

**Spring 2 Half Termly Newsletter**

Dear Little Owls Families,

Welcome back to a new half term! Spring is definitely on its way and the sun is helping lift all of our spirits! A special welcome to Esme and her family who started with us in January. We are so happy that you are part of a Little Owls family! Louie will be also joining us this half term, so we will be welcoming him and his family as well.

**Spring 2 Half Term**

You may well know at Little Owls our curriculum follows the seasons, festivals and celebrations so we will now be basing a lot of our provision around Spring. This is because children learn so well from the world around them, understanding about time and changes. It creates a sense of responsibility for our world, which will be so important as they grow up. We celebrate a range of festivals and celebrations so that children have an insight into the worlds, religions and cultures of others. It is so important children develop an understanding when they are young that we celebrate how we are all different as they are more likely to grow up being tolerant and accepting of others; another important attribute they will need for the world of the future. We also always follow children’s interests and incorporate this into our individual planning for each child and how we can support them in their development. It is really helpful when you post observations on EYLog about your child’s interests so their key person can reflect these at Little Owls.

**Week beginning (with Rainbow Rule which we will focus on in italics):**

Week 1: 22nd February-Winter *We look after everything and everyone*

Week 2: 1st March-Book Week-see below for more information *We use kind words and kind hands*

Week 3: 8th March-Women’s Week-thinking about special women in our lives, covering International Women’s Day and Mother’s Day *We use inside voices and walking feet*

Week 4: 15th March-Spring *We share and take turns*

Week 5: 22nd March-Easter *We listen to each other*

**World Book Week**

**Dressing Up:** We are encouraging children to come dressed in their pyjamas to promote bedtime reading. In our world of busy lives and so many screens, this often gets missed yet it is one of the most important parts of the day. Amongst many reasons, bedtime stories help children relax and sets a good bedtime routine, it helps you bond with your child, it’s a great way to learn new words, it creates a good reading habit, it increases a child’s imagination. There is a great article on the literacy trust about this…

[https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/seven-things-i-learned-reading-bedtime-story-every-night-2018/](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/qto9CD9NNHM77jJU588NJ?domain=literacytrust.org.uk/)

We invite Little Owls to come dressed in their pyjamas on Thursday (as this mirrors Haslingfield Primary School) but children are more than welcome to do this on any day of the week if they would like, as we are aware that some of our Little Owls are not in on Thursday.

**Catch Me Reading:** We are also inviting the Little Owls to take part in ‘Catch Me Reading.’ Those of you with older children will be aware of this from school. We would like your child to think of a creative place to read a book, it might be up a tree, on a swing or in the shed! Take a photo of your child and email this to Julie and we will put these pictures in our book corner. It’s great for the children to see themselves and other children reading books.

**Special Readers:** Normally we invite adults in to come and spend some time in our book nook, reading to children. This obviously can’t happen at the moment so we would love it if significant adults in your children’s lives could record themselves reading a book and send it to us instead! You can send it to us through whichever method works best; on EYLog, via the Whatsapp or email (even though the file might be too big to send). Your child/ren will love their special reader being able to virtually be at Little Owls!

**Bedtime Stories:** Normally, Moonbeams are invited to attend Haslingfield Primary School as part of transition for ‘Bedtime Stories’ but will be running a virtually via Zoom this year. This event for EYFS/KS1 children will run from **5-6pm on Thursday 4th March**. During this time, the children will listen to a number of stories read by different members of staff. We encourage the children to get comfortable; they could even make a den out of blankets with their favourite teddies. There will be a pack with hot chocolate and a snack for your child to enjoy that we will send home from Little Owls next week;  there is a voluntary donation to the PTFA of £1 for this. The link for the event is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82463980069?pwd=TksxRFZ0M1lUNWRybW84VmZkRSt6QT09](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/QBqWCE9OOHnww10tpp5tO?domain=us02web.zoom.us)

Meeting ID: 824 6398 0069

Passcode: 220585

Please make sure your child’s name is displayed in the box as for security you will only be let in if you can be identified from the list.

**Birthdays**

Before February half term we celebrated some of our Little Owls’ birthdays, Freddie (4), Harry (3) and one of our Big Owls, Abby!! (Very special birthday). This half term we will be celebrating Sobia’s birthday on 4th March and Noah’s 4th birthday on 15th March. To celebrate birthdays for our Little Owls they bake birthday banana buns (sugar free!), they have a special present and we play party games. We now also ask if parents/carers can put on EYLog some photos of when they were born, 1 year old, 2 years old and 3 years old, if turning 4. We then share these with the other children which gives a great opportunity for talking and understanding the passing of time (it goes too fast for us adults!!).

**Opening Hours**

We are very excited that we are now in a position to resume our usual opening hours, adding back in 12 noon-1pm on a Wednesday and 9am-1pm on a Thursday. There are still spaces in these sessions so if you wish to book in, please let Julie know. This can also be done as a one off if there are spaces available. If this is in addition to 15 universal hours you may be entitled to 30 hours funding. If not, we charge £5.50 an hour.

**Staff**

We have some ‘new’ faces at Little Owls, even though you may recognise Sarah Rittman from being with us last academic year and also from the village. We also welcome Hannah Golden, who again you may recognise from the village. The children have been so welcoming and we are so happy that they are our new Big Owls! We are also so excited that Charlotte will be back next week, YAY! Big Owls and Little Owls have missed her **very** much!

**EYLog**

We have now moved over to EYLog to replace Tapestry for our Learning Journals as it also has functionality with invoices, registers, etc, to help with administrative tasks. We have been having a few teething problems, so we really appreciate your patience regarding this. We hope you have been able to download the parent EYLog app on your devices.

If you are having any problems or any feedback you would like us to pass on to the company, please let Julie know and she will be happy to help you and pass on your comments.

**Coronavirus Reminders**

We are now trained, set up and have just received our Lateral Flow Tests so we will be hoping to start doing these next week. This is a way of detecting coronavirus in asymptomatic people. All staff will be doing these twice a week.  Just a reminder that only one adult should be doing drop-off and pick-up. Please also encourage your child to carry in their own belongings or please put these down and step back so our staff are not getting closer than 2 metres. If you need to hand your child over or be closer than 2 metres for any other reason, please wear a mask. Please also ensure you and your child are sanitising your hands when you arrive and depart from Little Owls.

**Child and Families Centre What’s On**

Please find attached the What’s On for Child and Families Centres, including some virtual workshops that many of our parents/carers have been on and found very helpful.

**Safeguarding Policy**

We have reviewed our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. If you wish to view this please see our website: [https://www.haslingfieldlittleowls.org.uk/policies/](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/0j1PCG5nniqrrWOUQyYV9?domain=haslingfieldlittleowls.org.uk/)

**Dates for your Diary**

1st - 4th March World Book Week

Last day of spring term 25th March 2021

Preschool closed for staff training Monday 12th April 2021

Summer term starts - Tuesday 13th April 2021

Early May Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2021

Half term: 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021

Preschool closed for Staff training - Monday 7th June 2021

Last day of term - Thursday 22nd July 2021

Best wishes from

Abby, Caroline, Charlotte, Hannah, Julie, Lucy, Sarah and Sobia

The Little Owls Team

**07704 908109**