



**May 2023**

Welcome to our newsletter for the month of May.

**Important dates this month.**

May Day Bank Holiday closures –  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May.  
Staff development day – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
May.  
Parent zoom evening – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>  
May.

**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 ‘the way we were/ the way the world was.’ The children and staff will be exploring our outdoor environment and some traditional games.

We will be researching and continuing to discuss life cycles, this time focused on our growth.  
What were we like when we were a baby?

We will explore what way the world was e.g., extinct animals and old-fashioned clothing and activities through the ages/traditions from olden days.

**What activities might we explore?**

During May, the children will be able to explore traditional games played over the years e.g., tiddly winks, can’t cross the red sea. We will be exploring extinct animals e.g., dinosaurs. Linking this in with heavy and light we will be exploring weight on our classroom scales using the weights but also objects from around the classroom.

Looking at our growth we will explore self portraits and provide opportunities to make comparisons to when we were babies. Exploring our shadows and the continuing weather change in our outdoor environments moving into Summer.

**What might we sing or read?**

We will explore May's songs and rhymes (see song and rhyme sheet) in our environment.

We will explore musical instruments alongside singing and rhymes. Children will also have the opportunity to suggest songs they would like to explore.

Our rhyme and song sheet is available to download from our website and is uploaded on Family.

This month we will read stories relating to babies growing, dinosaurs, weather stories, rhyming word stories and children's choice.

**Additional activities planned?**

Sammy Star will be visiting us for our monthly music class.

We will be exploring some interactive ICT drama and movement in class.

**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 empathy towards others and demonstrating kindness. Sharing and turn taking with peers through group games both indoors and outdoors. Continuing to practice doing our zips independently and recognising names. We will also be promoting scissor use and scissor skills this month.

**Home activity ideas:**

Throughout the month we will also be sending home our new updated Jolly Pirates bags. We appreciate if you return these promptly on the date requested as we rotate the bags 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 bags at home to ensure that resources do not get damaged or lost. Thank you.

As we move towards the end of the year, we will be sharing some examples of home activities via photo/video on Family. These will be good stepping stone activities for moving into Primary one.

**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 seesaw 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.