



Peartree Way Nursery School

"Friendship, Fun & Learning for Life"

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Peartree Way Nursery School, it has been wonderful to meet you all and see all the new and existing happy faces coming through the gate each morning. We look forward to getting to know you further over the next few weeks. The children look very smart in their green fleeces, jumpers and t-shirts; thank you for naming all their belongings- this makes it much easier to return any lost items to you.

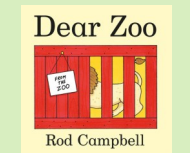
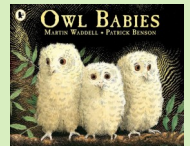
We have a parents evening planned for next week where we are looking forward to chatting to you in more detail about how your child has settled, but in the meantime do please talk to or email your child key person if you have any questions.



Curriculum and Learning

As the term gets underway the children's learning will be based on getting to know each other, the routines and expectations and exploring seasonal change. The Core book focus for Nursery is 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell while Explorers will be enjoying 'Dear Zoo' and recognising and making animal sounds. The voyagers class have been enjoying a shortened version of Monkey puzzle by Julia Donaldson and recognising differences between animals.

Learning at home: The children will soon have the opportunity to regularly borrow a book from either their classroom or school library. Please enjoy some time together sharing the story and talking about the pictures; this is really beneficial for language development. You may even like to try retelling the story in your own words and encouraging your child to join in.



Car Safety

All children up to the age of 11 and under 135cm tall are legally required to be secured in a car seat when travelling in a car. Please ensure that your child is in a car seat that is compatible with their height, weight and the car that they are travelling in.. More information can be found at www.capt.org.uk/car-safety/

Travelling to School

It is lovely to see so many of you making use of our buggy/scooter/bike shelter this term. This was built over the summer holiday to provide space for these 'modes of transport' to be left at school during the day without blocking our entrance and exit routes. It certainly seems like many of you are making the most of the nice weather with children scooting and cycling to school regularly.

Things to remember

Please remember to name all your child belongings including their lunch boxes to make the easily identifiable for your child and the Nursery staff. This really helps to support the development of independence.

Nursery staff support the children with their toileting independence and at times the children may have a toilet 'accident'. This is a perfectly normal stage of development and is often because the children are engrossed in their play. We have lots of spare clothes at Nursery that we will change your child into if needed, but we ask that you wash and return them to us. Alternatively your child can bring in their own spare clothes and keep them in a bag on their peg in the cloakroom area.

Keeping safe

As part of our safeguarding duty we work in partnership with the local police force as part of 'Operation Encompass'. This means that we are notified of any domestic violence incidents where the police are called, and it involves a child at our school. This allows us to give appropriate support to the child where needed.

All our staff at Peartree Way are trained in paediatric first aid. At a recent refresher training it was advised to us that children under 5 should not be given popcorn as a snack as it is a choking hazard. This is also echoed by the NHS advice on their 'Best Start in Life' website. To minimize the risk of choking we have made a decision as a school, that popcorn is not permitted in children's packed lunch boxes and should not be eaten at school.



Staff spotlight– Vicky Davies



Admin assistant and EYA

Hello! I'm Vicky, and I have been fortunate enough to be part of the Peartree Way Nursery team for nearly five years. Before joining the nursery, I spent more than 20 years as a primary school teacher, where I developed a passion for early years education. I am always in awe of the way young children see the world, and I feel incredibly lucky to be part of their learning and development. Outside of work, staying healthy and active is very important to me. I enjoy spending time outdoors, going to the gym, and playing walking netball. I also love travelling and spending time with friends and family, including my husband, our two grown-up children, and our beautiful black cat, Lola.

You can find me in the office every morning and enjoying time with the children in the nursery every afternoon!

Coming up

All Nursery class parents will need to apply for a Primary School place by January 15th 2027. Many schools will begin to have their open events soon and we recommend you visit schools before you make an application. Applications open on 2nd November and you apply online through the Hertfordshire County Council admissions website. Being a pupil at Peartree Way Nursery does not guarantee a space at any local primary school; they will apply their published admissions policy and criteria to all applications..

Community

Stevenage Family Centre: is a valuable source of support for advice about your child's health and development. Please visit their website to see what's on.

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/family-centres.aspx>



Governors

Our Governing body are a group of people who volunteer their time to support the strategic running of the school.

They work with the Headteacher and leadership team to ensure the highest of standards of education are delivered to all the children in a safe, inclusive environment.

We have recently recruited 2 new governors from our parent community and we are excited to have them on board.

We will be introducing you to our governing body over the coming months and highlighting the valuable role that they play in the life of Peartree Way.

For Parents

For all information about supporting your child with additional needs please look at the Hertfordshire Local Offer. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/the-hertfordshire-local-offer.aspx>



The government have issued guidance around screen time in settings and that screen use in 2-5s should be limited to less than an hour a day in total. At Peartree Way our screen use is occasional and supports specific curriculum objectives. Parents can find more information at www.beststartinlife.gov.uk



Parking

Our 'Parking Buddies' were kindly purchased for us by Stevenage Borough Council, last academic year as a visual reminder to park safely outside our school. We ask that you please park responsibly and don't block our neighbour's and local residents driveways and garages. Peartree Way is a narrow road that is used by a lot of vehicles and access needs to be maintained for the emergency services and utility vehicles.



Parents should not park in our school carpark unless they are accessing our disabled parking space and have discussed this with school staff.

To keep all children safe we would recommend that when getting out of your car, that children exit the car onto the pavement rather than into the road.

As our first month draws to a close and the first newsletter of the year is written I would like to thank all the staff, parents and in particular the children for making the start to our school year such a positive one.

With very best wishes to you all,

Siân

