

Summer term 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer term, as we begin the term we are excited about the year ahead and the exciting learning opportunities we have planned. We would like to welcome Harry G, Hugo, Harry D, Anna, Otilie, Olenka, Eden, Daisy 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!

What our curriculum for the children looks like this term and what we want the children to learn.



In the garden... plant, look after and taste

The summer term is a very busy one when it comes to the garden at Little Fingers. Firstly, over the coming weeks all the children will be helping to select what flowers and vegetables they would like to grow in the garden and then help to plant them. They will then spend the term looking after the garden and watching as it changes with growth. When all the hard work has been done the children will be learning about healthy eating and tasting their home grown produce.

Curriculum intentions/aims for the children: - Understanding the world;

- I enjoy helping to plant in the garden, looking at key features of the life cycle of a plant.
- Learning about how to care for plants and what they need from the environment to grow. I can notice change over time - commenting on growing things.

Personal, social and emotional development;

- I show an understanding of healthy and unhealthy foods.

New life - changes as I grow

As the Spring is upon us, it's the perfect time of year to learn about all the wonderful new life that is popping up all around us.

We are planning many different experiences for the children to learn about new life, growing and noticing changes.

The arrival of the lambs gave the children the opportunity to learn about lambing and why they weren't with their mummies. The children also took turns to feed the lambs.

The children will also be looking at the life cycles of different animals with some real life 'hands on' experience in the form of caring for their own caterpillar and helping to care for eggs in the pre-school, with the excitement of waiting for them to hatch. This really is an exciting time at the pre-school and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Curriculum intentions/aims for the children: - Understanding the world;

- Showing respect for the natural world and living things, why and how to care for them.
- I am naturally curious about the world I live in, asking questions and exploring.
- I have joined in with learning about animal life cycles, gaining an understanding of changes they make and how to care for them.



Home Learning!

The children will all be bringing a caterpillar home to look after. They will be provided with a diary sheet to complete and to record the changes that their caterpillar makes.

We would like to make a 'my life cycle' so far with the children so could you help your child gather photos of themselves from a pregnant bump, up to now, and bring them into pre-school.

Children's voice makes the choice!

We have noticed that a large number of children at the pre-school recently, are showing a strong interest in bugs, so we are building their interest into this term's curriculum. Alongside learning about life cycles we will be going on bug hunts around the pre-school and into the forest, looking at information books and using the internet to learn some fun bug facts. To further enhance the children's learning opportunities, we are planning a visit from 'ZooLab', who will bring along some truly amazing bugs and animals.



Can you help? - If you have any books or insect taxidermy at home, we would to see it.

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.

As our doors open once more, we would like to invite our parents and guardians into the pre-school. Look out for our "sing-a-long" and "story" parent sessions.

Dates to follow.

Story Sloth.... sharing stories.



We are very excited to introduce 'Story Sloth', the newest member of the pre-school. He has carefully selected some stories for us to enjoy this term, the stories fit in with our curriculum plans perfectly. During the day 'Story Sloth' loves nothing more than sharing stories with the children at the pre-school and being involved in their play, whether it be sitting for a tea party or being dragged through the sand by his ear, he has a smashing time.

The problem comes at night, he needs a bed time story read each night so he never forgets how or stops enjoying books.

So, we need your help. Could you open up your home for the occasional night to a super soft Story Sloth? All you would have to do is share a story with your child and our Story Sloth and make a small entry into the 'Sloth Sleep-over Story Book'.... We look forward to seeing all his adventures! Thank you.

Sloths selection of stories-

- Monkey Puzzle
- Hoppity Skip, Little Chick
- The TeenyWeeny Tadpole
- The Very Greedy Bee
- The Crunching Munching Caterpillar
- Dora's Eggs
- The Butterfly

Curriculum intentions/aims for the children: - Literacy:

- Building a love of books, listening to stories.
- I join in with retelling familiar stories.
- I recognise print in books and how it is read.
- I engage in extended conversations about stories and books, learning new vocabulary.

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 lunch boxes.



Raisins may come as a bit of a surprise but as they are quite sticky they tend to get stuck in children's teeth, as they are high in sugar this can lead to tooth decay.

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

Diary Dates:

Monday 23rd May at 1:30pm - ZooLab

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June (inclusive) - Half term

Wednesday 15th June & Thursday 16th June 4:30pm-7:00pm - Parents' evenings

Wednesday 29th June & Thursday 30th June 4:30pm - 7:00pm - Transition to school parents' evenings

Friday 1st July 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Open afternoon (Pre-school closed from 12:00pm)

Friday 8th July 10:00am - 1:00pm - Sports morning

Thursday 14th July - Children's summer party and end of term

Friday 15th July - Leavers Celebration (for those children leaving LF only - finishing at 12:00pm)

Second hand uniform is available from Olivia

adminoffice.lfpreschool@btinternet.com

Whilst we wait for our uniform order to be completed, we have some second-hand items in stock: polo shirts £2:00 each, gilets £5:00 each and half-zip fleeces £5:00.

Please remember sunhats and sunscreen!!

Summer has arrived and the forecast is set to be **hot** for next week. Please ensure that your child has sunscreen applied before they come to pre-school. Staff will reapply children's own sunscreen as needed. Please ensure your child's sunscreen is clearly named.

ZooLab are coming to visit the children at Little Fingers Pre-school, on **Monday 23rd May at 1:30pm.**

If your child usually attends pre-school on a Monday morning, they are welcome to stay on for the ZooLab visit. We just ask that you collect them after the 45 min session.

Likewise, if your child does **not** usually come to Little Fingers on a Monday afternoon and they would like to join in with the ZooLab experience, please let your Key Carer or Miss Leanne know. Due to ratios we ask that you bring them just before 1:30pm and stay with your child for the ZooLab 45 min session.

In line with our Safeguarding policy, if your child is unwell and will not coming to pre-school, please contact us by 9:00am to let us know.

If you would like your child to do additional sessions/hours, please email Miss Leanne manager.lfpreschool@btinternet.com

We are getting a little congested with big rucksacks coming to pre-school each day. Please can you use your blue Little Fingers draw string bags that you were given when your child started. These bags should contain a change of clothes (and some nappies) and are to stay at Little Fingers. The staff will let you know when your child's bag needs replenishing.

Thank you for your help and support!