



# NEWSLETTER

## January 2024

Welcome back to everyone and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and have enjoyed everything that goes with it. We have all missed the children and are looking forward to getting everyone back.

Last half term the children enjoyed our topics on Light & dark, Nursery Rhymes, Keeping Safe, Space and of course Christmas! We hope you all enjoyed our Christmas celebration at the church and have enjoyed our "Stay and Play" sessions.

Thank you to EVERYONE for coming to our Christmas fair and for also donating items for the raffle, selling raffle tickets to friends and family and to our amazing committee for giving up time to come and help us organise and run the day (including our brilliant Father Christmas and his helper!). It was supported by the whole community and raised a whopping £1,800! for Preschool. An AMAZING amount which we will be using to make our Rainbow room cosy and welcoming to all our younger Little Explorers.

Our next fundraising event will be "Rock and Roll Bingo" On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January at The Boyne Arms. This will be a fun event for the whole family so Please put it in your diary and keep an eye out for more information coming next week. If anyone would like to get more involved with fundraising and preschool, please come along to our next committee meeting. We have lots of fun and would LOVE to welcome new faces!

We sadly lost Eve at the start of last half term, thank you to all those who sent cards and wishes. After so many years of having Eve at little Explorers, it feels very strange without her here. However, we are thrilled to welcome Claire to our team. Claire has come from another local Nursery, and she has lots of experience working with children. I know she will fit in well with us all, the children are going to love her! We are also very lucky to welcome Edward's Mum, and committed committee member, Jasmine to the team. Jasmine will be volunteering with us twice a week while she completes her Level 3 Early Years apprenticeship. I am very proud of our staff team and look forward seeing all the wonderful new ideas our new members are going to bring with them.

This half term we will start with our topic "It's Cold Outside". We will be looking at how to keep warm and what animals live in colder climates. Obviously, it is cold this time of year so please, please remember to send your child in with a warm coat, hat, gloves, and a scarf. We continue to go outside no matter what the weather is doing. There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing!

A reminder that the school admissions deadline for children starting reception in September 2024 is MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY Please look on our website for the link to apply. <https://www.littleexplorers-preschool.co.uk/>

We look forward to seeing you all back on Monday!!

Laura x

### Diary Dates

PD Days: Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Jan & Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

Start of Spring term: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan

Share a book afternoon: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2pm-3pm

Stay and Play morning: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 9am

End of half term: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Start of second half of term: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February



### PARENTING HELPLINE

Call 01743 250950

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9am to 12.30pm

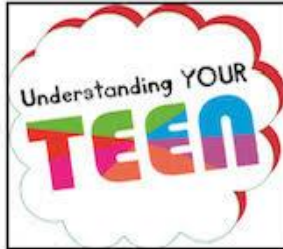
If you would like to find out about other services the Parenting Team offers please email [Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk)

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. Shropshire Council's Parenting Team is here to support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around child development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Helpline where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being please call First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021



## Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



### Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like "What's your favourite game or app to play on?".

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

### Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online - messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

### Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings - manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings - in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings - help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

### Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert - that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

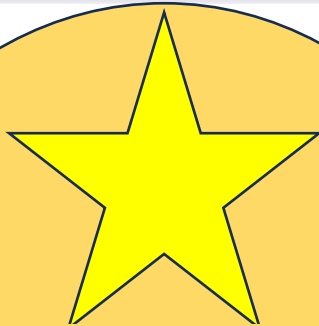
- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: [nspcc.org.uk/online-safety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety)
- Call the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000 to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)



## NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

NSPCC 2021. Registered charity England No. 238632. Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 2061. Illustration by Shutterstock. 2022 0216



### WOW MOMENTS!!

Well done...

Mason for giving up his dummy over Christmas!!

Jimmy for potty training at the end of last term!!

Please let us know if you're child does something that makes you proud so we can share it with everyone!

## Why should I read with my child?

STORIES can teach children about the world around them and help them put names to things



BOOKS are brilliant for development, from emotions and speech to counting... and beyond!



STORIES can spark all kinds of conversations between you and your child



BOOKS can open up new adventures and widen children's horizons



BOOKS can provide sensory experiences - with different textures to explore, bits to pull and sounds to hear



STORIES can introduce children to diversities and help them understand different cultures



And of course, BOOKS and STORIES can make your child... giggle explore



wonder imagine discover question laugh



Icons courtesy of Freepik and Flaticon