



# Walkern Preschool Newsletter

January 2025

Wishing you all a warm welcome back and a happy new year! We hope you have had a lovely festive break. Looking back on last term, I think we can all appreciate what a busy one it was! With Christmas parties, craft days and nativities to name just a few of the festivities! As you know, the preschool is charity run and we rely heavily on money generated through fundraising. For this reason, the committee would like to thank all of the staff, parents and children for their hard work and generosity that made last term the success it was. Through our fundraisers on the run up to Christmas, with your help, we managed to raise just short of £700. On the subject of the committee, we would like to say a huge thank you to Hayley, who has been our preschool Chair for 2 years. Hayley has been a fantastic Chair and a real asset to our preschool. Her many talents, including bingo calling and quiz making have not gone unnoticed and, as a committee, we want to thank her for the dedication and humour she brought into this role. Sadly for us Hayley is moving onto pastures new and we would like to wish her all the best in what will be an exciting new venture for her and her family. This means that the preschool currently doesn't have a Chair and are actively trying to recruit one. This is an exciting role that really gives back to the local community. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested in becoming Chair, please approach any staff or committee member and we will happily give you further details. Now onto the new year, and the preschool staff have enjoyed welcoming back our little ones and their parents for the start of the new term. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new group of Rabbits and their families, who have just started their preschool journey. We hope that everyone has had a good start to the new year and we are excited to get the term underway.

Suzie on Behalf of Walkern Preschool Charity Trustees.

## *This terms topics*

Doctors  
Story Telling Week  
Luna New Year - Year of the  
snake  
Everybody is Different  
NSPCC Number Day

## *Afternoon Children*



Please can afternoon children not be collected before 3.15 (unless by prior arrangement) to minimise disruption to the session.

## *Key Dates*



### **January**

7th January - Back to school

### **February**

3rd -7th £1 donation to NSPCC for  
Number day  
17th -21st Half Term

### **April**

Thursday 3rd - Last day at preschool  
Friday 4th- No Preschool  
Monday 7th -21st Easter Holidays  
Tuesday 22nd Back to Preschool

### **May**

26th -30th Half Term

## Items to remember for your child at Preschool

With the current cold temperatures please ensure your child has a named coat, hat and gloves.

**Please ensure all items of clothing worn to preschool is named, if your child comes home in Preschool spares please ensure they are washed and returned asap. Bags will be sent home at the end of each session due to the volume of children we currently have - Please ensure these are brought back each day.**



## Fundraising

Preschool is a registered charity, we really rely on our fundraising income to help us continue our great work. There are a couple of simple things you can do to help:

Firstly, we have easyfundraising -

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/walkernpreschool>

- You just need to sign up and easy fundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Secondly, there is Stikins. As we ask all parents/carers to label /name everything your child brings into Preschool, including coats, shoes, wellies, drinks bottles and lunch boxes, we have teamed up with Stikins

([www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk)), where you can buy adhesive labels for your child's clothing. Please use fundraising number:

24434 for the Preschool to earn an extra 30% commission.

We also recycle old ink cartridges so if you have any inkjet cartridges please pop them into preschool, each cartridge we recycle we are paid about £1. So it soon adds up.

## Volunteers

Would anyone be interested in volunteering at our Toddler group on a Monday morning? We need some help between 08:45 and 11am. Will include making hot drinks, preparing snack and tidying up.

## Accident Forms

All accident forms will be sent to you via text message and not by paper copy.



## Family Photo's

We are putting together a album of photos for the children to browse through. This will be an album of all of our children and their families.

It doesn't matter if its just one parent and your child or a group of extended family. It would be really nice if everyone was included, if you can't supply a photo we can take a quick snap at the gate.

Please what's app these over to either contact number.

## Contact Details

### Preschool

01438 861285 option 2

07305067059

[walkernpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:walkernpreschool@gmail.com)

### Admin

07942 096445

[admin@walkernpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@walkernpreschool.co.uk)

Please send any absences to preschool direct to ensure they are received on time.

## *Lunchbox Items*

As a reminder, morning children's packed lunches shouldn't contain chocolate bars, sweets, or too many sugary items, and more importantly, no food containing nuts and no peanut butter in sandwich fillings, due to allergies. The recommended/average packed lunch would consist of the following:

A main savoury item such as a sandwich, cheese & crackers or pasta (with fork)

A yoghurt

A piece of fruit or vegetable

Crisps

For further guidance please go to [www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

## *Shopping*

We are always in need of the following items, if you are able to add any of these to your shopping we would be very grateful.

Anti bacterial wipes

Baby Wipes

Washing up liquid

General Cleaning products

Drawing Paper

Bin bags

Kitchen Roll

Toilet Roll

Tissues

## *Birthday Sweets*



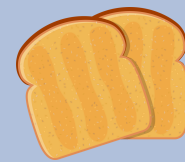
Just a quick note regarding Birthday sweets, please could we kindly ask that parents/carers do not supply these on or around your child's birthday, to share with their classmates. Unfortunately, we have a variety of allergies within the setting and also, we focus on dental hygiene within the preschool, so would be beneficial to refrain from these types of foods.

Rest assured, we do celebrate your child's birthday at preschool by singing a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' and have a pretend cake to make it a little bit special for them :-)

Thank you.

## *Breakfast Club*

If you would like your child to attend breakfast club at Preschool, it runs from 8am every weekday at a cost of £5 and your child's breakfast will be provided. Bookings can be made in advance or last-minute, and you can book regular slots or one off's. Please text to book on 07305067059 or email [walkernpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:walkernpreschool@gmail.com)



## *Absence*

Please make sure you text (07305 067059); email [walkernpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:walkernpreschool@gmail.com) or call the preschool (01438 861285 option 2) for any child not attending their session due to illness, holiday or last-minute absence. You only need to send one message on the first day of absence.

## *What's App groups*

We have two whats app groups running for each group of children, one is run by Prechool staff, this group will be used to keep you updated with any message from preschool. The other is a parent run group which gives you the opportunity to arrange meetups and share advice between each other. If you are not currently part of these groups and would like to be please email [walkern.preschool.adm@outlook.com](mailto:walkern.preschool.adm@outlook.com) or speak to your child's keyworker.



# Tapestry

You should now all have access to your Tapestry account for your child/ren, but please let us know if you haven't received an email from Tapestry regarding the activation of your account and/or you need some assistance with setting this up on your device.

Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us. This system allows us to work with parents and carers to share information and record the children's play and learning in and outside of the classroom.



Parents and carers are given their own log-in using their email. All our staff are given a secure log-in. They can then upload observations, photos or videos; recording children's achievements and assessing their learning in reference to the EYFS curriculum.



## Facebook

Did you know we have a Facebook page for the Walkern Preschool, where we post regularly about all the things the children have been enjoying in their sessions.



## Teeth Brushing

If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium you will be receiving a free teeth brushing kit over the next few days. These are issued from Herts County Council.



## Introducing the FOLLOW campaign

The Early Years Service and partners have been working on a speech, language and communication campaign

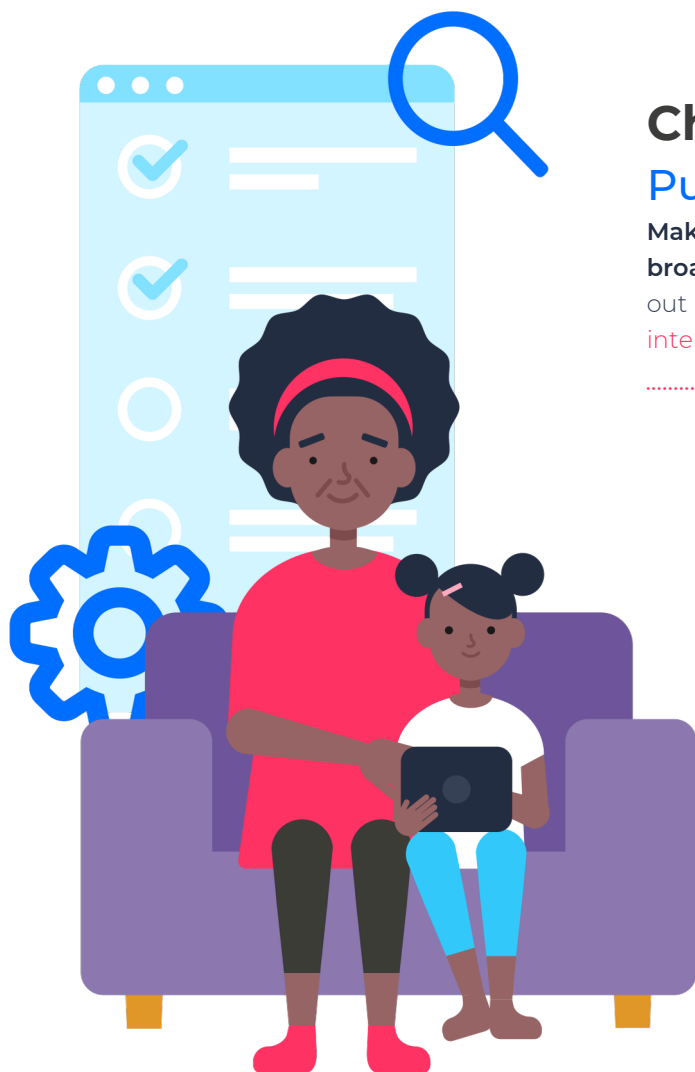
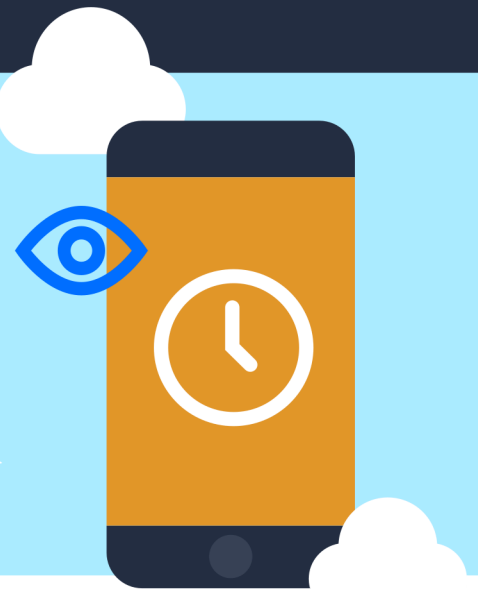
FOLLOW is a very simple and easy to use set of strategies that parents and carers can use with their little ones to help develop speech, language and communication skills at home. The FOLLOW campaign will give you fun ideas and top tips on using the key strategies through everyday activities such as going for a walk, getting ready to go out and feeding the ducks! For more information please visit [FOLLOW](#) and see the attached poster.

# Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds

internet  
matters.org

22% of parents of 3-4-year-olds don't think their child has a good balance between screen time and other activities

\* Source: Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022



## Checklist:

### Put yourself in control

Make use parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org).

### Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](https://www.swiggle.org.uk) or [kids-search.com](https://www.kids-search.com). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](https://www.google.com/safetycenter). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.



# Top Tips for Talking in the Early Years

Introducing **FOLLOW** - a set of simple ideas you can use every day to help support your child's speech and language

**F**

Face to face



Get down to your child's level

**O**

Observe



Observe what your child is playing with and follow their lead

**L**

Label



Label what your child is playing with using single words and phrases

**L**

Limit questions



Limit the number of questions you ask your child - use comments instead

**O**

Opportunities



Create natural communication opportunities within everyday activities

**W**

Wait



Wait and pause to give your child the time and chance to communicate

## Ideas for creating natural opportunities for communication



Give them choices: "Apple or orange?"



Try not to anticipate their needs



Pause in songs and stories so they can fill in the gaps



Offer them things 'bit by bit'



Have fun!

For more information about **FOLLOW** and ways to support your child's speech & language scan the QR code

