



# Newsletter

Ferring Funtime Community Preschool Newsletter for Parents & Children

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

## Welcome Back!

Especially to all the families we have not seen since March and to all of our new families that have recently joined us.

We look forward to working with you all in the future.

Our thanks to all the families who sent cards, gifts and emails to us at the end of term, they were much appreciated.

### Emotional Wellbeing

As children return to preschool we are aware that their experiences of lockdown will be different. For some children it will have been a safe and enjoyable time and for other children perhaps, a little more challenging. We are therefore focusing very much on one of the Prime areas of the EYFS, Personal, Social and Emotional development for all children. The activities that we share at preschool to support children's emotional development, enable children to feel acknowledged and supported by the people around them. Our children are supported to form positive relationships and to be able to express how they feel. We are allowing additional time to listen to children and give extra love and attention if needed.

Some of our families have used lockdown as an opportunity to toilet train their children and now they are out of nappies and using the toilet. Well done, this is great for building a child's self-esteem and confidence. Our routines have changed a little because of the Coronavirus, but the children are coping well with new routines. As they become more familiar with them, they will find an increased feeling of safety.

### Children's Interest's

Our Autumn term planning will of course be guided by what the children are interested in and what we would like them to learn.

The staff who worked with the children in June were keen to share their views at a recent Training day and I asked staff to feed back on the work that the children were involved in. Sally also gave written feedback and I asked her permission for this to be shared here.

*"At the end of last term the children were showing interest in nature and natural materials. We had a nature table, listened to natural sounds and made window plates, with seeds flowers and grasses, amongst other things. We would like to continue to build on this interest and there are several reasons for this. Firstly, the interest of the children themselves. Then, the fact that many of the staff had noticed that during lockdown, being able to get out in nature became even more important to them. In addition to this we wished to increase the children's ability and willingness to interact with the natural world, as they will be its future custodians.*

*To this end we have made a conscious effort to spend more time outdoors, doing all the activities, we would normally do indoors. As a team, we have discussed replacing plastic play equipment with more natural materials as they wear out. We have used 'You tube' to show and explain natural things that children have shown an interest in, for example one child told us he had seen a stag beetle in his garden. As some children did not know what a stag beetle was, we watched a video of a stag beetle flying. We then compared and contrasted it with rockets aeroplanes and helicopters as this interest was directed by the children."*

As a conclusion, we very much want to embed this in our practice rather than have this as a termly topic.

As a team we continue to focus on more outdoor play and this week the children have been giving us ideas for new play spaces which together we have begun to form.

We have also enjoyed: -

Fun with dinosaurs, parachute games & investigating wildlife.



Mark-making,

construction and role play.



Snakes and ladders.



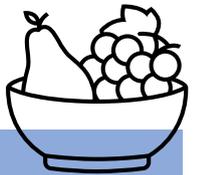


During our first week our resident Dove produced two hatchlings for the second time this year, the children are very excited about this and we continue to share information with them.



### Fire Drill

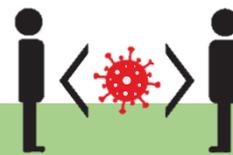
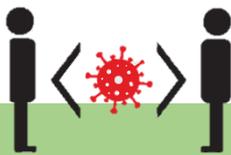
Children have taken part in two Fire Drills this week. The first we practised on our own and the second was held with Ferring School. The children did very well, and we will continue to practice throughout the term to familiarise the children with the routine.



### Snack

From June 1 we asked families to provide children with a snack. At that time, we were operating with limited staff. Now we are operating with full staff we can provide the Healthy Snack that the children have become accustomed to. So, from 21<sup>st</sup> September we will return to providing morning and afternoon snack for children, so parents will no longer need to supply this. We will provide a carbohydrate and fruit choice in the morning session and a fruit choice in the afternoon along with milk and water to drink.

We will however still ask you to continue to send a named water bottle for your child complete with water and not juice.



Staggered Start and Pick Up times.

Just a reminder that the staggered start and pick up times which have been allocated for your child are to avoid parent's standing together. We have considered working parent's when allocating times and we are following Government guidelines to keep everyone safe. This is a team effort so please work with us and stick to your allocated time.

Sandy and the Team.