



Little Pippins Pre-School  
Freeman Orchard, Gaveston Road, Harwell, Didcot, OX11 0HP  
Tel: 01235 821741  
email: [littlepippins@btinternet.com](mailto:littlepippins@btinternet.com)  
[www.littlepippins.org.uk](http://www.littlepippins.org.uk)



Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the long holiday and a warm welcome to the new parents and children. We have an 'open door policy' at the beginning of each session for **brief** conversations. However, if you feel you want a little longer please arrange an appointment - either with your key person or with me.

We shall be using the theme **Ourselves** as a way of introducing the various concepts and learning experiences we would like your child to enjoy 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.

During the first couple of weeks there will be a focus on developing social skills and personal independence – caring for each other, negotiating, turn-taking, hand washing and toileting skills. We will also look at why it is necessary to have some agreed rules for behaviour and why we need to take care of our equipment, ourselves and each other.

We plan to use every day experiences to develop mathematical, mark-making and word recognition skills. We do not use worksheets at *Little Pippins* as we believe there are so many more exciting ways to engage a child's interest in any particular subject. Our aim is support your child to become an enthusiastic, competent and independent learner.

The theme **Ourselves** provides rich opportunities for children to look at their five senses, think about how bodies work, talk about their families and their immediate environment. At some point the children will be asked to bring in a photograph of themselves as babies to create either a display or a book.

Physical activities are planned to develop and extend both fine and gross motor skills and spatial awareness. With the older children we will be focusing particularly on using a tripod pencil grip and refining scissor skills. During our focus music and movement time we will be working on spatial awareness, listening and responding to patterns in music and moving using different parts of the body.

The children will be using various art mediums to paint self-portraits and draw pictures. We will explore rhyme and rhythm and listen to a wide variety of music. Our imaginative play areas and activities, both indoors and out, are planned to encourage the children to recreate roles and experiences.

## Footwear

If you send your child into pre-school wearing wellies or dressing up shoes, please make sure that they also have a pair of pumps or other suitable shoes for indoor wear. There have been a number of accidents with children wearing *Crocs* and *Flip-flops* and we strongly advise against sending children in wearing these.



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## Parental help

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. Whilst we are happy for you to bring in younger siblings please be aware that the pre-school is not set up to cater for very young toddlers and babies so you will need to keep an eye on them.

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 up the paint brushes or to sharpen pencils would be a tremendous help.

## Outside activities

We try to go outside whatever the weather and your child will need appropriate and named outdoor clothes for particular times of the year - wellies, warm coats/waterproofs. In cold weather, please remember to send in coats even if you are bringing your child to pre-school in a car.

## Learning Journals

On the blue shelves above the paint area 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*. *We hope to move over to electronic Learning Journals* at some point during this year which will enable you to log into up to date observations.

## Recent Donations/Grants

We have been very fortunate this term to receive three substantial donations for equipment/resources. Thank you to...

- Gill and Rob Pabst for their donation. We now have a lovely dolls house named *Daisytill Cottage*
- The *Bagg's Tree Buskers* who donated £100 pounds with which we have purchased a new small world garage and farmyard
- Danyelle Paton who kindly donated her birthday money and which will be used to extend and refurbish our mud kitchen - henceforth known as *Dan's Diner!*

## Please recycle materials by bringing in the following unwanted items...

### Box modelling/creative work

- Cardboard - not toilet rolls
- Clean plastic bottles or tubs
- Fabric

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- Bits of ribbon, string/wool/felt/lace
- Wrapping paper/tissue paper/wallpaper
- Cotton wool
- Straws
- Coloured feathers
- Bottle tops or lids

**PLEASE NOTE - ALL BOX MODELLING ITEMS NEED TO BE FROM GLUTEN/NUT FREE PRODUCTS & SHOULD NOT BE OLD MEDICINE/DETERGENT CONTAINERS**

### Mark-making

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

*Some of the stories we will be enjoying this term are...*

- *Dogger* - Shirley Hughes
- *Alfie* stories - Shirley Hughes
- *Lucy and Tom go to School* - Shirley Hughes
- *Titch* stories - Pat Hutchins
- *Pass the Jam Jim* - Kaye Umansky
- *I'm Sorry!* - Sam McBratney
- *Home Before Dark* - Ian Beck
- *This is the Bear* - Sarah Hayes
- *I Want My Teddy* - Jez Alborough
- *I Want my Potty* - Tony Ross

We look forward to working with you and your child over the next academic year,

Linda Goddard and the team