

February Newsletter

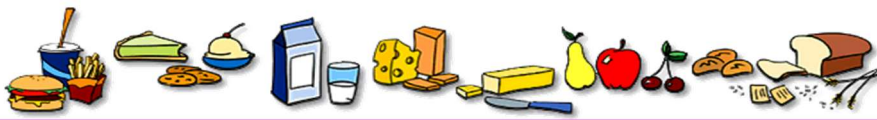
Term Dates and Upcoming Events	
Friday 9 th February 2024	Last Day of Funding for Term 3
Monday 12 th & Tuesday 13 th February 2024	Parents Evenings
Monday 12 th February- Friday 16 th February 2024	Half Term (No Funding)
Monday 19 th February 2024	Term 4 Funding Begins
Thursday 7 th March & Friday 8 th March	Butterflies Mother's Day Tea's
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Last Day to sign funding forms for terms 5/6
Thursday 28 th March 2024	Last Day of Funding for Term 4
Friday 29 th March 2024	Good Friday Nursery Closed
Monday 1 st April 2024	Easter Monday Nursery Closed
Tuesday April 2 nd - Friday April 12 th 2024	Easter Holiday (Non term, No funding)
Monday 15 th April 2024	Term 5 Funding Begins
Monday 6 th May 2024	Early May Bank Holiday Nursery Closed
Friday 24 th May 2024	Last Day of Funding for Term 5
Monday 27 th May 2024	Late May Bank Holiday Nursery Closed
Tuesday 28 th May 2024-Friday 31 st May 2024	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Term 6 Funding Begins
Wednesday 18 th July 2024	Last Day to sign Funding Forms for Term 1/2
Monday 22 nd July 2024	Last Day of Funding for Term 6
Monday 26 th August 2024	August Bank Holiday Nursery Closed

Parents Evenings

Following the recent publication of the children's assessments we will be holding parents evenings on Monday 12th (Butterflies, Bumblebees, Dragonflies) & Tuesday 13th February (Butterflies, Ladybirds, Caterpillars). If you would like to speak to your child's key person about their assessment or any concerns you might have please book a time slot. Sign-up sheets will be available on section doors from Wednesday 07/02/2024.

Collection and Drop off

Could we please ask all parents and carers to be mindful of each other's space and privacy and ensure that only one parent/guardian group is at the door to collect or drop off at a time? If you are waiting for your turn please wait at the bottom of the ramp (Butterflies & Bumblebees), outside the front porch (Ladybirds) or at the top of the stairs (Caterpillars & Dragonflies).



Packed Lunches

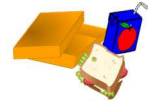
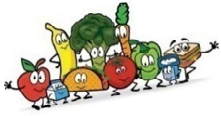
Please can we remind all parents to follow our packed lunch policy.

Lunches should **NOT** include-
Chocolate bars- Twix/Mars etc.

Sweets

Juice/Fizzy Drinks

Nuts, Nut Products or any items that may contain nuts



Sandwiches should not include

Sweet spread fillings- Jam/Honey/Nutella

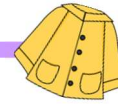
Nut Spreads- Peanut butter, almond butter etc.

Salty Fillings such as Marmite

For further information relating to your child's packed lunch please see our packed lunch policy which can be found on our website or from our administrator.



Outside Wear & Spare Clothes



With the weather getting colder and wetter, could you please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the garden and outdoor play including coats, boots, hats, gloves and spare clothes.

We like to get the children out even in inclement weather and don't want anyone to miss out.

Could you also please ensure that you send in at least two changes of clothing for your little one including socks and underwear. We love to get the children involved in messy play and want to ensure they always have something warm and comfortable to change into afterwards if needed.

Lastly could any borrowed clothing please be returned to the nursery so that we have extras on hand should another child need them.



Ladybirds (Babies)



Room Leader: Ellie
Supervisor: Vicky

Apprentice: Emily
Practitioner: Tierney

Books of the week

- In the Garden
- Where's Mr. Narwhal
- Love Bug
- The Very Ticklish Tiger

Themes of the Month

- Cold Weather & Winter Nature
- Valentine's & Pancake Day
- Colours
- Ladybirds & Birds





Bumblebees (Toddlers)



Room Leader: Leyla
Supervisor: Katie

Practitioner: Demelza
Practitioner: Hayley

Apprentice: Shannon

Books of the week

- Things that go, February 5th
- Guess how much I love you, February 12th

Themes & Activities

- Linked with our book of the week things that go, we will be exploring different types of vehicles.
- Celebrating Valentine's Day- Making Cards and using heart shaped potatoes for painting/printing

If you have had any of the nursery spare clothes sent home with your child could these please be returned so that they are available for other little ones that may need them.

Could parents also please make sure to label clothing, coats, shoes and other items coming into the nursery. We try our best to remember what belongs to who but are increasingly busy and want to ensure all items are returned to the appropriate child at the end of the day.



Dragonflies



Room Leader: Stevie
Supervisor: Katy

Practitioner: Stephanie
Apprentice: Keira

Apprentice: Amber

Books of the Week

- Colour Monster
- Guess how much I love you
- What the ladybird heard
- The hungry caterpillar

Activities

As part of children's mental health week we will be exploring friendships and feelings. We will encourage the children to talk about how they feel and how to express these feelings. We will also be exploring colours as well as experimenting with and trying different types of new fruits.





Caterpillars



Room Leader: Sarah
Practitioner: Arpana

Practitioner: Stephen
Practitioner: Lucie



Book of the Week

- The Worrysaurus
- Guess how much I love you
- Book with no pictures
- We are going on a bear hunt

Activities/Themes

- Children's Mental Health Week- We will be exploring our emotions and having a colours/rainbow day on Friday 9th February. Please could your child come in dressed in either bright colours or rainbow themed clothing. We will be having an extra fun day filled with balloons, banners and lots of colourful activities.
- Valentines Day
- Chinese New Year
- Pancake Day



Butterflies



Room Leader: Ciara
Supervisor: Shannon

Practitioner: Shay
Practitioner: Lainey

A huge thank you to those parents that participated in Careers Day last week. The children and staff both had so much fun learning about bee keeping and honey production as well as being a teacher and librarian.

Books of the week:

- Supertato
- The Power of Love
- The Invisible String
- Monkey Puzzle

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea's

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th March 2pm-2:45pm

There will be 12 spaces available for each day, with only one adult per child. Sign-up sheets will be available at the main entrance in due course.

Themes of the Month:

- Pancake Day 13th February: We will be having pancakes for breakfast with the honey that our visiting bee keeper kindly gave us.
- Valentine's Day 14th February:
- Light & Dark
- Random Acts of Kindness Day 17th March: We will be creating a "kindness tree" to promote kindness at the nursery and at home. Please keep an eye out for your child's home learning pack which will be exploring kindness. Please return these before 17th February so that we can add them to our tree.
- Our Bodies
- Winter and the weather
- Arctic and under the sea arctic animals

Please could we kindly ask that children leave any personal toys at home. While we do encourage children to put anything brought from home in a safe place while at the nursery they do not always want to. As a result toys can sometimes become lost or cause conflict with other children. If parents could be mindful of this we would greatly appreciate it.

Funding & Tax Free Child Care Guide

Tax Free Childcare

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (£2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare.

If you get Tax-Free Childcare, the government will pay £2 for every £8 you pay your childcare provider. This is paid via an online childcare account that you set up for your child. You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both.

Tax free Childcare can be used for approved childcare cost including:

- Deposits
- Fees
- Additional Meal cost

Your eligibility depends on:

- if you are working
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your child's age and circumstances
- your immigration status

If you are working you can usually get Tax-Free Childcare if you (and your partner if you have one) are:

- in work
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave
- If you're on adoption leave, you cannot apply for the child you're on leave for unless you're going back to work within 31 days of the date you first applied.

If you're not currently working you may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you get Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance.

You can apply if you're starting or re-starting work within the next 31 days.

For additional information or to register for a tax free childcare account please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

3 & 4 Year old Government Funding

All children in England are entitled to 15 hours per week government funding for 38 weeks of the year. This will come into effect the term following your child's 3rd birthday and

Child Turns 3 Between	Term child first becomes eligible for	Funding start date
1 st April 2023-31 st August 2023	Autumn Term 23	4 th September, 2023
1 st September 2023-31 st December	Spring Term 23	8 th January, 2023
1 st January 2024-31 st March 2024	Summer Term 24	15 th April, 2024
1 st April-31 st August 2024	Autumn Term 24	2 nd September, 2024

The 15 hour entitlement is automatic and there is no need to apply for it. However you will need to sign off funding form which is provided and held by the nursery.

Some 3 to 4 year olds are also eligible for the extended 30 hours funding. To check your eligibility or to apply for the funding please visit www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare

You can apply for your funding code once your child is 2 years and 36 weeks old.

Once you have received your funding code please send this to parents @radnorparkkindergarten.com along with the name, date of birth and national insurance number of the parent who applied for it.

Using your Funding at Radnor Park Kindergarten

At Radnor Park we have some specific policies relating to the use of government funding. The policies can be found in our FEE structure. If you have not received this or need a new copy please contact parents@radnorparkkindergarten.com for your copy. Please see below however for a guide to using you funding.

- Once child turns 3 their funding will take effect the following term.
- Parents must sign off a funding form provided by nursery or we will not be able to apply for your funding.
- If your child will be using **15 hours** government funding they must either:
 - Attend afternoon sessions M-F 1pm-6pm which will incur no additional weekly fee's or:
 - If you would like them to attend morning/all-day session than your child will need to be registered for a minimum of 16 hours a week. The charge for the 16th hour is £27.50. Any additional hours on top of the 16 hours will be charged at £7.40/hr.
- Please ensure you provide this information to us to prevent your child incorrectly being registered for the funded afternoon sessions.
- If your child will be using **30 hours** government funding you will need to first provide your funding code and parent information to us so that it can be verified.

- Then if you require any additional session you must let us know what they are so that we can check for availability and reserve their space please do this as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out on your desired spaces. Please be aware when deciding on sessions that they must either:
 - Attend afternoon sessions M-F 12pm-6pm which will incur no additional weekly fees or:
 - If you would like them to attend morning/all-day session than your child will need to be registered for a minimum of 31 hours a week. The charge for the 31st hour is £35.00. Any additional hours on top of the 16 hours will be charged at £7.40/hr.
- Please ensure you provide this information to us to prevent your child incorrectly being registered for the funded afternoon sessions.

Do you know who you can talk to?

If you have any queries or concerns, big or small, or you would like to talk to someone about your child. We are here to help!



Ting Healey Owner-
Invoices, Funding,
Sessions and FEE'S



**Emily Sargeant Setting
Manager-** Designated Child
Protection Officer, SENCO



Emma Reene Deputy Manager-
Special Educational Needs and
Disability Officer, Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Tracey Leighton Duty
Manager-** Health and Safety
Officer, Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Chloe Tidy Duty Manager-
Online Safety Co-Ordinator,
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



**Brenley Martin
Administrator-** New
Applications, Funding
Support, Sessions and
FEES

Biting: Understanding why?

Understanding why a child bites is key to addressing the problem.

Not all children bite, most biting will occur between the ages of two and three. Biting is usually a phase which will pass, not usual beyond the age of four. Not all children bite out of anger or to hurt another child; most children will not understand how much pain they are causing.

Biting is most often a way of communicating – once you understand what children are communicating you can make a choice in how you should respond.

Expressing emotion

Some children can bite as a way of showing love. Toddlers can have really intense feelings but don't know how to express them. Biting can be a way of expressing their feelings.

Experimenting

Toddlers are learning how their body works – they put things in their mouths to explore. It can be impulsive. Often, a baby will bite on someone when they're teething. Sometimes toddlers bite when they're over-excited.

Defending

Young children learn to bite as a defence, especially if they can't talk. Sometimes a child will bite others when they feel anxious or threatened. Sometimes changes or upsets at home can bring on this type of biting. These children are trying to establish a safety zone. When they bite, their victim moves away – it's a great defence.

Controlling

Some children know biting is a way of getting other children – or their parents – to do what they want. They don't always do this consciously. It may happen when a group of children are jostling to be leader.

Observe carefully. Notice triggers and identify anxieties



Notice what the child is communicating through their behaviour

Use a consistent, short but firm response
"Stop, biting hurts"

AN APPROACH TO BITING

Support understanding of social rules during play

Supervise children more closely at key times

Provide alternative items to chew/ bite e.g. raw veg and chewelry

Give most attention to the injured child

Share the book
"Teeth are not for Biting"

Community Support & Wellbeing Resources

Food & Essentials

The Salvation Army: salvationarmy.org.uk/Folkestone

Hythe Pantry: www.facebook.com/RainbowCentre01

Dover Pantry: www.facebook.com/doverpantry twitter.com/Doverpantry

Bechange Community Fridge: www.bechange.org.uk/support-services/community-fridge

Folkestone Community Fridge: www.facebook.com/Folkestonecommunityfridge

The Bread & Butter Thing (weekly food bags): www.breadandbutterthing.org/members

Food Sharing Apps: OLIO (Connects neighbours with each other and local businesses)

Too Good to Go (Anti food waste app linked to local café's & restaurants)

Financial Support

Help for Households: www.helpforhouseholdscampaign.gov.uk

Cost of living Support: www.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Citizens Advice: citizensadvice.org.uk/dept-and-money/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living

Home Essentials in a Crisis: kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/benefits/home-essentials-in-a-crisis

Mental Health

NHS Psychological Therapies Service- www.nhs.uk/services/mental-health/find-a-psychological-therapies-service (Common mental health issues including anxiety, depression and the need for counselling)

Folkestone Safe Haven: www.hestia.org/folkestone-and-hythe-district

South Kent Mind: www.southkentmind.org.uk

Lighthouse43: www.lighthouse43.co.uk

Samaritans: Call 116 123

Mind Information Line: 0300 123 3393

Rethink Mental Illness Helpline: 0808 801 0525