



## FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

How time has flown! It is hard to believe we are near the end of this half-term already and are sorry a newsletter has not been issued before now. This half-term, we have been using the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears to extend the children's learning as part of their learning syllabus. We have been looking at where different bears come from, where they live, their sizes, colours and how different they are to each other. The children have also been re-telling and re-enacting the story to their friends at Pre-School. We will continue this particular learning activity with a new book after the half-term break.

With the continuing array of infections going around, we have been learning about health and hygiene, encouraging the children to become independent in their self-care. At Tiddlywinks we believe it is important for children to understand how important it is to stay healthy and we encourage them to cough and sneeze into their elbows, wipe their noses with tissues which are thrown away after use and wash their hands regularly. We have also re-visited good manners; using the words 'Please', 'Thank you' and 'Excuse me' and practising good table manners. Your support in encouraging and reinforcing these learning points at home is always appreciated.

### Toys from Home

Whilst we fully understand and appreciate that some children may wish to bring a favourite toy from home to Pre-School, we would appreciate your help in discouraging them from doing so. These often distract them from learning and engaging fully during a session and can obviously also get misplaced or lost, which can cause unnecessary distress.

### Safeguarding

Please let a member of staff know if your child has an accident at home or on the way to Pre-School, or has an existing injury when they arrive at Tiddlywinks. You will be asked to complete and sign an Outside Accident Form so we have a record of any pre-existing injuries, grazes, scrapes or bruises.

On arrival at Pre-School, please remember that children remain your responsibility until they are received by a member of Tiddlywinks staff. At collection time, once your child has been sent out to you, they are no longer the responsibility of Tiddlywinks staff.

### Communication with Parents

Our preferred method of communication is email so please do check your emails regularly. Please also confirm by return email that you have received any communication we send out.

### World Book Day

World Book Day this year is being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Your child is invited to come to Pre-School dressed as their favourite book character and bring their favourite book with them.

### 30-Hour Funding Eligibility Deadlines

Please remember that the three monthly deadlines for applying for 30 hours of funded childcare are as follows:

| <u>Funding Period</u>     | <u>Application must be made by:</u> | <u>For payment from:</u>  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Autumn Term (Sept-Dec)    | 31 <sup>st</sup> August             | 1 <sup>st</sup> September |
| Spring Term (Jan – Mar)   | 31 <sup>st</sup> December           | 1 <sup>st</sup> January   |
| Summer Term (April – Aug) | 31 <sup>st</sup> March              | 1 <sup>st</sup> April     |

You can find a full step-by-step guide to the 30 hour extended entitlement at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

### Diary Dates

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February | End of Half-Term                         |
| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February | New Half-Term starts                     |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March   | World Book Day                           |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March  | Mother's Day Morning – details to follow |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April     | End of Spring Term                       |

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**While the weather remains cold and inclement, please remember to send your child to Pre-School with their own named hat, gloves and all-in-one suit for outdoor play.**