



## SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER 2023

Spring Term ends - Friday 31 March

Summer Term begins - Monday 17 April

Half Term from Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

Summer Term ends - Friday July 14

If your child is unwell or unable to come to pre-school for any other reason please let the setting know by 10am of the morning concerned by **text** to the setting phone on 07534 673297. After that time if we have not heard from you we will contact you to ensure all is well. Please note this phone is not monitored outside of session hours. Absences known in advance may be emailed or texted though the latter is preferred.

### Easter Celebration



We look forward to seeing you at our Easter Celebration next Wednesday, March 29th at 11.30am. All children are welcome to attend even if they are usually not in the setting on a Wednesday. Please bring children to the Nonsuch Hall door after entering via the church main entrance off of Northey Avenue at 11.30am.

Coffee will be served in the Hub from 11.30am. All family members are welcome to come and listen to the children sing and to celebrate Easter together.



### Spring Term News

#### Fathers' Week

It was wonderful to have so many dads and grandads visit the setting during Dads' Week. The children loved having you as play partners and sharing in their 'work'. It was great to see your enthusiasm and creativity and we hope it gave you a glimpse into how your children learn and develop at Little Fishes.



Evidence shows that positive involvement of fathers can lead to enhanced educational attainment, improved behaviour, better well-being and better child relationships. So you really are making a difference!

### What's On At St Paul's Church?

#### Family Events

**The Big Magic Mix Saturday 3 June  
4.30-7.30pm**

Join us for a family magic show, dinner, and inflatables.

Suitable for all ages with an inflatable just for the under 5's and another larger inflatable for those under 11.

We will also have toys, face painting and dinner for all!

[www.saintpauls.co.uk/calendar](http://www.saintpauls.co.uk/calendar)

**United@10 Little Fishes Church Celebration  
followed by Little Fishes Family Picnic**

Sunday 10am St Paul's Church

More details to follow

#### **Left to their own devices parenting course**

Parenting children in the world of screens. A Care for the Family Parenting Resource.

**Tuesday 2nd May mums evening and Tuesday 9th May dads evening.** We are repeating the evening one-off course so that mums and dads both have the opportunity to attend. The course is free. Sign up online using the church website calendar [www.saintpauls.co.uk/calendar](http://www.saintpauls.co.uk/calendar)



### Little Fishes Quiz

We will be holding a fundraising quiz at St Paul's Church on a Saturday in mid June (date tbc) from 7.30pm until 10pm. Why not get a table of 8 together with your family and friends or make up a Little Fishes parents table? Event will include a Fish and Chips supper. Further details to follow.



### Mothers' Week

We'd like to introduce a Mothers' Week during the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for mums (and grandmas) to come into the setting for part of a morning to join in with their children (grandchildren) at 'work'. Further details will follow after the Easter holidays.



### Rhythm and Rhyme

We've been learning about rhythm and rhyme in our Super Sounds activities. Here's how you can help at home.

- Get into the rhythm of our language; bounce your child on your knee to the rhythm of a song or nursery rhyme, march or clap to a chant or poem
- Help your child move to the rhythm of a song or rhyme
- Read or say poems, songs, nursery songs and rhyming stories as often as you can, try to use gestures, tap regular beats and pauses to emphasise the rhythm of the piece
- Add percussion to mark the beats using your hands, feet or instruments
- Try out some rhythmic chanting such as 'Two, four, six, eight, hurry up or we'll be late' or 'Bip bop boo, who are you?'

### What is 30 hours Funded Childcare?

Most working parents of three and four year olds are eligible for an extra 15 hours of funded childcare a week, term time. Added to your current universal entitlement of 15 hours Funded Early Education for three and four year olds, this means that your entitlement will increase to a total of 30 hours a week, term time (or 1140 hours over a year). We are registered for 30 hours funded childcare term time and offer up to 24.75 hours. If you wish to claim all 30 hours some parents arrange for a childminder to cover the extra time.

If you think you might be eligible apply through the government's Childcare Choices website. There's 30 Hours Eligibility Guidance to help you understand whether you will qualify. If your application is successful, you'll get given an 11 digit eligibility code which you must then give us so that we can check your eligibility. A child can only take up their extended hours from the term following the date of issue of their 30 hour code. Eligibility code **applications** or **renewals** for the Summer Term 2023 must be made by **March 31st**.

### Unwell Children

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature, must not come into Pre-school and we would ask that you let us know via the setting phone. Those with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend. If they have suffered from sickness/diarrhoea we ask that you do not bring them back until they have been free from symptoms for 48 hours. Please also inform the setting manager if your child has any contagious diseases such as impetigo, chicken pox, conjunctivitis, head lice or worms.

### Readiness for Potty Training

The first stage of potty training is to recognise when the child is ready. It is essential that the child is:

- ◇ Pooing at least one soft poo a day
- ◇ Staying dry for at least an hour and a half between wees



Other signs to look out for are:

- ◇ Showing interest in the toilet
- ◇ They can follow simple instructions
- ◇ Able to sit themselves on the potty and get up again
- ◇ Starting to show signs of awareness of when they have done a wee or a poo
- ◇ Showing awareness that other family members and peers don't wear nappies, and that they use the toilet



The Little Fishes staff wish you a very happy Easter!