

Space For Play

Summer Term Newsletter



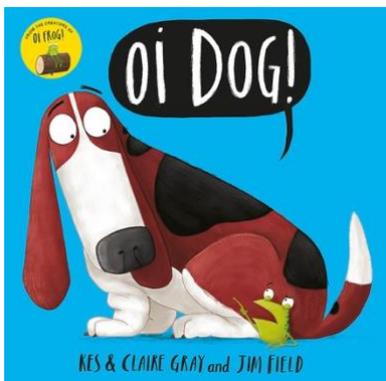
I can't quite believe we are heading into May...where has the year gone?! It feels like we were only just welcoming you back to a new academic year and now we're heading towards the end. Thank you for all your continued support over the past year and the changes we've had to make with COVID. Below is some information regarding the next term and dates for the diary.

Our Mini Zoo!

We are so very excited about the collection of pre-school pets we have now. We have our gorgeous four hens, Peppa the very patient guinea pig and Tom the Pony who lives at the stables. Flopsy and Mopsy our bunny rabbits are due to arrive any day now. The children have loved helping to look after them. Especially the excitement of collecting eggs from the hens and helping to put clean bedding in the houses! It is wonderful to watch the children get so much from these experiences and learn how to care for animals.

We are so very proud of all of our children who have gone to the stables to visit Tom, they have all behaved so beautifully. Tom tells me he really enjoys having all the visitors and he hopes the children loves the rides as much as he does!!

Our favourite book at the moment is:



Growing

We are currently exploring the theme of growing in a multitude of ways. We are planting lots of seeds - your child should come home soon with a sunflower seed to look after at home, we're interested to see who can grow the tallest flower! We have also planted beanstalks for Jack, discussed how the Hungry Caterpillar turns into a butterfly and have some caterpillars of our own to watch turn into butterflies. We are also going to be planting some vegetables in a brilliant pot that allows the children to see under the soil as they grow so they can see the roots and the vegetables grow in size. The children are always very enthusiastic about anything that involves soil and a trowel!

Woodwork

Hopefully you may have seen on Family the pictures of our new woodwork area. From next week, children will be taken in small groups to the area and allowed to explore wood, nails, hammers, screwdrivers and hopefully create some lovely things! Please be assured children will be closely supervised at all times and they will be provided with appropriate protective equipment.

Warmer Weather

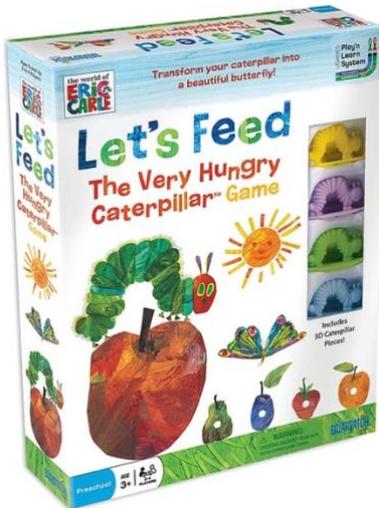
As we are heading into some warmer months, please ensure your child has a named bottle of sun-cream in their bag and a sunhat/sunglasses if it is a particularly sunny day. Additionally, please can your child bring in a labelled



Our favourite song at the moment is:



Our favourite game at the moment is:



Important dates:

Monday 3rd May - Bank holiday **CLOSED**

Monday 31st May - bank holiday **CLOSED**

Tuesday 1st June - Friday 4th June Half term for 38-week children

Monday 7th June - start of final term

water bottle every session. Please also ensure that as the weather does get warmer your child is still wearing shoes with closed toes and have some grip to them so they can still safely play in the outdoors. Thank you!

Baby Nest & Sensory Garden

Our new baby room will be open in September and building work will commence soon. It will be located behind the current pre-school. The children in the baby room will spend a lot of time in the pre-school interacting with their older peers as this is wonderful for their development. If you, or someone you know, would like a place, please get in touch as spaces are limited. We will share photos as this space is built and parents will be able to visit and view once it is ready.

Our sensory garden is now completed and is a lovely space for the children to rest, explore nature, be calm and play in small groups. All children have the chance to visit every day and all of the gorgeous new plants will hopefully be looking even more impressive next year when they've had a chance to grow. There is an abundance of lovely scents, textures and colours for the children to discover.

September Hours

Our sessions for September are filling up quickly so if you would like to add extra sessions for your child, please get in touch with Paula ASAP to avoid disappointment. We also have a waiting list for spaces in September so if you know of anyone who would like a space for their child, get in touch soon!

Progress Meetings

You will soon have (or already have had) a meeting with your child's key person about their progress. This is also a chance for you to discuss any concerns or worries you have and things we can do to help. Your child's key person will be in touch very soon to arrange a day and time if they haven't already.

We are also hoping to start stay and play sessions again very soon now guidelines allow this. If you are interested in a stay and play session, please do get in touch and we will arrange these. It will be a maximum of five parents per session.

Information Packs

All children have now been given a PANTS leaflet which provides advice on talking to your child about keeping their bodies safe - these will all make it home by Friday! The next pack we are sending home will be one on tantrums which we hope will prove helpful.

School Transitions

I will be starting handover conversations and meetings with your child's school over the coming weeks. I will also be providing more resources and ideas with you for making the transition as smooth as possible. If you are worried about anything to do with school, have anything you want your child's school to know about them, class preferences or any questions, please do get in touch and I will do all I can to help!

Out & About

Our favourite new toy is:



Quote of the term:

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”

~ Fred Rogers

We are now allowed to take children out to the park and beach again! Your child will have a chance to join an outing each week. Children will go in groups of six with two adults. As well as having the chance to run around and play, they will also have different activities to take with them such as some themed colouring, nature hunt or eye-spy challenge.

A Sad Goodbye

We are really sad that we are saying goodbye to Alex at the end of this academic year. He has been such an incredible member of the Space For Play team and I know that the children will miss him immeasurably. Alex is going to be working at St Gregory's from September and completing his teacher training year. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him the best for the future and thank him for everything he has done for the children.

Another big goodbye this year will be to our school leavers who are heading off to start the next step of their adventure. We will have a leavers party for children going to school (date to be confirmed) and this year it will be a Hawaiian/beach theme. Like last year, the party will be limited to only the children who are going to school but there will be plenty of chances for the younger children to say goodbye to their friends.

We will be sad to see lots of you leaving this year but hope your child's time at Space For Play has been everything you'd hope it would be and more!

Once again, a huge thank you for all your support these past few months and please get in touch if you have any questions about anything above.