



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

February 2023

We are now taking bookings for the school year commencing September 2023. Please let us know asap what sessions you require. We have limited spaces available. Confirmation emails will be sent out shortly.

Allergies

Please can you avoid sending PEACHES or any products that contain PEACHES.

Health Update

We have been advised by Worcestershire County Council, just like before Christmas there are several known nasty illnesses/viruses in the local area. We will do our best to limit the spread of these at nursery. Please help us, by not sending your children if they have a temperature or are not well in themselves. Can you please keep them off for the designated amount of time and DO NOT give them Calpol so they can come to nursery.

Term Dates

<u>Spring Term 2022</u> (11 Week Term)	
Friday 31 March	End of Spring Term

EYPP – Early Years Pupil Premium

Last term we put money towards weekly Yoga sessions, emergency services visits and Animal Mania. The children got to meet, hold and stroke different types of animals. They learnt new vocabulary, information about where the animals live and how to care for the different animals. We also bought new books around behaviour and emotions to support the children's understanding. Two members of staff went on an ADHD course.

This term we will be putting the money towards Apps for the new interactive tables, a visit from Early Years inclusion to support the staff with new strategies to help support the children, weekly yoga, a visit from the dentist and possible lamb visit.



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

Invoices and Fees

We have managed to keep fees the same since 2021 but with prices increasing the last few years we now have to consider some fee increases to keep the nursery viable. Due to the rise in heating, staff wages, extra products and equipment costs we will be changing some of the fees. The proposed changes in April are:

- The morning activities £3.
- The afternoon activities £2.
- 3 year old non government funded hours will be £4.60 per hour the term after the child's third birthday. This increase is in line with the government hourly rate.
- The 2 year old rate of £5 per hour will remain the same which is less than the current government guidelines.

Each child's attendance at the group is conditional upon continued payment of any necessary fees. (There is a late payment clause). Fees continue to be payable if a child is absent or on holiday. In the cases of prolonged absence, please speak to Heather and Natasha.

If you qualify for 30 hour funding please ensure you keep your code valid / updated, Worcestershire County Council will only guarantee funding if the code is valid prior to the start of the term that you attend so being validated as current for the term.

We understand that these increases may come as a shock. Please speak to Heather if you have any concerns or difficulties.

Following Worcestershire County Council guidelines, there will be one child exempt from paying the enrichment fee per term. This child will remain anonymous. This will be determined by the following rules;

1. EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) – A child is on EYPP or receiving 2 year old funding.
2. If there is more than 1 child on EYPP or receiving 2 year old funding, the name will be drawn from a hat.
3. If there are no children on EYPP or receiving 2 year old funding, all the children's names will be put in a hat and drawn to see what child will receive the exemption.

The enrichment fees, allow us to cover the cost of the resources needed to do the additional activities, allow us to give the children different experiences to learn from, and give us the opportunity to bring outside teachers in.



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

Weekly Topic

Every week there will be a letter. The children are welcome to bring a toy from home that relates to the letter sound of the week for show and tell. If you do not want to bring the toy in, you could also send a photo on Tapestry! We will also be introducing 2 songs of the week across the term. This will support the children's language development in a fun way. These songs will link to the letter of the week.

We will be continuing to learn about emotions. We will be focusing on emotions as Early Years children feel a range of emotions, but often cannot express, interpret or process them. Research shows that children with poor emotional skills, it could be harder for the children to learn. Behaviour can be an expression of their feeling and emotions.

Week 1 – C/K (St David's Day and World Book Day)

Week 2 – E (Holi)

Week 3 – H (St Patricks Day and Mother's Day)

Week 4 – R

Week 5 – M (Easter)

Home Learning – Letter Sounds

To support the children's learning of letter sounds you could:

- Go on a letter sound treasure hunt in the house/ garden and see how many objects they can find.
- Go on a walk and see how many things they can find of that letter sound.
- Play letter sound 'eye spy' i.e. "I spy with my little eye something beginning with a". Make sure you are saying the phonics sound not the letter itself.

Home Learning - Emotions

To help support the children understand their emotions, you can:

- Label the children's emotions when at home.
- Ask them "how are you feeling?"
- "Why do you that way?"
- Show pictures of emotions.
- Listen to what the child says.
- Look at their body language, actions, sounds or words used.



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

Operation Encompass

We are pleased to say that we are an Operation Encompass nursery. Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between Early Years Settings, schools and police forces. It means that as a nursery we will be notified when a child has experienced domestic abuse (seeing or hearing), prior to them arriving at nursery. All staff members have been trained but the designated key adult is Heather (Designated Safeguarding Lead), with back up of Natasha (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) when Heather is not available. We believe being a part of this scheme as a nursery will provide the best support to all our children and will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Early Help

At Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery we recognise the challenges that families face in bringing up children. There may be times when you need extra help and support.

Early help is a way of getting extra support when you or your family needs it, but getting it as soon as the difficulties start, rather than waiting until things get worse. Help can come from all kinds of services and organisations who work together to support your family. You might be using some of these services already, but we want to make sure they are providing the right support for you and your family's needs.

It could be that you're worried about your child's health, development or behaviour, or perhaps because you are caring for a disabled child. Maybe your child is affected by domestic abuse, drugs or alcohol. Maybe you have had a bereavement in the family or someone close to your child is ill, or there has been a disruption to your family life and you are worried about the effect on them.

It could be that you yourself find times difficult and need advice with housing, debt, relationships or mental health issues.

If this is the case, please come talk to us. There are many ways our nursery can help and support you and your family.

Useful Links:

[NSPCC - Keeping Children Safe](#)
[Domestic Abuse Support](#)
[Childline](#)
[Alcohol / Drugs abuse](#)
[Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#)
[Mental Health support](#)

[Early Help Family Support](#)
[ERIC – Toileting Advice](#)
[Starting Well Partnership](#)
[Child Tax Credit and Childcare Funding](#)



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

Tapestry

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the new children, these will be created when all the registration forms have been returned, before the children start. The parents will then receive an email on how to activate their account.

Tapestry is our online learning journal that allows us to send the parents observations of what they have done at nursery home, and also for you to send photos from home. Last term we were blown away by the number of photos and achievements sent to us via Tapestry. We would love to continue this. If you go to a special event, any home learning activities, days out and WOW moments or even if the children want to show us something from home, please do not hesitate to send it via Tapestry. The children enjoy showing these photo's during show and tell. How to upload photos or videos to Tapestry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=espJ96TJHV8>. You will receive at least 1 observation a week unless your child is off sick or on holiday. When you receive an observation it will say the areas of development it links too such as: physical development etc.

Wow Board

Last term the children helped create a 'WOW' board in nursery. It contains stars with achievements the children have met in nursery. The children themselves with their key worker add their own stars to the board.

We are looking to put photos of achievements from outside of nursery onto the board too. When your child has achieved something i.e. a certificate for dance, using the toilet for the first time, learning a new song etc, please can you send us a photo on Tapestry or email so the children can add it to the board.

Interactive Table

We are pleased to say we have managed to find and purchase a second hand interactive table with last year's fundraising money raised at the garden party. We would like to thank all the parents for their donations and support in looking for the interactive table. The interactive table can enhance literacy and numeracy skills through IT skills. It allows the children to interact together by encouraging them to socialise, learn to take turns, work together, share and communicate.

Easter Raffle

We will be holding an Easter Raffle to be drawn at our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Tickets available £1 a ticket. Proceeds towards summer activities for the children.

Easter Raffle donations welcome.



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

Events

Yoga/ Pilates – Kathryn from KSCIM will continue to teach Yoga/ Pilates on Thursday afternoons. The children really enjoyed this last term. They got to pretend to be fairies, superheroes and animals. This will support the children's anxiety, well-being whilst doing a physical activity. After the Easter holidays, Yoga/Pilates will be on some Tuesday afternoons.

Leapfrog Sports – Amanda from Leapfrog sports will be visiting on Thursday mornings after the Easter holidays. The children will get to learn a new sport every week. The rising stars children will need a P.E kit to change into. The children not going to school 2023 will need to wear suitable shoes but **do not** need a change of clothes.

Easter Egg Hunt – Wednesday 12th April 10-12 (Awaiting confirmation). A family fun day out for just £2 per child. Follow the trail around Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery grounds, to find the elusive clues to retrieve your egg prize.

Please contact us by phone 07749477553, email or on Facebook to reserve your ticket.

Brookfield Photography – Tuesday 25th April and Wednesday 26th April. Group and single photographs have been booked on the Tuesday for the Rising Stars children and Wednesday for the children not going to school. Children who do not usually attend can drop in if they would like to take part.

Garden Party – Saturday 24th June 11-2 (Awaiting confirmation). Donations and help on the day welcome nearer the time. This is our annual 2023 fundraiser for the children, it provides resources and special activities. It's a time when parents and children get together, bring picnic blankets and join in with the fun.

We charge £6 per family to include a bouncy castle, outdoor activities, a treasure hunt and a craft making session (these activities are more suitable for younger children).

Other activities include the BBQ (available from 11.30) where you can purchase hot dogs, and burgers, refreshments, including cakes and cold drinks, match the card on the jar, name the animal, bottle tombola, toys and books.

Please contact us by phone 07749477553, email or on Facebook to reserve your ticket.