

1ST half Spring Term 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the start of the Spring term at Little Fingers Pre-school. 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 Ada, Billy, Boaz, Elsie, Harriet, Lola, Pru, William 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

28th - 30th January 2022

As the Big Garden Birdwatch is fast approaching, we will be 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

onto our 'inside' tree. They will be looking closely at birds that they see in the garden, in 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: - As a family, why not join in with the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' weekend? If the weather is nice, have a go at making a simple 'twitches den' for the perfect place to watch all the feathered 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.



Chinese New Year

1st Feb 2022

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 more about the Chinese culture, at Little Fingers this term.

We are planning a fun dress up day on Tuesday 1st Feb 2022 for the Chinese New Year. With red and gold being lucky colours, we are asking the children to come dressed in those colours or as this year is the year of the tiger, come dressed as a tiger.

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



In line with our 'Teaching and Planning in the moment' learning through play and the child at the centre of learning, pedagogy, children's individual interests and developmental needs are at the forefront of our daily teaching and planning. Our 'topics to ignite interests' are to ensure that children are given opportunities to learn about the world in which they live and have the chance to explore, learn and experience new things.

'Look at me learning at home' board

At the pre-school we will be introducing the board so the children can share photos with the staff and the other children about the fun things they get up to at home, sparking lots of discussions. Whilst children learn and develop at pre-school we know that so much is done at home, thus the reason for the board. Please could we ask that you upload pictures of your child/children with a brief description, onto



shutterstock.com · 1258094857

Tapestry for your child / children to put on the board, helping us to keep your child's learning journey consistent between pre-school and home.

Self-help skills.....Supporting children to be independent at the pre-school is a big part of our curriculum, whether it be washing hands, getting dressed, putting on shoes or feeding themselves. These are all important self-help (life) skills to develop in the early years but we need your help. Here are some top tips that would really help your child's/children's development.

- Having shoes with simple velcro straps or slip on (no laces)
- Trousers that can easily be pulled up and down (no belts)
- Yoghurts in pots (not squeeze tubes or pouches)

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

World Book Day 3rd March 2022

We are celebrating World Book Day all week from Monday 28th February. We are inviting the children to bring in their favourite book to share with us and to dress as their favourite character, if they'd like to.

Keep that smile bright!

In line with the changes to the Early Years Statutory Requirements, we are tweaking how we encourage and promote children's oral health, starting with healthy lunch time choices. Could we please request that chocolate, sweets, fizzy drinks, juice or raisins are not part of your child's/children's lunch boxes.



This may come as a surprise but as raisins are high in sugar and are quite sticky, they tend to get stuck in children's teeth. This can lead to tooth decay.

We are also asking that if your child stays for lunch, that they have a tooth brush and tooth paste in their lunch box. After lunch we will be encouraging the children to brush their own teeth.

Diary Dates:

Thursday 3rd February - How early years teaching looks at Little Fingers and understanding the changes to our curriculum, planning and assessments - Via zoom 7:30pm

Tuesday 15th February 4:30pm-7:30pm
2 yr old progress review (2 yr old check)

Thursday 17th February 4:30pm-8:00pm
Progress review evening for all 3 and 4 yr olds.

Friday 18th February 1:00pm -3:00pm
Progress review afternoon via telephone calls.

Friday 18th February
Finish for half term

Monday 28th February
First day back to pre-school after half term