



March Newsletter

Term Dates and Upcoming Events	
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 (No Free Early Education 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



Early Years Education Funding

There are now more opportunities than ever before for parents to receive financial support to help with the cost of childcare. Please ensure you are checking to see if you are eligible as not all funding is automatic and you may need to make an application either via your Childcare Tax Free Account or FF2 application with KCC

- **Free for 2 funding-** Some families receiving additional income support from the government such as universal credit or job seekers allowance may also be eligible to receive 15 hours childcare. For full eligibility criteria and application information please visit www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare
- **Working Parents Entitlement for 2-year-olds-** If your child is 2 before 31st March and you are an eligible working parent, you can apply for 15 hours of childcare for your 2-year-old. Applications must be received before 31st March 2024. Eligibility codes, along with the parent's name, date of birth and national insurance number should be sent through to the nursery as soon as possible and no later than 31st of March. For full eligibility criteria and application details please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>
- **3-year-old universal entitlement-** All three and four-year-olds are entitled to receive 15 hours of free childcare. This is an automatic entitlement and there is no need to apply. Children will receive their funding the term after their 3rd birthday. RPK however has some specific policies regarding the use of the government 3- and 4-year-old funding so please ensure you check this section of our FEE policy.
- **3-year-old working parent's entitlement-** working families may be eligible to receive an additional 15 hours childcare on top of the above universal funding. This funding is not automatic and needs to be applied for. For full eligibility criteria and application details please visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-free-childcare-if-youre-working>
If your child is 3 before the 31st of March 2024, they may be eligible to receive this funding from 15th April 2024. All applications for the next coming term must be received before 31st March and eligibility codes, along with parents name, date of birth and national insurance number must be sent through to provider by this date. Please also ensure you are aware of our policies regarding the use of the funding as outlined on our FEE policy.



Packed Lunches

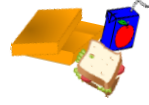
Please can we remind all parents to follow our packed lunch policy.

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

Sweets

Juice/Fizzy Drinks

Nuts, Nut Products or any items that may contain nuts



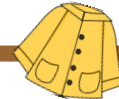
Sandwiches should not include

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

It is gearing up to be a very wet and windy start to spring. Could you please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the garden and outdoor play including coats, boots, hats, and spare clothes.

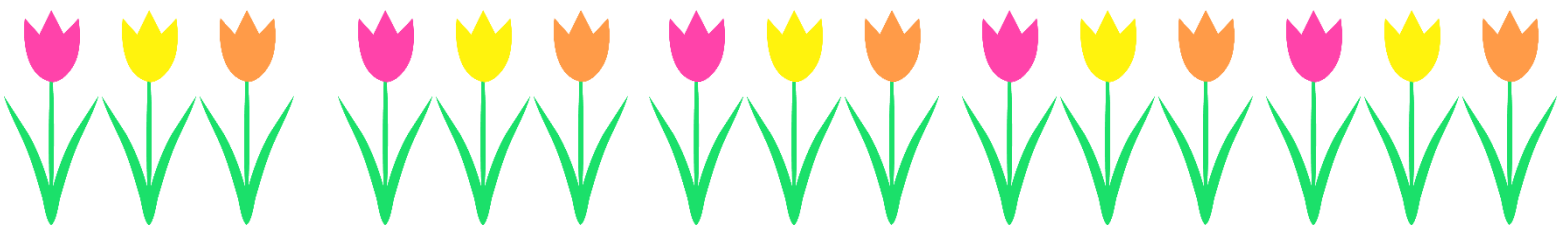
We like to get the children out even in inclement weather and don't want anyone to miss out.

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.

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). Please can you also ensure that you check the times that your child is booked into the nursery and that you do not bring them earlier or pick them up later than the time stipulated on your invoices please. We have strict child to adult ratios that we must always adhere to.





Ladybirds (Babies)



Room Leader: Ellie
Supervisor: Vicky

Apprentice: Emily
Practitioner: Tierney

Books of the week

- That's not my lamb
- I love my mummy
- Guess how much I love you
- One mole digging a hole

Themes of the Month

- Easter & Spring
- Farm animals, Gardening & Flowers
- The world around us
- Love

With the weather hopefully getting a bit sunnier we have hopes to start getting out in the garden more. With this could we please ask that your child brings in appropriate weather clothing and some shoes if they have them.



Bumblebees (Toddlers)



Room Leader: Leyla
Supervisor: Hayley

Practitioner: Demelza
Apprentice: Suzie

Apprentice: Shannon

Books of the week

- That's not my teddy bear
- Babies first St. Patricks Day
- The great big Easter egg hunt
- Find the Duck

Themes & Activities

- To celebrate world book day, on the 7th March, and to go along with our book of the week, That's Not My Teddy Bear we would ask parents to send over pictures of their children with their favourite teddies and soft toys. Please feel free to send your little one in dressed up as a teddy or bear on Thursday 7th March.
- We will also be exploring St. Patrick's Day and learning about this Irish holiday.
- Lastly we will be starting to learn about Easter and incorporating this into our daily activities.





Dragonflies



Room Leader: Stevie
Supervisor: Katy

Practitioner: Stephanie
Apprentice: Keira

Apprentice: Amber

Books of the Week

- Dear Zoo
- I love my mummy
- Hello Spring
- We're going on an egg hunt

Activities

- **World book day 7th March-** Celebrating our book of the week 'Dear Zoo' Please come dressed up as an animal.
- **Mother's Day Stay & Play March 12th-** 4:30pm-5:15pm sign up will be available on our door from Monday. Unfortunately, due to space, we can only accommodate 10 parents for this event so please ensure you sign up early if you would like to attend.
- Exploring spring animals, flowers and the weather
- Easter activities



Caterpillars



Room Leader: Sarah
Practitioner: Arpana

Practitioner: Stephen
Practitioner: Lucie

Book of the Week

- Everyone loves underpants
- The Gecko and the Echo
- The very hungry caterpillar
- Farmyard hullabaloo

Activities/Themes

- **World Book Day 7th March-** We will be celebrating by dressing up around our book of the week 'everyone loves underpants'. Please feel free to join in and send your child in dressing up clothes.
- **Stay and Play 20th March-** We will be having a very hungry caterpillar themed stay and play from 4:30pm-5:15pm. A sign up sheet will be put up the week of the 11th March. Please add your name if you would like to attend.

The children are really enjoying planting at the moment and we are on the lookout for any items to help support this such as gardening books/magazines, seeds, plant pots etc. If you have anything like this, and are happy to donate it to us, the caterpillars would be very grateful.





Butterflies



Room Leader: Ciara
Supervisor: Shannon

Practitioner: Shay
Practitioner: Lainey

Apprentice: Molly

Books of the week:

- The Cat in the Hat
- The Gruffalo
- The Princess and the Pea
- 10 Little Superheroes

Themes of the Month:

- St. Davids Day Friday 1st March- We will be making the popular Welsh dish of leek and potato soup and exploring the benefits of healthy foods for our growing bodies.
- World Book Day Thursday 7th March- We will be exploring the Gruffalo. Children are invited to come in fancy dress related to the story or anything of their choice.
- Red Nose Day Friday 15th March- Wacky red day. Get creative and come into nursery all in red. You could do red clothing, red fancy dress, red crazy hair...
- National Recycling Day Monday 18th March- To explore this we will be doing junk modelling as well as looking at how rubbish can affect our beaches and wildlife.
- St. Patricks Day Sunday 17th March- We will try our hand at making Irish soda bread to have with our breakfast on the 15th.
- Planting- We will be doing lots of planting with seeds to make our own healthy foods and exploring the lifecycle of plants.

Please could we ask that any nursery spare clothing be returned, especially pants and socks as we are starting to run low and want to make sure we have some for others that might need them.

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea's

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

A reminder that there is a sign up sheet available at the front door. Spaces are limited to one adult per child so please make sure to sign up if you would like to attend. If you have signed up already and can no longer attend could you please let us know so we can offer the space to someone else.

"Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning
yawn" - Lewis Grizzard



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>

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



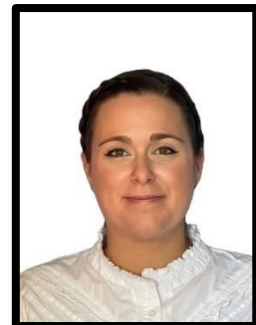
Emma Reene Deputy Manager-
Special Educational Needs and
Disability Officer, Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



**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

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

