

# Newsletter February 2026

## Dear Parents and Carers



We are delighted to share the outcome of our Ofsted inspection, which took place on **4th December**. The inspection recognised the dedication, care, and hard work of our staff team, along with the nurturing and stimulating learning environment we provide for our children.

We are incredibly proud to have been rated **strong across all areas of learning**.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to share their views with Ofsted. Your support and positive feedback mean so much to us and are truly appreciated.

We would like to remind all parents that Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of February is the last day of preschool. The week, **16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>st</sup> of February is the Spring Half Term and the preschool will be closed**. The first day back after the Spring Half Term is Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. We wish all children and their families a restful and enjoyable half term break.

### Green Fingers Garden Project

As part of our **Green Finger Garden** project, the children will be planting seeds of their choice in individual pots. They will then take their pots home, and we kindly ask that you support your child in caring for their plant by watering it regularly and placing it in a sunny spot.

Please return the plant to preschool at the **end of March**, so we can continue the project together.



## Upcoming Events

### Lent / Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent, is traditionally celebrated by making pancakes. As it falls during the half-term holidays, we will be celebrating on 10th February.

The children will enjoy decorating their own pancakes and choosing their favourite toppings. We'll also be holding pancake races and taking part in other fun activities throughout the day for everyone to enjoy!

## **Chinese New Year**

Chinese New Year falls during the half-term holidays this year, so we will be celebrating it at preschool on 25th and 26th February.

The children will enjoy exploring Chinese New Year through a range of fun, hands-on activities, including:

### **Creative & Craft Activities**

- Making paper lanterns using red paper, stickers, and gold crayons
- Cherry blossom painting using finger painting with pink and white paint

### **Music & Movement**

- Dragon dance – children will hold a long paper dragon and move together to music
- Chinese music movement – dancing with scarves or ribbons
- Drumbeats – tapping rhythms and taking part in a lively parade

### **Story & Language**

- Listening to a simple story about Chinese New Year
- Learning a traditional greeting: “*Gong Hei Fat Choy*”

### **Sensory & Play**

- Playdough bakery – making dumplings, buns, and other treats

These activities will support the children’s creativity, cultural awareness, language development, and teamwork while having lots of fun.

## **Valentine’s Day (11th–13th February)**

We will be celebrating Valentine’s Day during the last week before half-term, from 11th–13th February. The children will be encouraged to take part in a variety of fun and meaningful activities focused on kindness, friendship, and caring for others.

### **Kindness Activities**

- Giving a heart to a friend
- Talking about who we love and why
- Sharing and turn-taking games

The theme will also be explored through stories, songs, sensory play, and creative craft activities, helping children to develop positive relationships and emotional understanding in a nurturing way.

## **Forest School**

We are pleased to announce that our Forest School sessions will take place every Thursday. We are excited to welcome St Wilfrid’s Year 9 students, who will be joining us to support play and extend our children’s learning by sharing their knowledge. We are very grateful to St Wilfrid’s staff and students for their continued support and partnership.

<p><b>Recycling at Preschool</b></p> <p>At preschool, we are encouraging children to care for the environment by practising simple recycling habits as part of their daily routine. Children are supported to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place fruit scraps and food waste into the compost bin</li> <li>• Put used paper into the recycling bin</li> </ul> <p>These small actions help children to learn responsibility and develop respect for the world around them.</p> <p>We encourage families to continue modelling positive environmental habits at home, helping to reinforce these important lessons beyond preschool.</p>	<p><b>Labelling Your Child's Belongings</b></p> <p>To help us keep children's belongings safe and avoid mix-ups at home time, it is very important that all items are clearly labelled.</p> <p>We kindly ask parents and carers to check that their child's clothing, bags, and other personal items are clearly labelled. This small step makes a big difference in keeping everyone's belongings safe and helps to reduce lost items and end-of-day confusion.</p>
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### **A Gentle Reminder – Nail Care**

To help keep all children safe and comfortable during play, activities, and mealtimes, we kindly ask that parents and carers ensure their child's nails are kept short and neatly trimmed.

Long or sharp nails can accidentally cause scratches during everyday play. Your support with this small but important step helps us maintain a safe, happy, and caring environment for all our children.

### **Snack Donations**

Thank you so much to everyone who remembers to bring a piece of fruit for snack time and to those who kindly donate money towards our healthy snack provision. Your support is greatly appreciated.



We kindly ask that as many families as possible continue to support this, as it helps us provide healthy, nutritious snacks for all the children.

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.