



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2023

Half Term 23-27th October

Nativity Friday 15th December 11.30am

Autumn Term ends Friday 15th December

Spring Term begins Monday 8th January



If your child is unwell or unable to come to pre-school for any 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.

It has been wonderful to see all our returning children and to have met all our new ones. The Autumn Term at Little Fishes is now in full swing, with staff and children enjoying spending time together. It has been amazing to see how quickly the children have settled into the routine of Little Fishes and the friendships that are being formed.

Story Time!

We have been learning and exploring the characters in the traditional stories the Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have also learnt and retold the modern story, Dear Zoo. It has been wonderful to see the children developing their recall of the stories and using story props to aid their learning.

The children have had the opportunity to extend their learning of these stories through the Expressive Arts and Design area of the curriculum. They made houses for the pigs using various materials to represent the three homes as well as making and tasting porridge during snack time. They also created some of the animals from the Dear Zoo Story.

Nativity

Our Nativity this year will be held on Friday 15th December beginning at 11.30am with coffee served in the Hub. All children are welcome to attend, even if they are usually not in the setting on a Friday. Parents and grandparents are also warmly invited.



Rhymes

Our daily rhyming and singing sessions are a hit with the children and they participate enthusiastically. They especially enjoy the weekly music sessions we have with our "Music Teacher Catherine", where they have been exploring



the different sounds of the musical instruments and joining in actively with the action songs!

Snack Time

The children love sharing snack time together and are grateful for the wide variety of fruit, vegetables and other healthy snacks that parents provide. Some of you have asked for guidance as to how much to bring in which is roughly the equivalent of an apple a day or a box of breadsticks per week. We appreciate that if your child is only attending two mornings a week this will mean you bring in less than a child attending for five. If you'd like some ideas of what to bring there are some suggestions on the board in the lobby. Thank you.



Outside Clothing

Now that the weather is getting noticeably cooler, please could you ensure that the children always have warm coats and wellington boots in the setting, as we try to get out most days.

In past years, some parents have bought charity shop coats for use at Little Fishes to avoid the children's home coats getting dirty.

It won't be long before gloves, hats and scarves are needed too! Please could these also be brought in, but don't forget to write your child's name inside.



Super Sounds and Phonics

We continue to use Super Sounds to develop the listening skills of the children. Super Sounds is the super fun, systematic, pre-phonics programme to use with 2,3 and 4-year-olds.

The older children have been participating in phonics time 3 days a week and have begun to learn some **sounds**. We are using the Jolly Phonics scheme to learn the single sounds (The alphabet sounds) The children have been learning the actions that go with these sounds to aid easy recall of the sounds.

What's On At St Paul's Church?

We are now a united church with St Barnabas in Epsom.



GLOW in the DARK Party

St Paul's Church is having it's annual Glow in the Dark Party on Tuesday 31st October. It will be a fun packed event with inflatables, face painting, mini games and more!



There are a couple of options for you and your family if you would like to attend. If your child is not in Little Fishes on Tuesday mornings, you are welcome to bring your child to the Mini Glow party at 10.00-11.30am. If your child is attending Little Fishes in the morning then you can still attend the Big Glow party at 5.30pm. If you have older siblings, you can all come together as a family at this time too. The activities are very similar at both Mini and Big. The difference is that there will be fewer children at the Mini event, for younger children only.

Glow in the Dark Mini (under 4s) in the morning

<https://saintpauls.churchsuite.com/events/6yhorevr>

Glow in the Dark (under 11s) in the early evening

<https://saintpauls.churchsuite.com/events/zhsw0rih>

Alpha Course

Running from 17th October. There is no cost and no booking required. Even if it's already started, you can join in any time along the course.



<https://saintpauls.churchsuite.com/events/uw9m6l15>

Parenting Course

Tuesday 7th or
Tuesday 21st November



<https://saintpauls.churchsuite.com/events/ssg16sel>

Little Fishes Parents coffee morning

Wednesday 1st November
9.00am-10.30am in the Hub



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 receive 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.

Tiny Happy People

This website has been created to help parents develop their child's communication skills. There are simple activities and play ideas to explore and videos helping you discover more about your child's amazing early development. Did you know for example that playing with a ball has benefits for language development? Or have you wondered why your child asks so many 'why' questions? The answer is revealed here!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Children's Flu Vaccine

The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is safe and effective. It's offered every year to children to help protect them against flu.

Flu is caused by the influenza virus. It can be a very unpleasant illness for children. It can also lead to serious problems, such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Children can catch and spread flu easily. Vaccinating them also protects others who are vulnerable to flu, such as babies and older people.

The nasal spray flu vaccine is free on the NHS for:
children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023 (born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2021)

all primary school children (Reception to Year 6)

For more information you can ask your GP surgery or other healthcare professionals for advice.

[Child flu vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Half Term Activities

There's lots to entertain the children during the half term. Here are a few ideas.

Home - Mother Nature Science (mnature.co.uk)

Rugbytots - Fun Rugby Activities for Children and Toddlers

Young V & A | Day Out With The Kids