

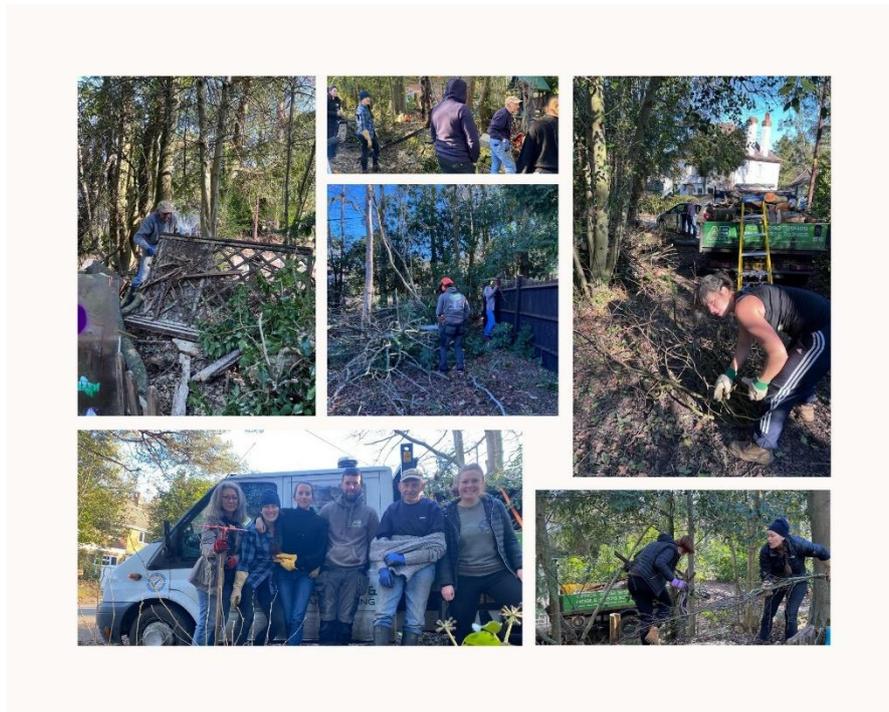


## St John's Pre-school Newsletter – March 2022

Hi All,

What a month of contrasts but we're skipping our way into spring and looking forward to all the exciting and fun activities and events we have planned for the coming month. We hope you all enjoyed a much-needed half-term break and didn't suffer too much damage from the storm!

We would like to say a HUGE thanks to all the parents and grandparents that helped with the storm clear-up mission at pre-school. A special shout out goes to parent Alex Gunn from [AB Fencing & Landscaping](#) who did a huge amount of the tree work and took all of the wood away too - we are so grateful!

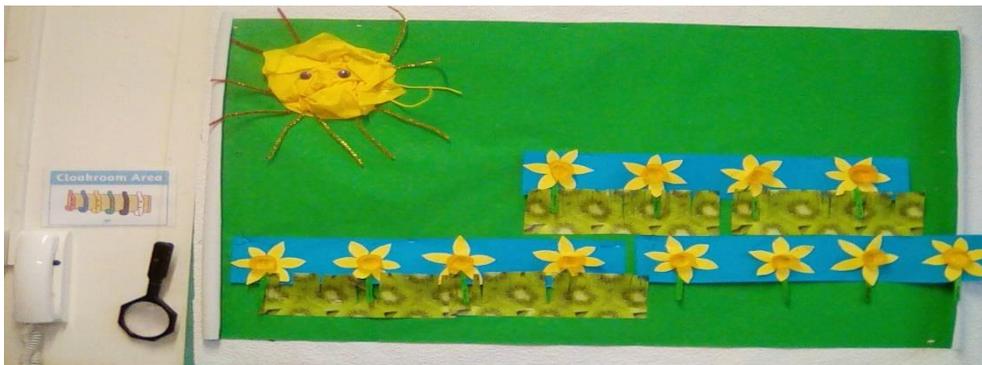


We're hoping to run another clear-up session soon so if you'd like to help out, let us know.

Please see below for a quick snapshot of what the kids have been up to this month and some key notices.



## February Highlights



We've been getting all excited about Spring this month (and of course celebrating the month of LOVE). The kids have enjoyed butterfly counting games and building their very own field of daffodils to brighten up the pre-school.

## March Birthdays

A big happy birthday to Bethany 6<sup>th</sup> March, Alexander 15<sup>th</sup> March, Zoe 16<sup>th</sup> March and Arthur 20<sup>th</sup> March who all have birthdays coming up this month.





Also, a big happy birthday to Miss Ella-May Freeman whose birthday is in March.

## March Plans

Another busy month with lots of exciting activities and events on the agenda throughout March. To kick off the month we've been making daffodils to celebrate St David's day, talking about Pancake Day and what we like to have on our pancakes and listening to the pancake day rap. Another big event which all our little book worms love taking part in; **World Book Day** - On the 3rd of March we are inviting the children to come into preschool dressed as their favourite character from a book (or movie). They can bring the book in to talk about it to their friends during circle time.

We then turn our focus to Gross Motor skills, and we have yoga, balancing, bats and balloons, action songs, cutting vegetables, ring toss and much more... Following on from this it will be all about Fine Motor skills, this will include celebrating St Patricks day with shamrocks and Irish Soda Bread.

Heading towards the end of the month we will be learning about Literacy (Comprehension) and craft centred around Mother's day celebrations "You Lucky Mothers". In the final week of this month, it's all about Literacy (word reading and writing) and hopefully we can squeeze in a Late Spring Walk over the forest; watch out for the dates.

We are focusing on areas to help the leavers week by week now, first week was toileting and making sure that the leavers are independent and capable using the toilet and toilet hygiene. The second week is about shoes - making sure they can take off and put their shoes on by themselves. Other weeks include - sitting and listening - putting on coats - putting their slippers away -sitting well at lunch - being able to manage their lunch boxes etc tidying up toys - helping each other, recognising their name, writing the first initial of their name. These focus areas will help with independence on joining Primary School.

## Covid Update

As you are aware the Government has launched its 'Living with Covid' strategy and have removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid-19 test, however they continue to *recommend* that if your child tests positive they should stay home for at least 5 full days and continue to isolate until they have received two negative tests on consecutive days.

As we have always done, we will continue to monitor the children's wellbeing during session and check temperatures where we feel necessary if a child is displaying symptoms of feeling unwell. We will contact parents where we feel they are not well enough to be in session.



We trust that after 2 years of the pandemic that you will continue to be mindful of the impact of Covid in the pre-school, and where you feel your child is unwell or displaying Covid symptoms you consider the best route of action. We are a small team, and we want to ensure that, where possible, our staff and children stay healthy and well in order for the pre-school to remain open and running as normal.

If you have any questions or concerns in regard to the 'Living with Covid' strategy please do get in touch.

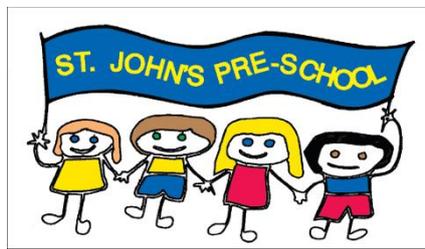
### **New Kitchen**

We were so blessed to have the donation of a nearly new kitchen over the half-term from ex-parents Michaela and Tim Lovell, who organised and paid for the full installation. It was such a kind donation and has made a huge difference in terms of much needed storage, and the smooth running of snack and lunchtime. See below...



### **Crowdfunding - Rebuilding our Playground**

As many of you are already aware we have set up a crowdfunding page to help raise much needed funds to rebuild our preschool garden. We are blown away by everybody's generosity and support for our little preschool! We are currently in the process of stretching our target to allow us to start development of an all-weather area for the kids, so they can enjoy outside play in every eventuality.



There's tons of repair and rebuilding work we need to do to bring our playground back to life. Unfortunately, our insurance didn't cover the damage caused. Please help us if you can by donating or sharing the link with friends, family or local businesses, every small donation really will make a huge impact.

**Thank you all so much!! Please keep donating!**

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/st-johns-pre-school-and-toddler-group-1045290>



[St John's Pre-School And Toddler Group - a Community crowdfunding project in Crowborough by St John's Preschool play area destroyed by Storm Eunice](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/st-johns-pre-school-and-toddler-group-1045290)

St John's Preschool, Crowborough is nestled on the outskirts of the Ashdown Forest. It is a registered charity and is run as a non-profit making organisation by a committee of parents.

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk)

## Fee Increase

As you know we are a non-profit organisation and as a result we keep our fees as low as possible to accommodate the community and offer affordable childcare for all. Inclusivity is really important to us.

For the last few years our fees have remained at the same level despite increases in a number of our overheads, including wages, which is our biggest cost. We chose to keep the fees as they were throughout the Covid-19 pandemic as things were so uncertain and we were experiencing so much change. However, coming out the other side it's clear that without reviewing our fees we are in a tricky situation, one where the pre-school will be running at a loss year on year, which as you can imagine is not sustainable.

From April 2022 the Government has enforced a 6.6% increase in living wage (+£0.59 per hr) which has a significant impact on our financials. We are also facing increases in our energy supplies, consumables (food, drinks, cleaning products) and we are having to use far more cleaning products than we ever used to before Covid.

As a result, we will be revising the fee structure from 01 April 2022 as follows:

### **2 year olds:**

Current Hourly Fee: £5.50

Hourly Fee from 01 April 2022: £6.10

### **3 & 4 year olds:**

Current Hourly Fee: £5.25



Hourly Fee from 01 April 2022: £5.85

We will also be increasing the snack/resources fees to £12 per session (this equates to, on average, £1.09 per session, per child). At present our snack/resources fees are covering less than 50% of our outgoings, even with donations from community organisations.

*Fees will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with inflation and any Government enforced wage increases.*

Please note that we have spent a lot of time reviewing the numbers and working to find a solution that minimises the impact on families paying the fees but allows the pre-school to keep running and stay open for our children. We really hope you understand why we are having to make these changes. If you are from a lower-income household and concerned about the impact this will have, please speak to us as we are here to support you.

We have set up a zoom call for any parents/carers that wish to ask any questions in relation to the fee increases, please feel free to dial in. Details below:

Topic: Pre-school Fee Increase - Q&A

Time: Thursday March 10, 2022 08:00 PM - 8.30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71723809600?pwd=btQCJBHObLLQy5qGjQ5OWUM27LyNbl.1>

Meeting ID: 717 2380 9600

Passcode: 7fVzBf

An updated set of terms and conditions will be sent out shortly.

If you're unable to make the call but would like to chat further, please feel free to contact me on the following: [Rachel.lucy.pullen@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.lucy.pullen@gmail.com) or 07834150414.

## Parent Participation – Emergency Services & Grandparent/Parent Reading



### EMERGENCY SERVICES/HEALTHCARE SHOW AND TELL

Do any of our amazing parents work in the emergency services & healthcare; fire, police, paramedics, dentist...? Would you be willing to come into preschool in uniform, talk to the children and possibly bring your vehicle/a few props to demonstrate? We've done this in the past and the children have absolutely loved hearing about the work you do and asking lots of questions.

Please let us know if this is something you could help with, the children really do get so much enjoyment and learn so much from interactive sessions.



## **PARENT/GRANDPARENT READING**

Now that things are back to “normal” a little more, we’d love to invite parents and grandparents to pop into the pre-school and read to the kids at Storytime. If you’d like to take part, please let Linda know by dropping her an email.

## **Fundraising**

Apologies for having to cancel our bake sale again but please keep your eyes peeled as we’ll be arranging another one soon.

Mother’s day is fast approaching and we are planning on creating some lovely gift packs for you to purchase for all the wonderful, Mums, Grandmas, God mums, Aunties...in your life, more info to follow shortly.

As always, if you have any questions on the above, please feel free to contact us on email or phone.

**The Pre-School Team**

**PLEASE NOTE ALL NEWSLETTERS WILL BE UPLOADED TO THE WEBSITE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**