



**September 2023**

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

**Important dates this month.**

Settling in times apply this month – see settling in timetables sent via Family app.

**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 are encouraged to check 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?** Our learning project this month is ‘The Wonder of Me’. Through this project the children will have the opportunity to explore their new indoor and outdoor pre-school environments. This is a very important aspect of the settling process as they become familiar with the environment. Other ideas such as making new friends, what I like to play with, our favourites and our family and friends could be explored. Children will be included in the learning and learning is child led with adult support. We can also explore ‘are we the same or different?’ Children will be able to use mirrors to explore their features for example eye colour. Staff will be supporting children in settling throughout the month and the project will give staff and children the opportunity to get to know each other.

**What activities might we explore?** We will be exploring a wide range of activities within all six areas of the curriculum and learning through play. Some activities include creating self-portraits using art/ creative materials and family photos. In circle time we will begin to learn the names of our peers and the staff. We will explore favourite items e.g., toys, foods, colours. There will be opportunities to participate in group games indoors and outdoors to begin building peer relationships. Over the settling period children will have the opportunity to explore the areas within the environments e.g., sand, painting, loft role play.

In addition, we will be focusing on our hand washing routine as this is extremely important and also toileting hygiene routines. We will explore this through practical activities, story books and puppets.

**What might we sing or read?** Children will have the opportunity to explore books freely in our cosy areas. In addition, we will focus on stories relating to starting school and making friends. We will also read group stories promoting appropriate behaviours in school e.g., sharing. To link in with our project, 'The wonder of me' we will take part in a range of songs. This includes our 'hello song' to help us learn the names of our friends. Songs will also be used to promote routines within pre-school for example we will listen to the tidy up song. Children will also be invited to share their favourite songs and stories with peers and staff. What do they sing at home? Do they have a bedtime story they enjoy? We will be exploring nursery rhymes as these could be familiar for the children and this will encourage a home into school link.

**What skills are we focussing on?** This month we will be focusing on building children's independence skills. This will include entering Jolly Pirates independently and confidently separating from parent/guardian. We will also begin to work on the independence skill of putting on their own coat. This is an important skill to develop for transitioning between the indoor and outdoor environment. We have some special and fun techniques for putting on coats which we will be sharing with you as we progress this skill. Another skill we will be working on is handwashing and independent toileting, it is encouraged that children wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. Staff will help support the children in becoming familiar with our hand washing area.

**Home activity ideas:**

Each month we encourage children and their families to take part in some home activities. We encourage parents/guardians to engage in these alongside their child to build a school to home link.

Some activities will be;

We encourage parents to promote hand washing at home e.g., before/after mealtimes and after using the toilet.

Encourage children to put on their coats when going outside.

Promoting independent toileting at home, talking your child through the different steps including pulling up and down the relevant clothing to go to the toilet, to use toilet roll to clean themselves and to remember to flush the toilet.

We do have visual symbol pictures which help children understand and carry out handwashing and toileting routines if you would like a copy of these, please ask staff.

We will be sending home a 'Rufus' handwashing resource for all the children to keep and use at home.

Any other home activity ideas will be shared via Famly.

**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 Famly to alert staff to your child being off due to sickness. You can mark your child off as sick on Famly. This would be greatly appreciated. We would also appreciate if you could alert us to the type of sickness your child has so, we can monitor this within the setting. It is important that you contact Jolly Pirates on that day to inform them of absence. All daily attendance is reported back to the Education Authority, a lot of absence can result in them removing your child's place.

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled including their coat and spare clothes. Any extended family members or guardians, who may be collecting children, will need **photographic I.D.** the first time they come to collect the child. Staff must be informed the morning off collection or ahead of time that there will be someone other than parents collecting.