



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

November 2023

We would like to give a special welcome to Eadie, Theo and Indie who will be joining us this half term.

We are very proud of all the nursery children so far this term. They have settled in really well and are showing curiosity over learning new things. They have progressed developmentally so much this half term and we cannot wait to see their future progress too!

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023 (14 week Term)

Monday 4th September

Term Starts

Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November (inclusive)

Half-term

Friday 15th December

End of Autumn Term
Christmas Party

Events

Rising Stars Meeting - Thursday 23rd November 2.15-2.45

This is a meeting for the rising stars parents (children going to school September 2024) to discuss the Rising Stars Sessions, routines, and special homework books. If you cannot attend, please let us know and we will find an appropriate time for you separately.

Christmas Concert – Thursday 7th December 2022 2.00 – 2.45 (Main Hall – End of Car Park)

Parents to arrive/ bring children who do not usually attend at 2pm to put into costumes if required. The play will start at the latest 2.15 and will finish no later than 2.45. It is £2.50 ticket (3 tickets per child). Tickets are numbered and given out on a first come first serve basis.

Cash in an envelope would be best for the tickets so that the money can go into funds for the party.

We need some help with setting up the chairs in the main hall and selling raffle tickets (please let Heather or Natasha know if you can help).

All proceeds towards the cost of the children's party including food and present. Raffle tickets will also be available at this time for the Christmas Hamper. (Donations gratefully accepted. A list will be put up nearer the time).

Christmas Party – Friday 15th December 12 – 3.00

A Christmas party for all the children of Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery. Parents to arrive/ bring children who do not usually attend at 12. All party food, party games and small gift will be provided by the nursery. Friday morning sessions will be open for the children who usually attend.

Invoices

Following parent feedback last year, we will continue to send out invoices prior to the start of term. This will allow you to set up payment schedules, review your bill, set up voucher schemes etc. This year you can pay online or by childcare vouchers. Please let us know how you will be paying (No Cash will be accepted). The invoices show the total fees for the term and how much to pay every month. Payment information will be sent out with the invoice.

Please can you make sure all invoices are paid before the last week of term or can you let Heather or Natasha know when the final payment will be made.

First Half Term

During the first half term the children have been exploring autumn, healthy foods and emotions. To teach healthy foods we followed the children's interests of finding caterpillars in the garden and related it to the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. To teach the children autumn the children have been exploring the natural environment outside and the autumn investigation stations. To teach the children about emotions, we have been labelling the children's emotions and they have explored different emotions through 'The Colour Monster' story. To teach the children about Halloween, the children helped decorate nursery, read a range of spooky books, carved pumpkins, made a hedgehog pumpkin and explored various potion stations throughout the week.

We also had a visit from Animal Mania this term where the children got the chance to hold or stroke each of the animals. The children really enjoyed meeting Jack an African Bull Frog which is the biggest type of frog in the world, Stewart the Chinchilla, a Tortoise called Michelle which was only 12 weeks old, two Corn Snakes called Snowey and Dave, a giant Rabbit called Gary who was only 8 months old and an African Millipede called Kevin who has 800 legs.

This Half Term

During this half term the children will be looking at different cultures and festivals. They will get to explore Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas! We will be continuing to learn about emotions, healthy foods and autumn. We will be beginning to introduce the topic of winter. We will continue to introduce 2 songs of the week across the term. This will support the children's language development in a fun way.

Why Emotions?

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.

Why Cultures/Festivals?

All children are individuals. They come with a range of past experiences based on their own personal experiences. Cultural background gives the children a sense of who they are. Teaching children in Early Years different cultures allows them to explore similarities and differences to others and how to value everyone/ be respectful of others in the community.

Why Healthy Foods?

In Early Childhood good nutrition is essential as it is a time of rapid growth, development and activity. This is a vital time for healthy tooth development and prevention of decay. General eating habits, likes and dislikes are formed in the first few years of life. Children need to develop an understanding of their own likes and dislikes of food and how different foods affect their body. The children will then be able to make healthy choices which will result in them having a healthy body and mind.

A copy of our nursery long term planning is available on our website. This shows roughly what the children will be learning over the year across the 7 areas of the EYFS. This is only a rough plan as it maybe adapted to allow for the children's interests to flow through the progression.

Home Link

The children are welcome to bring a toy from home for show and tell. **If you do not want to bring the toy in, you could also send a photo on Tapestry!**

Home Learning - Emotions

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

- Label the children's emotions when at home. "I understand you are feeling _____".
- 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.

Home Learning – Healthy Foods

To help support the children's knowledge of healthy foods you can:

- Go to the supermarket, corner shop, farm shop. How many vegetables can the children spot or name.
- Go to the supermarket, corner shop, farm shop. How many different fruits can the children spot or name.
- Fruit or vegetable tasting activity.
- Do you have a vegetable patch or fruit trees? Can the children spot where the fruit and vegetables grow?
- Do a cooking activity with the children using the fruit or vegetables such as; apple crumble, carrot cake etc.

Home Learning – Cultural Events

To help support the children's knowledge of different cultures and festivals you can:

- Dress in cultural clothes.
- Join in with local celebrations.
- Listen to cultural songs or nursery rhymes.

'Peppa Pig' Halloween rhymes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUnnc2GSLVw>

- Read 'Peppa Pig' or other festival stories.

Diwali: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-ecsnFZ4ZI>

- Food tasting activity.
- Watch 'Peppa Pig' festival episodes.

Halloween: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfMTu_b_xY (4 minutes 11 seconds)

Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXxlW9cW-c4> (9 minutes 55 seconds)

Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb2eRVeNyPk> (Has lots of different episodes).

Bonfire Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6gPFp3iNcw> (3 minutes 17 seconds)

Remembrance Day Animation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv_ub7Be7oA

Progress Reports

Towards the end of this term you will receive a progress report or 2 year old check showing how your child has progressed developmentally so far. If your child was with us last year it will include where they are now with the EYFS with a brief description of what they have achieved this term. Following feedback from parents last year an option for a parent consultations/ meetings will be available the last 2 weeks of term to discuss the reports with your child's keyworker. Please let us know if you would like a meeting with your child's keyworker. If you have any concerns regarding your child's development or you would like us to work on something with you, please do not hesitate to talk to your keyworker or Heather/ Natasha as we can offer advice, support and work with you to put strategies in place to help your child progress.

Post Covid -19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language

This term we have started the Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language. This is fantastic opportunity that has only been offered to a few chosen settings (12 across Worcestershire over 2 years). As part of this opportunity we have assessed all the children with a Speech and Language therapist (Kathryn) using the Wellcomm assessment. Kathryn has been attending on Thursday mornings and has one session left after half term. She has trained the staff on how to do the assessments and how to support the children with different strategies. She has also been doing little language classes with a select few children with consent given by parents for them to take part. She has created a plan of how to support these children going forward which we will be passing onto the parents so they can work with the children using the strategies at home as well.

In the Spring Term Kathryn or Elise from Speech and Language will be back at nursery to review the children's progress and offer further support and training if needed.

Tapestry

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the **new children**, these will be created before the 6th November once we have met all the new starters at the stay and plays and all the registration forms have been returned. The parents will then receive an email on how to activate their account. **If you have not received this email by the 6th November, please let us know asap!**

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 photo's 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, next steps 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 photos'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.

Curriculum

Following OFSTED feedback we have reviewed and rewritten our nursery curriculum and vision. This was shared in the September newsletter and is available on our website to view. We have already had one visit this half term from a Worcestershire County Council improvement advisor and they will be coming out again this half term to check our progress.

As part of our curriculum we have introduced an investigation station, which changes every week. The investigation table allows to children to follow their own lead and challenge their own learning of a topic. The investigation stations are designed to cover all areas of the EYFS but how the children explores it is up to them. This helps support them become more independent and challenge their own way of thinking. Last term we had potion, 'Colour Monster', 'Hungry Caterpillar' and Autumn investigation stations.

Oral Health

Keeping your children's teeth healthy will help them to maintain clean and healthy teeth and gums and develop good oral hygiene habits they will need throughout the rest of their lives.

Worcestershire Oral Health have a Facebook page and a Twitter account and post on both regularly with tips and news: <https://www.facebook.com/HWHCTSmileSquad/>

Below are links to apps and songs which can support you and your children with toothbrushing:

<https://www.brushdj.com/> An app to make toothbrushing fun!

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/townscape-oral-health/> Learn about oral health and how you can support children and families

<https://youtu.be/u3vdGij89k8> Hey Duggee toothbrushing song (Cbeebies)

We will be supporting this by teaching children this term about healthy foods, show the children how to brush their teeth using a giant model/ toothbrush and in January a dentist will visit nursery to talk to the children as well.

E-Safety

As a setting we teach children about internet safety by making them aware of what safe use of technology looks like. We choose educational apps that help them to develop their skills. We have an e-safety policy which we follow at nursery. Below are a few links and video's on online safety and how you can support/ protect them at home.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

[Pre-school \(0-5\) online safety tips and advice | Internet Matters](#)

<https://youtu.be/O3OF-NWDzGo> - E-Safety video for parents

<https://youtu.be/lqRSaRQqPt0?list=PLJSbhHkqYnrSxHUttYbDAzh4ysG-UC9Dr> - Good habits for children with technology and online safety

[Early years online safety video guides | Internet Matters](#) online safety videos

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](#)

[ERIC – Toileting Advice](#)

[Starting Well Partnership](#)

[Child Tax Credit and Childcare Funding](#)

[Early Help Family Support](#)