

Newsletter - Jan 2026

Howden Pre-School is a UK registered charity no: 1037304 Ofsted no. 314652



Welcome back everyone, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. We would like to thank you for the cards, gifts and lovely comments in the run up to Christmas. It makes us happy when we know you are happy with the care and education we give to your lovely children.

Staff news - We'd like to welcome Beth to the team, she is a level 3 qualified practitioner with a passion for SEND, she will be working over at Bishops Manor with all the children.

Stay and Play - Weds 11th Feb - This is our termly session aimed to give you an opportunity to come and see what your child does at pre-school as well as catch up with their keyworker. 9am-3pm drop in all day, after 3pm please let us know if you'd like to come during the later session so we can organise staff.



Chicks News - *Our Chicks are definitely starting to fledge!*

With our youngest now beginning to walk and our older Chicks in full explore mode! This term we aim to differentiate our activities ensuring the older chicks are challenged while the youngest are given lots of opportunities to practice their new found skills. We will be concentrating on Physical Development this term providing lots of opportunities for for our new walkers to develop their gross motor skills while the older chicks will begin to home in on their fine motor skills with activities to develop hand/eye coordination such as large tweezers, paint brushes, sticks in sand and posting games. We will be introducing more of the local community to our Chicks by beginning to look at people who help us. As we go through the season of winter we will be exploring all it has to offer too! We'll play with snow and ice, feed the birds and notice the winter bulbs starting to push through the ground!

Home learning - To help develop your child's understanding you could try a few simple activities at home.

Story time, when you read a story interact with the pictures too, simple questions like "where's the bird?" Then if needed pointing "there's the bird" and "who's jumping" then if needed "the boys jumping"

Play peek a boo or hide and seek games with objects and simple games such as "where is your....(bodypart)" during care routines

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Link words with actions, songs like "everybody do this" "if you're happy and you know it" "roll the ball" "heads, shoulders, knees and toe" are a few ideas.



Sparrow News

The Sparrows have returned all excited from the Christmas break eager to tell us about their visits from Santa! We will enjoy these discussions during small group times where all the children will have the opportunity to tell us their Christmas stories. This term we will be focusing on Winter. We will be exploring ice, feeding the robins that keep coming into the garden, reading winter stories and engaging in fun activities based around these.

Home Learning - We will be working on simple number and letter recognition over the next few weeks. You can help with this at home by pointing out familiar letters such as the letters in your child's name when reading stories. You could also make up games that involve matching and memory. Write 2 sets of the letters from your child's name on squares of paper for this so there's no need to buy anything.

When you are out on walks look for numbers in the environment such as on doors, road signs and labels. Start with 1-5 then build up to 10 as your child begins to recognise more.



Robin News

The Robins have come flying back to the nest this week with their stories of Christmas which have been lovely to listen to! This term we will be splitting into smaller groups for short focused times throughout the sessions which will allow their keyworkers to spend extra quality time concentrating on their favourite things and next steps. The children enjoy singing and story activities, we will continue to use our song and story bags to extend and engage the children in learning new songs and stories.

Home Learning - This term we are focusing on numbers for counting. It's a good opportunity for you to count everything with your child. Cups, plates, socks, bobbles, toy cars, anything that can be counted will do! Our other focus will be introducing shapes. We

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will begin to learn the names of shapes and play games such as match a shape, the corner game (using shapes), jump on a shape, find a shape...along with jigsaws, books and cutting out our own shapes. You can do all this at home too, all you need is pens and paper!

Fundraising News

Cauliflower Cards - Thank you to everyone who joined in with this, we hope you liked your items. The total amount raised was £51.25

With easyfundraising, your online shopping turns into free cashback for Early Explorers Community Pre-schools! Sign up and your favourite retailers will donate every time you shop this year – at no extra cost to you. Plus, sign up before midnight 29th January and you'll enter us into a giveaway to win £500 scan below or use this link. We now have 61.31 in the kitty!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/early-explorers-community-pre-schools/05umqh/c2s/HysSEVIH/CE946/facebook>



GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Warm coats and appropriate shoes for both indoor and outdoor play are needed on a daily basis as we are in and out in all weathers. Please note, we do not like children to wear wellies inside so request that you provide a pair of indoor shoes. These can be labelled and left at pre-school if that's easier.**

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- *Please try to discourage your child from bringing in their favourite things, we can't keep a check on them and things often get lost or broken at Pre-School.*

Diary Dates

Mon 26th January - AGM - 6.30pm at Bishops Manor - all welcome to celebrate past achievements and learn about the future plans of Pre-School

Weds 11th February - Stay and Play drop in

Fri 13th February - Break up

16th-20th February - Holiday club - Book now!

Mon 23rd February - Spring 2 term starts

Fri 26th March - Break up

27th March - 2nd April, 7th April - 10th April - Easter Holiday Club - Book now!

13th April - Summer 1 term starts

Mon 4th May - Bank Holiday - CLOSED

Fri 22nd May - Break up

Tues 26th - Fri 29th May - Holiday Club

Mon 1st June - Summer 2 term starts

Fri 17th July - Break up for Summer

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything you wish to discuss regarding your child. Thank you.

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