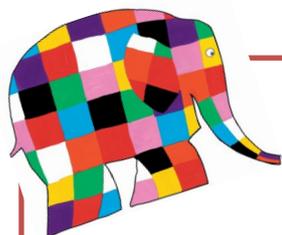


Dates for the Diary

12 th Feb 2016	Last Day of half term
15 th - 19 th Feb 2016	CLOSED - HALF TERM BREAK SMARTIES CHALLENGE!! See poster attached
22 nd Feb 2016	First Day back after half term
24 th Mar 2016	Last day of term - EASTER PARTY - info to follow
25 th Mar - 11 th Apr	CLOSED - EASTER BREAK
11 th Apr 2016	CLOSED - INSET DAY
27 th May 2016	Last Day of half term
30 th May - 3 rd June	CLOSED - HALF TERM
6 th June 2016	First Day back after half term
JULY 2016	SPORTS DAY - exact date to be confirmed
20 th July 2016	END OF YEAR BEACH PARTY - Last day of term



NEW YEAR, NEW TOPIC

Hopefully some of your children will be talking about our new topic for this term, Elmer the Patchwork Elephant!

So far this term we have enjoyed reading the various stories from this series and we've made our own patchwork train, elephants (even clay elephants which unfortunately didn't quite make the drying process, without all their parts falling off!!).

After half term we will be looking at making our own patchwork quilt and would really appreciate any old bits of thin fabric you may have lying around the house—or old clothes we could cut up!!

Thank you:)

WE'VE GOT ACTIVE KIDS!

It's that time of year again when we are collecting our Active Kids Vouchers from Sainsbury's and we'd really appreciate your help!

There is a collection box in the lobby for you and your children to place them in and if you can collect any off family and friends too that would be great!

Last year we collected nearly 6,000 so would be great to beat that this year!

We will be collecting towards activities and equipment for our garden.



Sainsbury's

Active Kids

Eat well • Move well • Live well

REMINDERS!!

Please can everyone ensure:

- ⇒ Your child has adequate clothing & footwear every session - we go outside most days in most weathers!
- ⇒ And this **MUST ALL** be named (bags, jackets, shoes, wellies, lunchboxes etc...) as our items left over most days is increasing!! We will hold lost property for a week and anything unclaimed after that week will be taken to the Charity shop.
- ⇒ **IF YOUR CHILD IS COMING TO PRESCHOOL IN WELLIES, PLEASE CAN THEY ALSO HAVE A PAIR OF SHOES TO CHANGE IN TO FOR INSIDE.**
 - ⇒ Spoons are included in lunch boxes
- ⇒ **NO NUTS** and minimal chocolate items for snacks and in lunches.

We thank you for your co-operation:)

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP??!!



We still have a vacancy on our Parent Management Committee for a Secretary.

The committee meet every couple of months and this role would include taking minutes at our meetings, admin jobs within the committee (not the preschool side of things!!) and a few other small tasks.

We have full details available on our website under the COMMITTEE section or come and speak to Amanda or James.

If you are interested in this role, please let Amanda know. Your help would be gratefully appreciated:)

SAFETY FIRST!



We have had a number of reports of children in cars without any or the correct car seat.

We would like to remind you that it is a legal requirement for all children under the age of 16 to be secured in an appropriate seat in any vehicle they are in.

The age of the children we have attending the setting means that each child should have a car seat either fixed using a seatbelt (ie high back booster), or a fixed seat with 3/5 point harness.

As per our safeguarding policies, we are obliged to report to the relevant authorities any child we feel doesn't have adequate safety measures in place to protect them from potential harm.

While we appreciate you may not be travelling far, is your child's life really worth the risk? You may be a safe driver, but unfortunately we cannot predict what others may be doing on the road!

On a similar note, please can you ensure you are driving safely in and out of the car park and respect that there are lots of little children and parents, leaving or returning to their cars, so please ensure an extremely slow speed is maintained.
Thank you.



LOST PROPERTY

Over the course of a week we manage to accumulate large amounts of lost property.

There will now be a box that is kept in the lobby in which we will put any unclaimed items every day. At the end of each half term, anything that is still in this box will be taken to the charity shop.

Please can we also remind everyone that ALL children's items need to be named, clothes, shoes, bags, snack tubs as we can then ensure this goes home with you on a daily basis.

We thank you in advance for your help with this:)

CAN I HAVE A QUICK WORD?!

We would like to ask that if you have a concern or would just like to talk to us about something that is worrying you, that you ask to speak to us in private.

The lobby area can sometimes become very congested at home time and I'm also sure you would rather everyone didn't hear what you had to say! Alternatively, you can call us outside of hours, drop us an email or make an appointment to come and speak to us at any time.

Upcoming Fundraising Events & New Building Update

As per the attached poster, one of our fun and exciting fundraising events is the Smarties Challenge, we hope you all enjoy this over the half term break:)

Also, we will be holding our annual Easter Party on Thursday 24th March. We will send out full info after half term, but just to give you some info about the event, our theme will be based on our Elmer Topic where we would like to encourage the children to come in dressed in something that makes them look unique. This could be brightly coloured clothes, some form of fancy dress, painted faces or even crazy mad coloured hair, but please do not go out and buy anything for this, just something you already have or we can lend you some of our dressing up —we also have face paints too.

And a quick update on the progress of our new building! One of our amazing mums, Sarah Spencer has submitted a couple of grant applications, one for a large sum of money, so hopefully we will hear back in the next few weeks if we have been successful! We'll keep you posted on how it goes:)

Bringing in own toys

While we appreciate some children like to bring in their own toys, we would like to remind you that this is done at your own risk and we cannot take responsibility for these being lost or damaged, so please bear this in mind if they want to bring in their favourite toy!



CHILD ILLNESS

We are still in that time of year when there are lots of bugs and viruses around and we would like to remind parents of our sickness policy.

If you have given your child Calpol or any other pain relief/temperature reducing medication that morning, then they are not able to attend preschool that day.

This is to be able to minimise the risk of passing these bugs on to not only your children, but to the staff too, because without the staff being here, we would have to close! Not only that, but while your child's immune system is down, they are more susceptible to other bugs that may be going round and become poorly for longer.

If you are unsure about whether to bring your child in, then feel free to call, text or email the preschool and we will advise you further.

