



# Buttercups Community Pre-school

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## Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

### Planning and activities

Planning for this half-term consists of:

<p>Week 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> November) <b>Halloween and Bonfire Week</b></p>	<p>Activities including: We will cut open a pumpkin and use our hands to explore the pulp and seeds. We will cut out shapes to make pumpkin faces. We will make potions. Bonfire collage pictures Colour mixing - red and yellow (we will use the paint to make fire pictures). This week we will also talk about Remembrance Day and we will make collage poppies. And lots more</p>
<p>Week 2 (9<sup>th</sup> November) <b>Diwali, lights and shape week.</b></p>	<p>This week we will do some activities based around Diwali, which is the Indian festival of lights. This will include using different colours and collage materials to make patterns and we will also make some lanterns. We will link this with fireworks and the different colours and patterns you might see. During this week we will also do some activities around 'Shape' and explore the classroom and outside area for different shapes.</p>
<p>Week 3 (16<sup>th</sup> November) <b>'Dear Zoo' book</b></p>	<p>We will read 'Dear Zoo' this week by Rod Campbell. As in the story we will look at and talk about writing to the zoo for a pet. We will look at different animals' people may have as pets and talk about how we would care and look after them. Please send in your own pet photos, as we will be able to use these during this week and they will also be included in the Pet Hotel on the decking area.</p>
<p>Week 4 (23<sup>rd</sup> November) <b>'Oi Dog' book</b></p>	<p>This week we will read 'Oi Dog' by Kes and Claire Gray. This story is all about rhyming pairs, so we will use this book to help us to start learning lots of rhyming words. We will also use some of the animals in the book to theme our craft, drawing, and maths activities this week.</p>
<p>Weeks 5, 6, 7) 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 14<sup>th</sup> September)</p>	<p>Christmas activities We will do a range of Christmas themed activities during these weeks such as baking, making reindeer food, putting up our Christmas tree, and lots of festive related arts and crafts. There will be lots of glitter! More information to follow.</p>
<p>Suggested Home Links:</p>	<p>This half-term we will be focusing on developing the children's independence and will be encouraging them to try and do things independently and to help others who are still developing these skills. We will be teaching and encouraging the children to get themselves ready to go out in the garden, including putting on their own coat and wellies. If you could support us with this at home, that would be fantastic.</p> <p>We will also be doing lots of activities focused on the maths area of the curriculum. So please encourage your child to notice the shape of everyday objects which they see around the home, or counting steps as you go up them, or count plates on the table at dinner time etc.</p>

	<p>Any activity you can think of in this area will really help support them with their mathematical development.</p> <p>Please return the Parent/Carer Feedback sheet at the end of this document with any activity suggestions for this half term.</p>
Maths Area	<p>This half term we have included our maths area in the Pizza parlour. This is allowing us to talk lots about numbers, as we can bring in money language, quantity (such as 2 pieces of pizza etc) and then we can extend this further by asking, "If we cut it in half how many pieces will we have?" etc.</p>

### Home Communication booklets

Your child should have brought home their 'Home/Pre-school Communication Book' at the end of last half term with a comment and next steps sheet from your child's key-worker. Please read, comment and then return this sheet as soon as possible. This ensures that there is a two-way flow of communication to support the children's learning and development. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's key-worker via the book in the Communication folders.

### Home Learning

During the previous lockdown we sent out weekly challenges for the children to take part in if they wanted to. This was really successful and we were overwhelmed with the responses we received. We have therefore decided to continue with this to support the children's on-going development at home.

We will begin sending out a weekly activity for you to have a go at together at home, based around something that we are working on in the classroom. We will try to differentiate the activity to support all the children and if anyone has any suggestions, or ideas for activities then please let us know. If you decide to do an activity it would be great if you could take a photograph and e-mail it across to us. We can then use these photographs together with our Pre-school ones to document your child's learning, and to give a holistic picture of their current level of development. We will also put the photos on a display board in the classroom, so that we can share everyone's achievements.

We know that a lot of you do some fantastic activities at home. We would love to be able to share this with all the children and include it in their learning journals. So, please feel free to e-mail across any photos of the activities you do outside of Pre-school, as it allows us to get to know your child better and focus activities accordingly, as we only get to see your child for a few hours a week.

### Pet Hotel

We have turned our play deck area into a pet hotel as many of the children were enjoying playing animal role play games before half term. This also links to our story in week 3.

### Busy Fingers in the classroom!

Every week a different activity is introduced to the children as the 'Busy Fingers Challenge.' This activity is set out on one of the tables every morning. All the activities are linked to developing hand-eye co-ordination and hand muscles; as it is proven that activities which support the development of muscles in hands and fingers are paramount for developing later hand-writing skills and pencil control. Previously, the children have had to pick up coloured pom poms with tweezers, peg coloured pegs onto lollypop sticks, and thread pipe cleaners into the holes of colanders.

### Exploring the outdoors!

We do try to go outside to play in all weathers and the School grounds can get very wet and muddy, so we are getting mucky! The children also have constant access to our Mud Kitchen, so waterproofs and wellies would be preferable, as the children are going to get muddy, as they explore different activities which link to the Understanding of the World area of the curriculum. Wellington boots and waterproofs can be left at Pre-

school on your child's peg. But, please remember to name anything that comes into Pre-school, because items can be easily mislaid. Thank you.

### Parent's Consultations

This half-term we would usually be holding our Parents Consultations. Unfortunately, this year we are unable to offer you face to face appointments in the setting. So, instead we will send home your child's Learning and Development Record around the first week in December. If you want to see your child's detailed Learning Journal at the same time please let us know, by writing this in the Communication book. These should then be returned the following week and we will then offer you a ten-minute phone call with your child's key-person during the last week of term (please advise us of a convenient time). We will put notes about this in the Communication Book, so please keep looking in these.

### Staffing

We have recruited two new members to our team. We are very lucky to have Emily's mum Sophie as our new cleaner. Sophie is doing a fantastic job with keeping the setting clean and safe for everyone and has had Covid-19 specific training.

We also welcome Robyn who is employed as a Pre-School Practitioner and works on a Thursday morning. It is great to have Robyn join us and she has settled in well over the last few weeks.

### Out of hours contact information

If you need to make contact with me (Kirsty) out of Pre-school hours to report your child's absence, or with any queries, please e-mail the buttercups account ([buttercupspreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:buttercupspreschool@yahoo.com)). We also have a Pre-school mobile which you can text out of hours the number is: **07535140709**.

### Up-coming diary dates

Staff professional day - Pre-school <b>CLOSED</b>	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November
Last day of term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
Return in the new year	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

Kirsty, Lauren, Kaye, Jill, Melanie, Donna, Androulla and Robyn

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**Parent/Carer Feedback sheet**  
**November 2020**

If you have any comments about what we are planning for the forthcoming half-term, please jot down your thoughts below and hand back to a member of the team (or email us). Your thoughts, opinions and ideas are fundamental to what we do at Buttercups and we are very keen to work in partnership with you to plan and provide a rich and stimulating environment for all the children.