 24th February 2025

**Great Witley Pre-School Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term. We hope you had a great half term break and look forward to hearing all about it from yourselves and also your children. Welcome to our new families who are joining us.

**Possible Closure – Thursday 1st May** – I would refer you to my last Friday email sent out on 14th February where I notified you that I had been advised that the village hall was needed for polling day therefore Pre School cannot use it. I am trying to organise a trip on this day but you might just want to consider looking at alternative options for the care of your child on this day should the trip not materialise. I appreciate that this relates to the summer term but obviously I am mentioning it in this newsletter so that you have plenty of notice

**Bring A Book Week** – As it is World Book Day on 6th March we are thinking of running a whole week of celebrating wonderful story books. If your child would like to dress up and bring in one of their favourite books from home all that week that would be fantastic. Please don’t worry if you don’t have any dressing up clothing as we have plenty your child might want to wear. Rachel will be organising a Pop Up Bookshop in the Committee room on that day which you might want to visit. We are also going to have a family story time at 2.45 on that afternoon and hope that you might be able to come in a little earlier and join us and your child for a story. Please see the attached poster.

**Late Collection –** there have been a few instances where parents are late collecting their child(ren) at the allocated time. I appreciate that sometimes these delays are unavoidable but if you are going to be late can you please telephone Pre School to advise us of the situation so that we can reassure your child. On some occasions staff have had to remain over their allocated shift to ensure that ratios are maintained. Whilst I do not want to charge for these late collections I have to be mindful of the additional staffing costs that are being incurred. Please note that the late collection charge is now £5 for each 5 minutes. Please also remember to let us know in advance if somebody other than yourself is going to be dropping off or collecting your child as we need to record it – thank you

On the subject of collections and drop offs I am sure you will have noticed that Pre School is really getting quite busy and once we are full after Easter it will be even more so. In order to maintain ratios can I ask that you bring/fetch your child into or from the main hall if there are a few parents already in the foyer. This will greatly help the staff in being available to support all the children, especially any of the younger ones that have just joined our Pre School ‘family’ thank you. Can I also remind you not to unlock the door if there is no staff member there and you want to leave. Please can you attract a member of staff’s attention and wait to be let out. This will ensure that everybody can be kept safe

**Weather Closure** – Just to remind you where the weather makes travel dangerous it may be necessary for the Pre-School to close. When this happens I will endeavour to get a message to you by email or on to our Facebook page. However if you hear that Great Witley Primary School is closed then the chances are that we will be too.

**Suitable Clothing** – We do try to get the children outside each day where possible to meet the requirements of the EYFS. Please can you make sure that your child comes to Pre-School with suitable and named outdoor clothing so that we can do this.

**Unwell children** – Can I remind that your child should only attend Pre-School if they are well. When they are poorly they really do not want to be here and would much rather be at home, having a cuddle with you. It is also unfair to the other children and staff so to prevent the spread of infection to others can I ask you to keep them at home if they are not well. We do reserve the right to send your child home if they are unwell in line with our Policies and Procedures. If you need to give your child Calpol in the morning then they should NOT attend Pre School. However if you have given it on medical advice can you please let us know as we need to know what medication has been given to your child on that day – thanks. If your child is not attending due to being poorly please do let Pre School know as we have a duty to record all absences – thank you

**Planning** – Our topic for this half term is Space and of course Easter. However we do take the lead for the daily plans from your children and are continuing with In the Moment Planning. Again we need your help to let us know what your child has been interested or involved in at home. Please share this either with myself or your child’s key person. We will also be celebrating Easter and Mothers Day so if your child does not bring something home with them it may well be that they are very busy making their own surprise for the special person in their life. Other things to explore will be St Davids and also St Patricks Day, Red Nose Day and World Wildlife Day.

**Easter Celebrations** – Please note we will be holding our usual Easter celebration on the morning of the last day of term Friday 11th April starting at 9.15am. Further details regarding this will be sent out a little nearer to the time but you might just want to make a note to leave your diary free. I am hoping to collect some chocolate items to make up a hamper for a raffle prize so if you would like to donate anything containing chocolate please do bring it in to me – I promise not to eat them!

**Packed Lunches** - we have been noticing that some of the children's lunch boxes have recently been containing treats which are not classified as healthy eg chocolates or sweets. As a setting we promote healthy eating so if your child’s lunch box does contain too many of these items we reserve the right to remove them and will discuss this with you on collection. Please also remember that we are a nut free setting due to allergies. If you do require any assistance on this aspect please come and have a word with either me or the staff.

**Facebook –** Please remember that I try to post something each day letting you know what the children (and staff) have been getting up to.

**Fundraising** - Please also remember to register the Pre School through **Easy fundraising** so that we can raise additional funds when you shop online. Whilst it may only be pennies it really does help. We have now raised over £900 which allows us to provide little events and treats for the children

I hope this all makes sense but as ever if you have any queries on any aspect of Pre-School life then please do not hesitate to have a word with me. Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mandy & Staff

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day & group story time 2.45pm

Friday 11th April – Easter Fayre 9.15am and Pre School breaks up for Easter

Summer term

Thursday 1st May – possible closure