*Chipmonks Preschool*

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***NEWSLETTER January/February 2024***

*The aim of our newsletters is to keep you informed and updated on key events, dates, and information you may need to know. A copy of the most up to date one can be found on our parent information board****.***

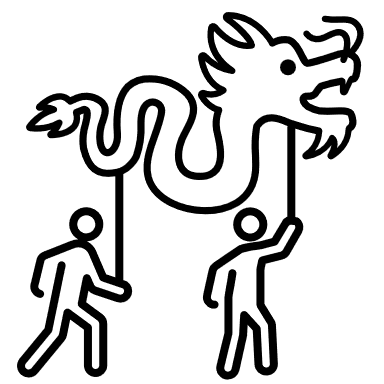
**Term dates:**

**Tuesday 9th January- Friday 16th February 2024**

**Monday 26th February- Thursday 28th March 2024.**

All term dates can be found on the parent information board outside our preschool gate.

Welcome back to all our families we hope you had a lovely break 😊

 **Chinese New Year (10th Feb 2024) Year of the Dragon**

Throughout this week the children will have invitations to play around “Chinese New Year”, this will include opportunities to taste different Chinese foods at snack, dragon dancing and many fun opportunities to explore this celebration further. We would love if any families are willing to share how they celebrate Chinese New Year, Chinese items from home, clothing, music, books etc with the setting, so that the children can share experiences with one another and extend their learning even further.

**Pancake day Tuesday 13th February 2024.** The children will have opportunities to make and taste pancakes week commencing 12th Feb, (A variety of tasty toppings and pancakes will be available during snack all week). ***Fun Activity at home:*** *Using the following ingredients (300ml milk, 2 eggs, 100g plain flour, oil) Allow your child to add the ingredients, to a bowl. Encourage your child to take turns mixing the ingredients with family members. Adult can now Add oil and mixture to a frying pan and cook until ready. \* IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE TO FLIP THE PANCAKE, WE WOULD SUGGEST PUTTING THE PANCAKE INTO A COLD UNUSED FRYING PAN TO REDUCE ACCIDENT RISKS.*

**Learning opportunities include Counting, turn taking, social skills/listening, following instructions, talking about the products and where they come from (understanding the world) Engagement, Confidence that they can carry out a task, tasting new ingredients, modelling language /new key words.**

**Our story sacks are back!!!!!**

Each child will have an opportunity to take our story sack home during this term, (each sack will go home for 2-3 days at a time). This will provide an opportunity for your child to share a book with you during the day or at bedtime. The aim of the bag is to help support children’s interest of books, imagination, and stories, whether this be through text or illustration of a story or telling stories about their own adventures or memory. In each sack you will find a blank home learning sheet, this could be used for children to make marks about the story they have read, to add photos of them sharing/re-enacting the book, or for the adult to share the experience with us.

Happy reading 😊

**World book day 7th March**

To celebrate world book day, we are inviting parents to come into preschool and read to the children. Parents will be able to select a 15-minute reading slot to read to our children during the week (4th -8th March), parents are welcome to read their child’s favourite book from home or one from our setting. Time slots will be available nearer the time to select a time and day.

Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite characters this whole week (please ensure all outfits are “toilet friendly).

**Parents “focus of the month”.**

We are going to be introducing a “Parents focus of the month” board. You will all be familiar with our focus of the week sheets for your children, which we have decided to extend and help “focus” for parents too. The idea of the focus board will be to give parents ideas, support, prompts with helping engage with their children, share ideas, support learning and build an stronger working together partnership with parents- which will hopefully benefit everyone involved.

**Red nose day: March 15th, 2024**

We would love your ideas of what the children can do for red nose day/week at preschool to support this course- a suggestion box will be put out and the winning ideas will be announced on our white board the wk commencing 26th February (giving plenty of time to prepare). We look forward to reading your Fun, child friendly activities/games/suggestions.

**Staff /Training:**

Congratulations to Emily who has recently completed a level 2 tquk course in understanding Autism, as well as completing educares: brain development and understanding how children learn: supporting early language development: creating effective communication and language and refreshing her effective safeguarding training. She has been very busy.

Gold starWell done to Becky who completed tquk level 2 in sen and disability course 😊 and Educare: “creating an effective communication and language environment.

Michelle K on completing Educares: Prevent, effective safeguarding practice: understanding and addressing behaviour: being a key person in early years and getting to grips with the Eyfs courses.

Karly on completing her effective safeguarding refresher course, and Mina on managing your early years inspection. (As well as both Karly and Mina completing their 3-year renewal, level 2 food hygiene training).

We have been very busy ensuring that we are refreshed and eager to learn/support children and families to the highest of levels.

**Polite reminders**

\*Children must come to preschool in weather appropriate clothing and footwear. EVERYTHING MUST BE NAMED PLEASE. (Coats, hats, scarf, gloves provided are always worn in the garden). All unnamed items will now be found in a box next to the lunch boxes.

\*It is important to let us know ON THE DAY, if anything has changed regarding your child’s sleep, eating, behaviour, family set up, or any change that may mean additional support or care is needed. (This can include even just one night’s bad sleep, or a one-off later bedtime, this information really helps us understand, support, realise why certain behaviours or emotions may need some extra “TLC”. So please please let one of the ladies know at drop off (either face to face or on the comments slips provided 😊).

**Change of address/contact details/allergies/medicine** Have you informed us of any changes to any of the following- home address, mobile numbers, new/old allergies your child has, different medication prescribed/stopped? It is vital that all essential information and relevant documents are kept up to date. So please inform us ASAP If So

**30HR FUNDING** Please refer to childcare choices.co.uk to see if you are eligible. Can all parents in receipt of 30 hr funding ensure all renew dates are kept to and new codes/expiry dates are emailed to chipmonksbp@yahoo.com

**2 year old funding for working parents update:**

From April 2024, working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access **15 hours** of free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their child’s 2nd birthday, to find out if you are eligible, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working?step-by-step-nav=f517cd57-3c18-4bb9-aa8b-1b907e279bf9>

(To apply for the government 2-year funding for childcare, you will need to get a code for the funded hours to give to your childcare provider. You can/must claim your code before 31 March 2024 for it to be valid for the summer term). If you have a government childcare account, you can log in and apply for the code online. If you don’t have a childcare account, you can create one and then apply for the code.

**Absences:** Please can All parent/carers ensure they contact preschool via, email, text or phone to notify us of ANY absences/days off.

**\*Chipmonks safeguarding policy can be found on our website: www.chipmonkspreschool.comChipmonks Preschool Ltd are totally committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people in our care.**