



## April 2023

Welcome to our newsletter for the month of April. After the Easter holidays it will be term 3.

### **Important dates this month.**

Easter holidays – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Reopen Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Where to access information.**

Up to date information will be communicated via Family app, Facebook, news section of the website and on our noticeboard.

Parents have responsibility to check these regularly throughout the month for updates.

Jolly Pirates staff are here at any time if you would like to speak to us. Please contact us and we will get back to you as soon as possible before or after sessions.

### **What is our learning project?**

This month we will be exploring ‘where does it live?’ The children and staff will be exploring our outdoor environment searching for various insects/ animals to find out more about their habitats e.g., bird’s nests in the trees and how they make their homes. We will be researching and continuing to discuss life cycles and where different creatures are born. During this month we will also have the opportunity to explore Easter and the children’s experiences of celebrating Easter. As the weather continues to change, we will continue to look at Springtime and discuss the growth happening outdoors and the difference between day and night.

### **What activities might we explore?**

During April, the children will explore more natural materials during play, they will use various materials to build and use their imagination during play. Some of these may include natural logs, sticks and leaves. In the water tray the children will have the opportunity to make their own pond/ sea using leaves, sticks, shells as this will enhance sensory play and children will use their senses to explore the textures of the materials. We will be using some different sorting collections to explore sorting and patterns. We will be continuing to explore the growth and lifecycles of animals and what habitats they live in.

**What might we sing or read?**

We will have the opportunity to sing songs relating to different habitats and home environments such as the down in the jungle and the children can suggest songs during song and music time. We will include opportunities to explore action songs – ‘I’m a little chick’.

The children will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of books relating to the children’s suggestions for the project. Some of these include the zoo and ten little tadpoles. Our rhyme and song sheet is available to download from our website and is uploaded on Family.

**Additional activities planned?**

We will be exploring some interactive ICT drama and movement in class, details will be shared on Family.

Sammy Star will be visiting us for our monthly music class on the 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Blackberry Farm will be visiting us on 27<sup>th</sup> April to allow us to meet all the animals.

**What skills are we focussing on?**

This month we will be continuing to focus on encouraging the children’s sense of independence. We will also focus on taking care of the environment and living things. How can we take care of our classroom? Some examples would be tidying up and putting rubbish in the bin. How can we look after our environment outdoors? Some examples can be the same as indoors but also watering out plants and brushing up any mess at the mud kitchen.

**Home activity ideas:**

At the end of the month, we will also be sending home our Jolly Pirates red and clear activity bags. We appreciate if you return these promptly on the date requested as we rotate the activity packs to provide all children a turn with the resources.

We will send the date and information home to you via Family. We also appreciate the careful use of the activity packs and we would appreciate if they could be returned in good condition and that parents/guardians supervise the use of the packs at home to ensure that resources do not get damaged or lost. Thank you.

**Additional information:**

Sickness: please phone Jolly Pirates on 02892 670988, email [info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@jollypiratespreschool.co.uk) or send a message on Family to alert staff to your child being off due to sickness. This would be greatly appreciated.

Please ensure all items of uniform are labelled and spare clothes bag clearly labelled. Please ensure a coat and bag comes to pre-school each day.

Any extended family members or childminders, who may be collecting children, will need **photographic I.D.** if they have not attended for a collection before. Staff must be informed the morning off collection or ahead of time that there will be someone other than parents collecting.