



Pickles Pre-School.

The Community Room, Cherry Tree Primary School,
Berry Avenue, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 6ST
January 2015.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and we wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2015. We welcome our new children and their families to our Pre-School.

Each half term we produce a newsletter to inform you of our themes for learning, activities, events so you be a part of your child's learning and development. At Pickles Pre-School we believe that by building a partnership with a child's Parents/Carers the child's learning and development will flourish and we will create the very best start for their on-going academic journey.

Our Themes for our Learning this Half Term will be –

- **Settling in and following the children's interest** – At the beginning of the half term we will be working on Personal, Social and Emotional Development as we support the new children settle into our new room.

With all the children we will be exercising and enjoying the Winter fresh area in our garden. Learning through our music, dancing, art and cooking activities and supporting the children in activities that follow their interests and develop their learning and development, as required of the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**.

Parents/Carers of our new children will find a Parent's Guide to the EYFS at the back of their Parent's Pack. Parents/Carers of existing children should already have a copy, you can download it from our website www.picklespreschool.co.uk or I can print another one for you if you wish.

- **Elmer the elephant** – Reading the Elmer Books, cutting and making collages, colours

- **Farm and Animals** – Playing with our Toy Farm, learning the names, sounds and Makaton signs of animals, we hope to visit a local allotment, singing "Old McDonald had a farm", reading (and listening to the audio recording and song) of the book "What the Ladybird Heard" by Julia Donaldson.

Carpet Time Talking week by week.

Week Commencing	Letter	Number	Shape	Colour	Language of the Week
6 th January	q	6	Square	White	Turkish - Merhaba
	r	7	Triangle	Yellow	Italian - Ciao
12 th January	s	8	Circle	White	Urdu - Assalam-o-Alekum
19 th January	t	9	Rectangle	Orange	Akan, also known as "Twi" – (Ghana Language) – Ete Sen
26 th January	u	10	Diamond	Green	Romanian - Buna
2 nd February	v	1	Circle	Black	Czech - Ahoj. (<i>ahoy</i>)
9 th February	w	2	Oval	Red	Tamil - Vaṇakkam

Dates for your diary –

Parent Consultations – For parent/carers of children who were with us in the Autumn 2014 term. Thursday 8th January, 4:30pm – 6pm, in the Cherry Tree School Hall. Please arrive via the Berry Avenue main entrance to the school.

You should already be aware of the time you have been allocated for your meeting, if not please check your emails or the notice in the cloakroom. If you are unable to make the time you have been allocated please let me know so I can arrange another time. Additionally I can book a time for you to meet with our Special Needs Co-ordinator, Dawn Haigh, and our Manager, Sarah Wickham, if you wish.

This is a chance for you to chat with your child's Key Person, to look at your child's Learning Journal and share in all they have enjoyed, learnt and discuss their interests and development.

Start of Term – No Pre-School on Monday 5th January 2015 as it is a Staff INSET Day. Our term starts on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

Half Term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2015. There is no Pre-School over half term week.

Council Compliance Visit – Friday 30th January – A representative from the Council will be visiting us on this day to check that we have been meeting the criteria for the council's free early years funding requirements. Some of you may receive a questionnaire to ask about the funding forms you are asked to sign each term, the invoices you receive to pay for additional hours etc. Some of you may be asked about this when you pick up your children on the day. We have every confidence that they will find transparency and accuracy in our accounting and administration.

What's NEW?

Named Items – waterbottles, coats, woolley hats, gloves, scarves – please name them all.

Lunch Clubs – We have spaces available for Lunch Club each day so let me know if you would like your child to attend. Lunch Club is 1 ½ hours, starts straight after our morning session and finishes at 1:35pm. Lunch Club can be included in your 15 hours if your child receives a funded place or at a cost of £6.90 each session. You need to provide a healthy lunch and drink for your child to enjoy.

Child Pick Up – Please make sure you let us know if someone else is due to pick your child up after Pre-School. We will not let your child leave with someone other than you without your consent. In an emergency please call the Office Number of Cherry Tree School (01923 245490) and ask to put through to "The Community Room" to inform us of a change of plan.

Contact Details – moved house? Got a new mobile phone number? Emergency contact person moved away? Please let us know so we can update our records for our admin and in case of an emergency.

Nursery Rhyme/Song of the Month:

Old MacDonald had a farm, E I E I O. And on that farm he had a

- Pig / Cow / Horse / Duck / Chicken / Sheep / Donkey / Goat

E I E I O, With a

- Oink Oink / MooMoo / Neigh Neigh / Cluck Cluck / Baa Baa / Eeeee Orrr / Bleat Bleat

Here an "Oink" there and "Oink" everywhere an "Oink Oink"

Old MacDonald had a farm, E I E I O

Makaton Signs we will learn and use:



Little fingers trace shape of horns against cheeks



Mime movement on the spot – twice only



Small circular movement at tip of nose





Facebook page – “Like” our “Pickles Pre-School” Facebook page so to stay up to date with our news, events and information.

If you have any questions or queries or if we can be of any additional support to you or your child please do not hesitate to ask me or a member of our Pickles Pre-School team.

Happy 2014 to you all and kind regards,

Lynsey Pickles – 01923 223538 – Lynsey.preschool@gmail.com
07870 628045 (Emergency contact number in Pre-School hours)
Cherry Tree School Office Number – 01923 245490

Staff Team – Sarah, Alessia, Dawn, Kaneez, Beverley, Gerry & Barbara
Volunteer – Masooma