



Dear Parents,

I would like to offer a warm welcome to the children and families who have just joined *Little Pippins*. I work Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week and have an 'open door policy' at the beginning of each session for **brief** conversations. If you feel you want a little longer please arrange an appointment. Brenda is in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for admin queries.

We shall be using the theme **Spring and Growth** to address the various areas within our pre-school curriculum during this term. Please take a look at the *Planning Web* in the lobby and on our website <http://www.littlepippins.org.uk/> Each term there will be a core selection of story and information books chosen primarily for pleasure but also to support the ideas we are trying to develop in all areas of the revised EYFS curriculum. There is a list below in case you want to follow these up with trips to the library.

Communication and language and Literacy We will continue to offer play-based activities that encourage children to recognise signs and words and to begin to mark-make for a purpose. These will include book making, creating stories and making signs for the pre-school. As our topic is about growth, children will be encouraged to talk about what we need to make our bodies grow and to keep them well. We plan to look at non-fiction books – *My Body*, *A Day in the Life of a Nurse* and *A Day in the Life of a Doctor*. Children will be given the opportunity to talk about experiences of going to the doctor's surgery, the hospital or the dentist and to talk about people who care for us – nurses, doctors, care workers etc. If you are involved in any of these professions please have a word with me as it would be lovely if you could come in and talk about your job. We will also be looking at two traditional tales to support our work on plant growth. These are *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Enormous Turnip*.

Personal, social and emotional development We will continue to explore feelings and emotions and will re-visit concepts such as *turn-taking*, *being kind* and *how does it feel when..?* We will also discuss appropriate ways for the children to indicate their displeasure, '*Stop – I don't like that!*' – rather than resorting to physical action. We will use puppets and stories to cover subjects such as hand washing and dressing skills and will continue to spend time talking about taking care of our bodies, healthy food and the effect exercise has on us.

Mathematical development Our role-play shop will give children the opportunity to explore money exchange, weighing and measuring. They will also use non-standard measuring units to measure plant growth, their own height and foot size. Some of the older children will be encouraged to record these measurements.

Understanding the world We will spend time discussing spring and new growth. Children will be able to grow seeds, cress and beans and will be able to explore why some seeds grow and others don't. We will relate these discussions to what children need to make their bodies grow and stay well. Children will also be encouraged to use role-play – for example *The Enormous Turnip* - to explore forces (*push* and *pull*). We will also have a mini focus on the Chinese New Year.

Physical development As well as our usual *Active Kidz* and garden activities there will be opportunities for children to re-enact *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Enormous Turnip*. Children will be encouraged to use fine motor skills to pick up, plant and tend seedlings.

Expressive art and design

The children will be given the opportunity to look carefully at plants and flowers and to 'have a go' at drawing or painting them. (Sometimes this is interpreted literally and the flowers and plants actually get painted but this would still constitute 'expressive art'!!!) We will also experiment with different types of printing – butterfly, string, foot and hand prints. We hope to produce some artwork for a *Jack and the Beanstalk* display and we will also be making Easter cards and chocolate nests. There will be an Easter Bonnet competition and parade on the last Friday of this term. Please keep the afternoon free so that you can attend. All bonnets should be the children's own work and will be judged accordingly.

Parental help

Thank you for all the help we received last term. We look forward to having parents in to help again this term. I appreciate that many of you work or have younger children to care for. However, if you are free to help either on a regular basis or just occasionally, we would be delighted to see you. We would also be happy to have the support of grandparents and carers. There is a list of dates on the whiteboard outside. If you are daunted by the idea of coming in for a whole session or not knowing what you will be asked to do, you can sign up for short periods and particular tasks. For example, coming in to wash the paint brushes or sharpen pencils would be a tremendous help.

We would particularly like parents to sign up and come and read favourite children's story during our book week (2nd – 6th March) – ideally dressed in costume! We had a fabulous response last year and the children really enjoyed all the story telling.

Outside activities

If your child comes into pre-school in boots, please send in some indoor shoes.

Learning Journals

On the radiator top by the kitchen you will find your child's individual *Learning Journal* which is compiled by your child's key person in collaboration with you and your child. As your child's most important and prime educator we value your input. For example a note of the first time your child fastens his/her shoes, dresses unaided or rides his/her bike without stabilisers are all useful contributions. Please feel free to access these journals at any time whilst respecting the privacy of other children's

Learning Journals. There are slips to fill in on the whiteboard by the front door and a pocket on the display board above the *Learning Journal's* for your contributions. You may also email contributions to lin.littlepippins@btinternet.com

Lunchboxes/Drink bottles

Please make sure lunchboxes and bottles are named and that bottles go home each day

Snacks

We have sufficient breadsticks to last us until the end of this term. However, we would appreciate plain popcorn or rice cakes so that we can offer a choice

Independent cooking

We would appreciate donations of plain/self-raising flour (gluten free included); butter, icing sugar, caster sugar and eggs

Personal toys

I understand that it can be tricky but please encourage your children to leave their toys/cuddlies* at home, in the car - or in the toy hotel as a last resort. It is hard for staff to keep track of them and for other children not to want a turn – which can cause tears and disagreements.

Please recycle unwanted materials by bringing them in to enhance the following areas

Box modelling/creative work

- Small cartons and kitchen roll tubes
- Clean small size Actimel drink containers

Mark-making

- Old calendars
- Diaries
- Note books
- Post its
- Envelopes
- Other unwanted items of stationary

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 5th March 2015 – World Book Day
- Friday 27th March 2015 – from 1pm Easter Bonnet Parade – all parents welcome
- Friday 27th March 2015 – last day of term
- 30th March to 10th April 2015 – April Holiday

*the exception being a comforter soft toy during the settling in period

Books and stories

Non-Fiction

A Day in the Life of a Doctor – Heather Adamson

A Day in the Life of a Nurse – Carole Watson

Fiction

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle

Oliver's Vegetables – Vivian French

Jasper's Beanstalk – Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen

Traditional Tales

The Enormous Turnip

Jack and the Beanstalk



Linda Goddard and the team

