



Walkern Preschool

Newsletter

February 2025

Wishing everyone a warm welcome back to the second half of the spring term. It has been lovely welcoming all the children back to preschool and getting back into the familiarity of our daily routine. We have some upcoming changes this term and must start by saying a very sad goodbye to Kelsey. Kelsey has worked at the preschool since September 2021. We have watched her successfully complete her training and become a popular key worker and a much loved member of our preschool community. Kelsey is now moving on to the next step in her career and although we are very sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her new venture and hope she stays in touch. Following this, we are excited to welcome Gemma and Hannah to our team. Gemma is an experienced early years practitioner and is joining us from Monday 3rd March. Hannah will be joining us to support her level 2 qualification. We are also very pleased (and relieved!) to share that we have successfully recruited a new Chair for the preschool! We are delighted to welcome Sophie Yates aboard and I am sure you will join us in thanking her for volunteering to undertake this role. On behalf of the staff and committee, I would like to warmly welcome both Sophie, Gemma and Hannah to the team.

As you all know, the preschool had their OFSTED inspection before the half-term break. Thank you so much to all the parents who talked to the OFSTED inspector, she commented that parental response was overwhelmingly positive which means such a lot to the staffing team. While leaders are unable to share the outcome or report just yet, we (the committee) would like to thank all the staff that go above and beyond everyday for our children; your hardworking and dedication is what makes the preschool such a special place.

The next half term is looking to be an exciting one; with World Book Day, Crazy Hair Day and Mother's Day card making sessions to look forward to (please see below for further details). The committee are hoping to run another Bingo Night so please keep your eyes open for a date! Thank you all for your ongoing support with these fundraising events, the revenue we generate through these events is desperately needed and hugely appreciated.

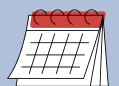
This terms topics

Teeth- Dental Health Month
World Book Day - Elmer the Elephant
Vegetable Shop - Supertato
Comic Relief - Mad Hair
Mothers Day
Easter



If you have children in both morning and after sessions please can you collect your morning child at 12:45 and then drop your afternoon child at 1pm.

Key Dates



March

3rd -7th World Book Week, Elmer the Elephant
Friday 21st March - Crazy Hair for Comic relief
Saturday 22nd March - Mothers day Card making
stay and play session

April

Thursday 3rd - Last day at preschool
Friday 4th- No Preschool
Monday 7th -21st Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd Back to Preschool
22nd April - 1st May bottle donations for
Walkern Fair.

May

Sunday 4th May Walkern Fair
26th -30th Half Term

Names

Please ensure your child's clothes and drink bottles are all named. If your child comes home in spare clothes please ensure they are returned asap. please also ensure your child has suitable footwear on for all preschool sessions.



Fundraising

Preschool is a registered charity, we really rely on our fundraising income to help us continue our great work. There are a couple of simple things you can do to help:

Firstly, we have easyfundraising -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walkernpreschool>

- You just need to sign up and easy fundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Secondly, there is Stikins. As we ask all parents/carers to label /name everything your child brings into Preschool, including coats, shoes, wellies, drinks bottles and lunch boxes, we have teamed up with Stikins

(www.stikins.co.uk), where you can buy adhesive labels for your child's clothing. Please use fundraising number:

24434 for the Preschool to earn an extra 30% commission.

We also recycle old ink cartridges so if you have any inkjet cartridges please pop them into preschool, each cartridge we recycle we are paid about £1. So it soon adds up.

Volunteers

Would anyone be interested in volunteering at our Toddler group on a Monday morning? We need some help between 08:45 and 11am. Will include making hot drinks, preparing snack and tidying up.

Accident Forms

All accident forms will be sent to you via text message and not by paper copy.



Mother's Day



Card /Craft morning Saturday 23rd March

Bring your Dad, uncle, grandad or anyone else in to make a Mothers day card. This is a drop in session, come along at any time between 11-2pm stay for as long as you like.

£5

Book online (link to sent on what's app)

Contact Details

Preschool

01438 861285 option 2

07305067059

walkernpreschool@gmail.com

Admin

07942 096445

admin@walkernpreschool.co.uk

Please send any absences to preschool direct to ensure they are received on time.

Lunchbox Items

As a reminder, morning children's packed lunches shouldn't contain chocolate bars, sweets, or too many sugary items, and more importantly, no food containing nuts and no peanut butter in sandwich fillings, due to allergies. The recommended/average packed lunch would consist of the following:

A main savoury item such as a sandwich, cheese & crackers or pasta (with fork)

A yoghurt

A piece of fruit or vegetable

Crisps

For further guidance please go to www.nhs.uk/change4life

Parents Evening

Hedgehogs - Thursday 1st May

Squirrel's -Thursday 5th June

Rabbits -Thursday 3rd July

Your child's keyworker will book a time in with you.

Birthday Sweets



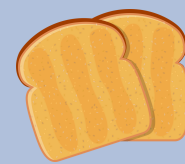
Just a quick note regarding Birthday sweets, please could we kindly ask that parents/carers do not supply these on or around your child's birthday, to share with their classmates. Unfortunately, we have a variety of allergies within the setting and also, we focus on dental hygiene within the preschool, so would be beneficial to refrain from these types of foods.

Rest assured, we do celebrate your child's birthday at preschool by singing a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' and have a pretend cake to make it a little bit special for them :-)

Thank you.

Breakfast Club

If you would like your child to attend breakfast club at Preschool, it runs from 8am every weekday at a cost of £5 and your child's breakfast will be provided. Bookings can be made in advance or last-minute, and you can book regular slots or one off's. Please text to book on 07305067059 or email walkernpreschool@gmail.com



Absence

Please make sure you text (07305 067059); email walkernpreschool@gmail.com or call the preschool (01438 861285 option 2) for any child not attending their session due to illness, holiday or last-minute absence. You only need to send one message on the first day of absence.

W/c 3rd March

Come dressed in bright colours like Elmer the Elephant in exchange for a Easter Egg (these will be donated to the Food bank)

You can pick any day or every day this week to dress up.

WORLD

BOOK

DAY

**COMIC
RELIEF**

Friday 21st March

Come to school with Crazy hair on Friday 21st March.

Tapestry

You should now all have access to your Tapestry account for your child/ren, but please let us know if you haven't received an email from Tapestry regarding the activation of your account and/or you need some assistance with setting this up on your device.

Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. This system allows us to work with parents and carers to share information and record the children's play and learning in and outside of the classroom.



Parents and carers are given their own log-in using their email. All our staff are given a secure log-in. They can then upload observations, photos or videos; recording children's achievements and assessing their learning in reference to the EYFS curriculum.



Facebook

Did you know we have a Facebook page for the Walkern Preschool, where we post regularly about all the things the children have been enjoying in their sessions.

Run by Walkern PreSchool
WALKERN
BABY & TODDLER GROUP

NO NEED TO BOOK

MONDAYS 08:45-10:45

£3.50 + £1 for Siblings

BASED IN WALKERN PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL,
PLEASE USE THE GATE FURTHEST FROM THE SCHOOL RECEPTION, PRESS THE BUZZER AND WE'LL LET YOU IN!

WWW.WALKERNPRESCHOOL.CO.UK

The poster features two children playing with blocks on a grassy area. A sun and balloons are in the background. Text includes 'Run by Walkern PreSchool', 'WALKERN BABY & TODDLER GROUP', 'NO NEED TO BOOK', 'MONDAYS 08:45-10:45', '£3.50 + £1 for Siblings', and contact information.

Walkern Fair

Sunday 4th May

We will be holding our bottle tombola stall again this year and will need help some help on the day, setting up, running the stall and clearing up. We will be in touch soon for volunteers.

We will also be collecting bottles from 22nd April to 1st May. These can be wine, beer, fizzy, shower gel anything in a bottle!

SAVE THE DATE

Treasure Hunt

Before the Easter holidays the children will bring home a decorated bag and a treasure list, over the holidays we ask that the children complete the treasure hunt and put their treasure in there bags. If these can be returned after the Easter holidays they will share their finds with their friends. This is a sponsored event so we would be grateful if you could collect any sponsors.



What's on

2025

April

Thursday 3rd - Last day at preschool
Friday 4th - No Preschool
Monday 7th - 21st Easter Holidays,
Sponsored Treasure Hunt
Tuesday 22nd Back to Preschool
22nd April - 1st May - Bring bottle for
Walkern Fair

March

3rd - 7th World Book Week Wear
Bright clothes like Elmer *in exchange*
for a Easter Egg which will be
donated to the food bank

Friday 21st March - Crazy
Hair for Comic relief

Saturday 22nd March
11am-2pm- Mothers day
Card making stay and play
session

May

1st May Hedgehogs Parents
Evening
Sunday 4th May - Walkern Fair
26th - 30th Half Term

June

2nd June - Back to Preschool
5th June - Squirrels parents evening
7th June Fathers Day Card Making stay
and play session 11-2pm
Saturday 21st June - Sports day

JULY

Thursday 3rd July - Rabbits Parents evening
Saturday 12st July - Family Fun Day (11am-2pm)
Wednesday 16th July
Squirrels and Rabbits last day of term
Hedgehogs last normal (full) day
Thursday 17th July
Hedgehogs leavers celebration

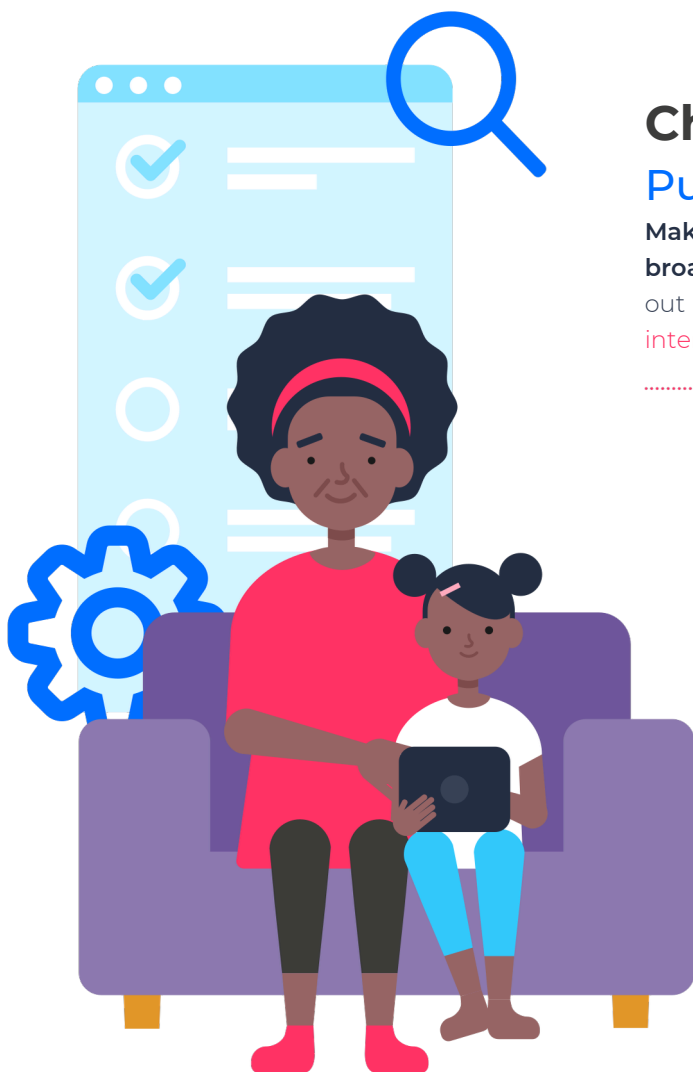
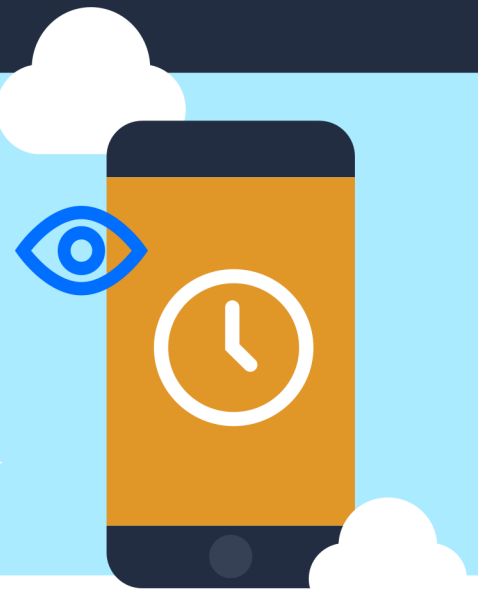


Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds

internet matters.org

22% of parents of 3-4-year-olds don't think their child has a good balance between screen time and other activities

* Source: Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022



Checklist:

Put yourself in control

Make use parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org).

Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](https://www.swiggle.org.uk) or [kids-search.com](https://www.kids-search.com). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](https://www.google.com/safetycenter). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.

Top Tips for Talking in the Early Years

Introducing **FOLLOW** - a set of simple ideas you can use every day to help support your child's speech and language

F

Face to face



Get down to your child's level

O

Observe



Observe what your child is playing with and follow their lead

L

Label



Label what your child is playing with using single words and phrases

L

Limit questions



Limit the number of questions you ask your child - use comments instead

O

Opportunities



Create natural communication opportunities within everyday activities

W

Wait



Wait and pause to give your child the time and chance to communicate

Ideas for creating natural opportunities for communication



Give them choices: "Apple or orange?"



Try not to anticipate their needs



Pause in songs and stories so they can fill in the gaps



Offer them things 'bit by bit'



Have fun!

For more information about **FOLLOW** and ways to support your child's speech & language scan the QR code

