

Pre-School Post



There's light at the end of the tunnel

For the first time in many months, I felt a hint of optimism after hearing the Government's roadmap out of the current situation on Monday but it will undoubtedly still be a journey to go on together.

Of course, children coming back to school & pre-school is the first step on this journey and I am pleased we have 5 weeks after 8th March until more opens up so that we can work together to make sure we all stay healthy and clear of COVID for as long as possible.

The teachers and I are all very pleased to have the children coming back into pre-school – we won't be sad to see the back of online learning as I'm sure many of you may agree!! For some families, I know you have thrived with children at home and for others, I know that it's been more of a trial. I know for many of you whose children have been learning at home, you will be thinking about how your child/ren will transition back into school. We will be posting videos each day next week about coming back to pre-school so please do watch these with your child at home.

Mrs Evans has been busy resting after her period of illness and will be back in pre-school on 8th March along with the children. We have the sessions booked in for you as you had requested from January and next week, will post a reminder of these on Tapestry for you so that you know when we're expecting to see your child. We have had a few new friends join us and there's more new children coming after we get all of our regular children settled back in – we can't wait to see you all.

Kind regards,
Mrs Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

Billing

By Monday 8th March, we'll have your bill ready for this half term. We have children booked in for sessions you'd requested before this lockdown began and will use as the basis for billing.

All fees and consumables for this half term will need to be settled by 29th March please as this is our year end.

Bags2School

Hardly boring, this might result in a spring clean! If you're anything like me, you're building up lots of these items for 31st March:

- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- covers
- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet)

Drop them in our car park between 8.30am – 10am on 31st and bask in the glory of helping others AND having a clear house!

Uniform

As you may know, our pre-school children can wear whatever they like on the bottom half – tutus, tracksuit bottoms, shorts etc but on the top half, we would like them to all have a school jumper please.

Now is a great time to make sure you have ones that fit before their return on 8th March. New ones can be ordered from Skoolkit, our uniform supplier. There's also snuggly fleeces, hoodies and PE bags on the site.

[Click here to go to our school uniform website](#)

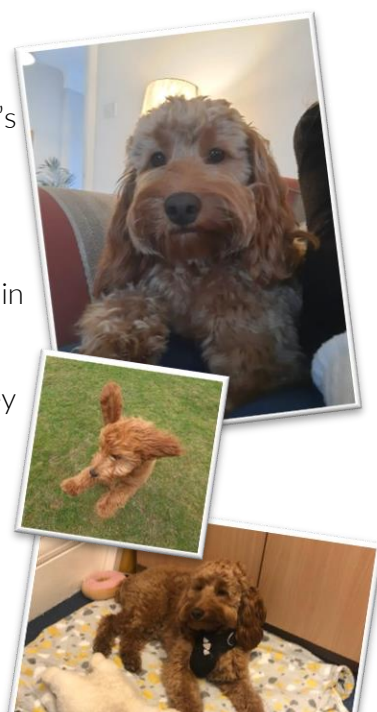
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Meet Fudge!

We have been exploring the idea of a school dog for quite a while now and Mrs Holdich's puppy cockapoo, Fudge, fits our ticklist perfectly! School dogs are becoming a more common occurrence and schools that have dogs report huge benefits for the whole school community.

Used as reading dogs, emotional regulation and calming dogs as well as interpreting Makaton signs and supporting children with specific learning needs, dogs can be trained in a number of ways to bring their calming, kind influence to bear with children and adults. We are not entering into this lightly and would really like your views on us having Fudge in school so we'd really appreciate you taking 5 mins of your time to complete this survey please: [SCHOOL DOG NEWSLETTER](#)

We are working with a company called 'Canine Assisted Learning' who are specialists at introducing dogs into schools and ensuring schools, and their stakeholders understand a dog's needs, how they best interact with children and will be on hand every step of the way to support us in making Fudge accessible and safe for children with allergies, those with phobias and how best to manage Fudge in school safely for the benefit of all involved. I look forward to hearing your views.



Playing & gathering

We know that the thing most children have found most challenging this lockdown is not seeing their friends. Whether they've been in school or been at home, friendships that were rekindled in the autumn term have been sorely missed.

We also know how tempting it will be to arrange playdates and 'meet ups' in the park. We're hearing that an awful lot of that is going on now!

I must ask you as parents to please refrain from these gatherings as much as possible please until things settle down a little more – we are still under national restrictions and working really hard to maintain bubbles in school.

I have had several complaints from local residents and members of the community about school groups gathering after school without wearing masks or playing in local churchyard and car parks. I fear that this will only increase when more children return to school. I can only ask that you don't engage with these – children will have plenty of time to play with friends in school time in the coming weeks.

We should all still be in the situation that children are being dropped off at school and collected with the same respect to social distancing and immediately going home as we should have been adhering to in the last weeks and months.

Thanks for your help in this, we'll be back to being able to play in the playground after school before you know it!

Our favourite parent support adviser, Lorraine Lee, is running an online workshop for just £11 on Tuesday 2nd March all about how to support your child after lockdown. She's absolutely brilliant and this workshop comes highly recommended.

See the attached flyer for booking info.

Other dates in the wider term:

All of these are new dates please make sure they're on your calendars!

Thurs 4 th March	All day	World Book Day
w/b 8 th March	All week	Science week
	08:45	All children return to school
Wed 10 th March	Am	School office on training – please call in the afternoon if you need us
Fri 19 th March	All day	Comic Relief
Wed 31 st March	08:30	Bags2School – drop any textiles in bin bags in the car park to help raise money for school & clear our your cupboards on a spring clean
Thurs 1 st April	All day	INSET day – training for staff – children at home
Fri 2 nd – Sun 18 th April – EASTER holidays		
Mon 19 th April	08:45	Return to school for summer term