, and they listened. St Francis helped animals that were hurt or scared.



Activity

Take the children on a nature walk, encouraging them to collect natural items like leaves, small flowers, and twigs to make a display celebrating St. Francis' love for nature.

We will also enjoy animal songs and movement activities, encouraging the children to move, dance and make animal sounds as they explore different animals in a fun and imaginative way.

Through these activities, we hope to encourage the children to develop love and respect for animals, nature and the world around them.

Upcoming Events	News
5th October World Smile Day Activity: - Smiley Face Hunt Hide smiley faces (cutouts) around the room, have the children find them. Mirror Activity: – My Smile Give each child a small mirror and encourage them to look at their reflection. Ask: Can you show me your biggest smile?” What does your smile look like? What makes you feel happy?”	Forest School Activities We are happy to announce that our Forest School sessions will begin next week! The sessions will mainly be for our school leavers. However, our younger children will also have opportunities to spend time at Forest School alongside the older children and enjoy exploring the outdoors together. We will send parents a WhatsApp message this week to let you know which group will be attending each Forest School session. For parents of school leavers: If your child is attending a Forest School session, please send them to preschool

6th – 9th October – World Space Week,
Through our World Space Week activities, the children will explore planets, stars, rockets and the wonders of the universe. They will have opportunities to develop their communication and language, imagination, creativity, early mathematical skills, physical development and understanding of the world.

20th October - Oral Health Dental Nurse visit, Clare will be talking to children about healthy eating and sharing simple tips on how to keep our teeth strong and healthy.

wearing their all-in-one suit and suitable outdoor clothing.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, as Forest School is all about enjoying and exploring the great outdoors!

Autumn Activities

Encourage children to look for signs of the season, such as changing leaf colours, fallen acorns/conkers etc.

Through a range of fun autumn-themed activities, the children will have opportunities to develop their creativity, curiosity, knowledge and understanding of the world.

Things to Remember

- Please label all your child's belongings clearly to help prevent items from getting lost or mixed up.
- Please do not include chocolate or pesto in lunch boxes, as these may contain nuts.
- Please ensure that your child has a healthy and balanced lunch each day.

Starting School – September 2026

If your child is eligible to start school in **September 2027**, applications open online from **Monday, 5th October 2026**.

Apply online at: westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Deadline for applications: Friday, **15th January 2027**

 **Tooth Brushing Activity** - We are excited to announce that our tooth-brushing activity will begin next week!

Children's Workshop – 29th September 2026

The children took part in an engaging and informative workshop where they learned about the importance of looking after their teeth and maintaining good dental hygiene. They explored why brushing their teeth is important and learned about healthy habits that help to keep their smiles bright and healthy.

We look forward to continuing to promote healthy habits and good dental hygiene among our children!

☀️ Staff Changes / Updates

A Warm Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome Darlene back to the team on 5th October as she returns from maternity leave. We are very happy to have her back and look forward to seeing her and welcoming her back into the preschool family!

A Warm Welcome!

We are also pleased to welcome our new team member, Lisa Foster, who will be joining us during the first week of October.

We are excited to have Lisa join our team and look forward to getting to know her. We hope she feels very welcome as she becomes part of our preschool family! 😊



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 or by telephone on 01293 403873.