

1ST half of Spring Term 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the start of the Spring term at Little Fingers. As we begin the Spring term we are excited about the year ahead and the exciting learning opportunities we have planned. We would like to welcome Ellis, Thomas, Cody and their families to Little Fingers. We hope you have a wonderful start to your early years' education during your time with us.

Topics to ignite interests!

The Big Garden Birdwatch

27th-29th Jan 2023

As the Big Bird Watch is fast approaching, we are excitedly getting ready. The children will be making bird feeders to encourage more birds into the pre-school garden, they will be using different materials and media to make their own birds to put into our inside tree. They will be looking closely at birds that they see in the garden, books and online, sparking conversations about the birds, their habitats and what they like to eat.

We will also be making the most of our wonderful rural location by taking the children on nature walks to see what birds we can spot.

Home learning: - Why not as a family join in with the 'Big Watch' weekend. If the weather is nice have a go at making a simple 'twiches den' for the perfect place to watch all the feather visitors to your garden, if the weather isn't great make an inside den, by a garden door or window. So dig out those old sheets and blankets and have fun. I have attached a bird watching check list for you to record all your feathered visitors.



Celebrating the Luna New Year.

Whether it be cooking up a stir fry in the pre-school's Chinese restaurant, listening to authentic Chinese music, tasting some Chinese cuisine, looking at traditional dress or joining in with a celebratory dragon dance, there will be lots of exciting learning opportunities for the children to explore and discover about the Chinese culture. The Luna New Year is a big celebration in China. We will also be looking at other countries who also celebrate the Luna New Year.

Home learning:- Test out those culinary skills by cooking a Chinese meal for the family to enjoy. Get your child/ren involved with planning what to cook by looking up some yummy recipes online or in cook books. Then they can help with writing out a shopping list before going shopping and then finally helping to chop vegetables and cook the meal.



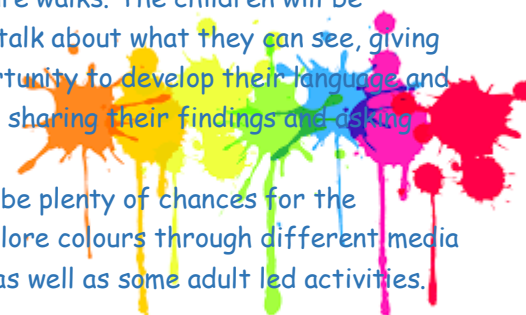
Please share pictures with us.

Colour, colours everywhere!

As part of our curriculum over the next few weeks the children will be given the opportunity to look at and explore colours in many fun, exciting and new ways.

The children will be looking at colours all around us, whether that be in the classroom, playground or during our nature walks. The children will be encouraged to talk about what they can see, giving them the opportunity to develop their language and communication, sharing their findings and asking questions.

There will also be plenty of chances for the children to explore colours through different media independently as well as some adult led activities.



Experimenting with paint will play a big part, looking at different things other than paint brushes to explore the fun of mark making.

At the pre-school we do have aprons available for children to wear and they are encouraged to put them on but sometimes the aprons upset children and they leave the activity and the learning opportunity.

We feel very strongly at pre-school that the joining in, exploring and the learning opportunity far outweighs trying to keep clothes clean. So please could we remind you to only send your child/ren in, in clothes that you are happy for them to get messy in. It shows you the fun that has been had!



Sharing stories - Focused books
(Supporting our curriculum aims)

Home learning bags.

We are very excited to introduce our new set of home learning bags. We have 5 different bags filled with fun activities for you to share at home with your child. Whether it be a story bag, letter Leo phonic bag or a mathematics bag, there is lots of fun and learning for everyone.

The children will be given the opportunity to take the bags home or you can request a bag at any time.

Feedback about how you found/enjoyed the bags at home would be gratefully received.

Please see attached information on the 'Story bag' bags, other information for different bags to follow.

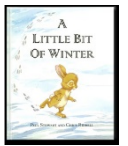
While books play a big part of our daily curriculum we do like to select a few that we look at closely during the term, using the stories to support our curriculum aims for the children.

Below are the stories we have chosen and just some of the curriculum aims we intend them to support:

- 'Elmer' by David Mackee - Elmer is different from all the other elephants - he is so colourful. We will be looking at all the colours and celebrating how everybody is different but just as special.



- 'A little bit of winter' by Paul Stewart-Hedgehog is feeling sad because he doesn't know what winter feels like, so his friend Bunny promises to help. A wonderful way to share feelings, emotions, talk about friends and kindness. It's also a great book for this time of year to explore how winter does feel in our environment. The children will also be learning about animals in hibernation.



- 'Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister - Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in the whole ocean but not very popular, with no friends. She learns the benefits of kindness. A great story for learning about friendships and kindness



Home Learning - All of the above books are available in 'Big books' for you to share at home, please ask if you would like to borrow one.

Please could I remind you that at Little Fingers, we have an open-door ethos. I am happy to chat at any time or welcome you to join us in the pre-school.

Outside Play, Weather Policy

Please could you ensure that your child/ren have appropriate clothing and foot wear, as we have an all year round outside play ethos.



We do have waterproof, all-in-ones at the pre-school so a warm coat and some wellies would be perfect.



Baby and child first aid

Thanks to Kirsty from Daisy First Aid we are thrilled to be able to offer you all the opportunity to learn lifesaving skills.

As parents, the thought of having an unwell child or an emergency situation fills us with complete dread, this course will prepare you to deal with those situations.

The course will be held at Hurstbourne Tarrant Village Hall, 8th February 2023, 7-9pm at a fantastic price of £25.

To book please email littlefingersfriends@gmail.com

Diary Dates:

Wed 8th Feb – Daisy First Aid Course
Hurstbourne Tarrant Village Hall @7:00pm – 9:00pm

Mon 13th Feb – Fri 17th Feb (inclusive) – Half term

Wed 22nd Feb – 2YO Progress and Development Review

Wed 1st Mar – 3/4YO Progress and Development Review

Fri 31st Mar – End of Spring term

Tue 18th Apr – Start of Summer term

Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd Jun (inclusive) – Half term

Fri 7th Jul – Sports Day (10am – 12:00pm)

Thu 13th Jul – End of term

Fri 14th Jul – Leavers Celebration (**only for those children leaving Little Fingers**)

Wed 6th Sep – Start of Autumn term 2023