



Pre-School Newsletter

February 2022



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

This half term the children are learning through the topic of “Under the Sea”. We have an Easter story cafe planned, as well as planned PE sessions including dance and locomotion to promote physical development. Our topic for the children’s personal, social and emotional development is “Healthy Me”.

[Breakfast and After Pre-school clubs](#)

Breakfast club is available from 7.45 am each morning, and after Pre-school club runs until 5.30 pm. This should be booked via ParentMail. If for any reason you are unable to book using the system, you are still able to bring your child to breakfast club, or telephone to let us know that you wish them to stay for after pre-school club. I would urge you to consider using this valuable service that we offer, to enable us to continue to offer it for parents and children.

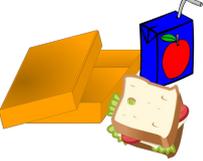
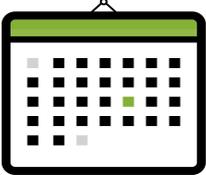
There will be no after Pre-school club on the last day of term Friday 1st April.

[Contacting Pre-school](#)

Should you need to get a message to Pre-school staff, you can either email sbrown@beacon.stbenets.org or preschool@beacon.stbenets.org. Alternatively, you can telephone Pre-school on 01379 740080. Please note that our Pre-school mobile number is no longer in operation. If your child is absent, please inform us of the reason for their absence.

[Parents' Meetings](#)

We will be holding parents meetings in May for the children who will be starting school in September. However, should you feel that you need individual feedback or would like to discuss your child’s learning and development, please get in touch with your child’s key person, and a meeting or telephone discussion can be arranged.

<h2>Parent questionnaires</h2>	<p>Thank you to all parents who have taken the time to complete our Pre-school questionnaire, and for your positive comments and ideas which will all be taken on board. This is a very helpful way for us further assist your child's learning and development, and for you to have your say about the service that we provide. There is still time to complete this if you have not already done so, please follow this link:</p> <p>https://forms.gle/j3UxJrFMZdpVo4eT8</p> <p>Please let me know if you are unable to sign into Google to complete this, and I can provide you with a paper copy to complete.</p>
<h2>Packed lunches</h2> 	<p>Please be mindful of the quantity of food that is provided in your child's packed lunch. We are finding that some children are rather daunted by the huge amount of food provided which is way too much for a young child's nutritional needs. If you are unsure about the recommended quantity for young children, please look at our packed lunch policy by following this link</p> <p>http://www.dickleburgh.norfolk.sch.uk/pre-school/policies-procedures/</p> <p>If your child brings a packed lunch from home, please make sure this includes a drink. We ask that no items from the confectionary aisle such as sweets or chocolate are included.</p>
<h2>Dates to remember</h2> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 3rd March World Book Day. If your child is present on this day could they please bring in their favourite book from home to share with the group. • Wednesday 30th March Easter story cafe. We are still unable to invite parents, but will post photographs on Tapestry to show you the activities that have been enjoyed. • Friday 1st April Last day of term • Tuesday 19th April Summer term begins
<h2>Naming belongings</h2> 	<p>Once again we need to mention naming items from home such as backpacks, lunchboxes, cardigans, sweatshirts. Not only does this make things so much easier for staff, it avoids things being sent home with the wrong child or ending up in the lost property box.</p> <p>We have some children coming in with no spare change of clothes, please ensure that your child brings these each day in a named backpack. Thank you</p>

Early Writing

Thank you to those parents who have been showing us on Tapestry that they are helping your child to write at home, this is lovely to see. To support this, please look at the following link which will show you how to encourage your child to form letters correctly, if they are at this stage of their development. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYYSBProJH4>

I am seeing many examples of names written in capital letters or letters incorrectly formed. This means that your child will need to unlearn this to then learn it correctly, which makes first writing even more difficult for them.

Please also remember that before children learn to write, you can help your child with many pre-writing activities that will strengthen their muscles to prepare them to write. These could include:

- **Playdough** Using playdough to shape and mould letters is a great way to focus on the shapes that make up each letter. You can use playdough to roll, squish, and shape for hours of sensory fun. Pushing beads into playdough is also a good way of developing fine motor skills
- **Shaving Cream Writing** Get ready for this to be a little messy! Your child will love the fact that they're actually being asked to get their hands messy with shaving cream. You can do this on the floor or table onto a plastic sheet. Using one finger the children can make large and small scale movements and copy you writing letters in the shaving foam.
- **Sandpaper Letters** Make a set of sandpaper letters. Cut letter shapes from sandpaper and attach each to a square of cardboard. Your child can spend time tracing the letter with their finger, feeling the texture. Alternatively, work on letters by placing a paper over a sandpaper letter card and tracing over the bumpy letters with crayons.
- **Using large paint brushes or chinks outside** is an excellent way to develop the muscles needed for writing as they get older.

Phonics

I have had a few parents stating that they would like us to teach their child phonic sounds. When your child starts in reception class, they will follow a precise and thorough curriculum for the teaching of phonic sounds, blending sounds and reading.

At Pre-school, we have planned phonics teaching sessions at least twice a week. Following the early years curriculum, we focus on phonics activities such as:

- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion (e.g. clapping and stamping)
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration (recognising spoken words that start with the same sound)
- Voice sounds.
- Oral blending and segmenting (e.g. hearing that d-o-g makes 'dog')

I hope that this makes it clearer for parents to understand how the phonics process is taught and delivered to your children. You can continue to support your child at home by sharing a range of stories including familiar ones for your child to retell and rhyming stories. Singing songs and making different sounds, and noticing and talking about sounds when you are out and about are great way to develop their early phonic skills.