

# Newsletter May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a time when Catholics honour her with special prayers, devotion, and acts of love and kindness.

## May – Mary, Mother of the Church

Throughout the month of May, the children will be learning about Mary, Mother of the Church, and why she is so special. They will take part in simple and meaningful activities, including making flowers, creating a preschool display, sharing short prayers, and listening to gentle stories about Mary.

We will also encourage the children to show kindness, care, and helpfulness towards others, following Mary's loving example. Through these experiences, we hope to nurture values of compassion, respect, and love within our preschool community.

**Please make a note of the below Preschool closure dates in May due to May Bank Holiday and Summer half term.**

May Bank Holiday – Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of May – Preschool Closed

Summer Half Term – 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of May – Preschool Closed

First day back after Summer Half Term – Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.


### **Children's Day – 10th May (Dress for Fun!)**

We are excited to celebrate this special day with our wonderful preschool children!

Children and staff are invited to come dressed for fun in any theme they choose — such as a princess, pirate, firefighter, animal, or their favourite character.

We have a day full of exciting activities planned, including music, dancing, and lots of fun throughout the day.

We will also enjoy a **picnic lunch in the field**, making the celebration extra special for everyone.

We look forward to a joyful and memorable day together! 



## Day in the Life – Photographic Challenge (from 15th May)

Our school leavers are taking part in an exciting opportunity to capture special moments they notice in nature and around their environment.

Children will be encouraged to take photographs of anything that catches their eye, such as plants, insects, or everyday moments within the setting.

This activity supports curiosity, observation, and creativity, while helping children share their unique view of the world through their own photographs.

### **Spring Activities at Preschool**

This Spring children will take part in a variety of engaging activities designed to support their learning and development.

- Butterfly Life Cycle – Our butterfly kit has arrived, and the children are excited to begin this wonderful learning experience! They will watch tiny caterpillars grow and change, observing each stage of the life cycle as they transform into beautiful butterflies. This hands-on experience will encourage curiosity, wonder, and a growing love of nature.
- Learning new words and extending their vocabulary
- Nature Walk – We will be visiting Southgate Park to observe the signs of spring, including blossoms, flowers, and the seasonal changes happening in nature. This will give the children a wonderful opportunity to explore the outdoors, develop their observation skills, and appreciate the beauty of the natural world.
- Science Experiment – The children will explore sinking and floating using spring-themed resources such as blossoms, twigs, and other natural materials.
- Spring Stories and Songs – We'll be enjoying a selection of seasonal stories and songs to celebrate springtime.
- Gardening – The children will help care for our flowers, vegetables, and herbs in the garden, learning about how plants grow and what they need to thrive. Through hands-on gardening, they will develop a sense of responsibility, patience, and an appreciation for the natural world.

**Teddy Bears Picnic – June, Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> - We are looking forward to our lovely annual Family Fun Day at Goffs Park. Families, grandparents, and friends are warmly invited to join us for a fun-filled day together. There will be games, miniature train rides, craft activities, and much more to enjoy. We encourage everyone to bring a picnic and spend a wonderful day making special memories with our preschool families and friends.**

### Staff Changes Update

We would like to share some important updates regarding our team.

#### **Farewell to Olivia**

Olivia will be taking a year's break to focus on her adoption journey. Her last day with us will be 15th May, if all goes as planned. She will be greatly missed by children, families, and staff alike.

We send her our heartfelt wishes for happiness, love, and many precious memories as she begins this special new chapter with her family. 🧡

#### **Welcome to Lisa**

We are also delighted to welcome Lisa, who joined our team on 13th April. She has settled in wonderfully and is already a lovely addition to our preschool community.

We are very pleased to have her with us and look forward to working together going forward.

### **Preparing for Reception – School Transition Support**

As we approach the final term, we are beginning to prepare our older children for their transition to Reception in September. To help make the move to “big school” as smooth and positive as possible, we are working closely with local primary schools. Where possible, your child's new Reception teacher may visit them at preschool. In some cases, a member of our team may also visit your child's new school to share information and support this important step in their learning journey.

For helpful information, advice, and resources about starting school, please visit [startingreception.co.uk](http://startingreception.co.uk).

## Reminders

- **Sun protection** – As the weather becomes warmer, please apply a long-lasting (8-hour) sunscreen to your child before they arrive at preschool. Unfortunately, staff are unable to reapply sunscreen during the day, so we appreciate your support in helping to keep the children protected while they enjoy outdoor play. Please provide your child with a **sun hat** clearly labelled with their name.

### **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.