



# NEWSLETTER

## February 2024

Well, last half term might have been a short one but as always, we sure did fit in a lot of fun! We have also gone from cold and ice to seeing the first signs of spring. The children have loved learning about the cold and seeing what animals live in the cold climates. We also had lots of fun with ice and seeing how we can make it melt and change colour. The children then moved on to learning about garden birds for "Bird Watch week", Dinosaurs and ended the term looking at Transport.

Last half term we also introduced our "Breakfast Bar" which has been a HUGE hit! Mornings can be busy, rushed and stressful for many of us, and many children need a breakfast but don't want it as soon as they wake up, or within the half hour before they have to rush to school!.....I know I don't! So please don't ever stress that it's been a crazy morning and that you haven't managed to get any breakfast into your sleepy monster, we have it covered.....and you don't even need to tell us. The breakfast bar is open to all children and is a "help yourself" station. It is put out at the beginning of the day and cleared away between 9.15 and 9.30am so there is plenty of time for them to start their day right. Any donations of healthy cereals or fruit is always greatly appreciated.

Last half term we also welcomed two new members of staff to Little Explorers. Claire and Jasmine really have proved themselves as valued members of the team, settling in well with our daily routines and the children have welcomed them with open arms. We are so lucky to have them join the team. This half term we also welcome Henry, Oscar and Wilbur. We look forward to having them join our Little Explorers family and we know they are going to love their time here with us!

Thank you to everyone who came to the "Rock and Roll Bingo" at The Boyne Arms in January. It was so much fun and made us a fantastic £158.50. We used this money to purchase a Toni box with a selection of 8 characters for the children to listen to. It gives the children a different opportunity to listen to stories and links to using technology too. They are loving listening to it and really look after all the characters well.

This half term we started looking at signs of Spring and talked about what will happen with the change of the season. We will then have a week looking at our favourite books and stories while celebrating "World Book day" on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please send your child in with their favourite book on this day and if they would like to dress up then that would be wonderful! We are also inviting you to come in on world book day to share a story with your Little Explorer from 9am - 9.30am. Come and snuggle in in our cosy reading area and look through a selection of favourite stories with each other. We will then look at Easter and spring for the last two weeks of term. We will be hoping for some lovely sunshine to help our seeds start to grow in our greenhouse ready for planting out in the summer term!

We are inviting Mums or carers to join the children for afternoon tea at 2pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate Mother's Day. Please can you let us know if you are able to make it so that we make sure we make enough cake!

Laura x

### Diary Dates

World Book Day Share a book: Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March 9am-9.30am

Mother's Day afternoon Tea: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2pm

End of term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Start of summer term: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April

End of half term: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Start of Second half of summer term: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

If you would like to find out about further help and support the Parenting Team offer please email [Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk) or call us on 01743 250950 All our services are free of charge to Shropshire Council residents.



## PARENTING HELP AND SUPPORT LINE

available

Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 4.30pm

and

Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm

You can contact the Parenting Help and Support Line by calling

**01743 250950**

*Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. The Parenting Team is here to help and support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.*

*Do you have any questions around your child's development and parenting?*

Why not call our Parenting Help and Support Line where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

(Please note the Parenting Help and Support Line will not operate on Bank Holidays)

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please call

**First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021**

- Would you like to know more about why sleep is important for our health and emotional well-being?
  - Does your child struggle with their sleep?
- Would you like to access help and support to improve sleep and bedtime routines?
  - Would you like to meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences?

## SLEEP TIGHT WORKSHOP

Starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am at Whitchurch Infants School, Station Road, SY13 1RJ

Starts Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams

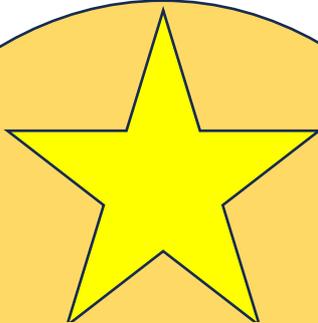
Starts Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 from 12.30pm to 2.30pm at Bridgnorth Youth Centre

Starts Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 from 9.30am to 11.30am Virtually via MS Teams

The workshops are delivered virtually via MS Teams or face to face at a venue in Shropshire Our workshops run for 5 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays.

To book a place on one of our workshops or for further information on the workshops we run please contact the Parenting Team by: Emailing [Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk) Or call us on 01743 250950

All our Workshops are free to Shropshire Council residents.



### WOW MOMENTS!!

Well done...

Jaxon for doing super sleeping in his own room!

Albert for toilet training like a super star!!

Molly for getting "Player of the Week" at Little Kickers Football!

Please let us know if your child does something that makes you proud so we can share it with everyone!

Enjoyed by young and old alike, playdough is a fabulous resource that you can use for tactile play. Its squishy, malleable nature makes it a favourite among children, offering not just entertainment but developmental benefits too. Playdoh supports all areas of development and is fun! If you don't have cutters and rollers it doesn't matter! Any natural resources are favoured by children so grab some sticks and stones and anything out of the kitchen and have some fun!

### PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

You need:

2 cups plain flour

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1/2 cup salt

2 tablespoons cream of tartar

1 to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)

Food colouring (optional)

Knead for a few minutes and enjoy!

### Gluten-free playdough

Ingredients

1 cup hair conditioner

2 cups cornflour

Food colouring,

Knead until smooth (you may need to add more of either to get the right consistency)