

# Nursery News



Thorney Island Nursery

## February 2024

### Welcome back

We are at the end of the first week back after half term. It's been a busy week for the children, dodging the rain in the garden, looking for worms, getting messy in the tuff tray with dinosaurs stomping about and looking at the colours on Elmer the elephant. Daffodils have been painted in preschool, along with looking at the blossom that has come out on the trees over half term.

### Fundraising

As a nursery we are always looking for ways to raise money for new resources for the children. Over the past term we did raise some money and along with a small amount that we had left from the summer term '23 we have purchased some new resources for the children.

The children have enjoyed playing with a few of these this week and once the weather improves, we can use the garden much more and then other new resources will be used.



### Free childcare offer

The nursery accepts 2-, 3- & 4-year-old funding. The new 2-year-old funding for 15 hours is available from April '24 for children of working parents. You must be working the equivalent of 16 hours at the national minimum wage and no more than £100,000 per year. A child becomes eligible for this the term after their 2nd birthday.

If you would like to access this funding, then please visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for how to apply.

3- & 4-year-olds - we accept 15- and 30-hours funding for all 3- and 4-year-olds. Any child aged 3 can access 15 hours funding and for 30 hours funding both parents need to be working with the same eligibility as the 2-year-old funding above.

If you know anyone that might want to join the nursery, please signpost them to our website [www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk](http://www.thorneyislandnursery.co.uk)

We will also be offering the new funding for 9-month-olds from September '24. Watch this space for further details.

### Term dates 2023/2024

- ✓ 28<sup>th</sup> March '24 – end of Spring term (easter holidays)
- ✓ 15<sup>th</sup> April '24 – Start of Summer Term
- ✓ 27-31<sup>st</sup> May – half term
- ✓ 23<sup>rd</sup> July '24 – end of summer term

### Inset days

- ✓ Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May '24
- ✓ Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June '24

## Staffing News!

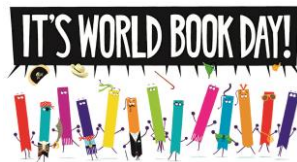
We have welcomed two new members of staff over the past few weeks, Charlotte and Jo. They are both working with the preschool age group on a part time basis. They are Level 3 qualified, and both have a number of years working with children.

Congratulations to Natalie on the birth of Hallie on 29<sup>th</sup> January '24, weighing 5lb 13ozs. Both Mum and baby are doing well, and we have already had a few cuddles with Hallie.



## Mother's Day

Inviting all mother's or Grandparent/ Auntie to our Mother's Day tea/coffee and cake stay and play session. Please join us on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30-2.30pm to chat with other parents, play alongside your child and speak to the staff. It would be great to see you all. Please confirm if you are able to attend ASAP.



We would like to invite the children to dress up on Thursday 7th March for world book day as their favourite book character. Or as an alternative they could come in their PJ's. We would also like them to bring in their favourite book. (please ensure that it is named)

We are looking for volunteers to come into nursery for World book day and read a story or two to a group of children or on a one-to-one basis. This is something that we would like to run on a regular basis, so if we get a lot of volunteers and you aren't successful for 7th March, I will put out some other dates very soon.

## Refer a friend!

We would like to offer a £50 credit on your invoice for anyone that recommends a friend to the nursery. Once they are signed up and have been with us for 3 months then the credit will be applied.

## COME AND JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

As a charity run nursery, we are always looking for volunteers to join the committee. This would involve attending meetings, helping, and supporting the nursery. It is your chance to bring ideas, have your say about how the nursery moves forward and be the voice for the parents. Please speak to Karen for further information. We hope that you can help us.

## Fridays!!!!

One last thing, a few parents have asked about the nursery opening again on a Friday afternoon until 3pm. This is something that we would really like to do but we need it to be financially viable for the nursery. I am going to propose to the committee that we start this again from after the Easter holidays on 15th April 2024.

Please could I ask that you send an email expressing your interest and commitment to Friday afternoon and then a decision can be/will be made to see if this is possible.

Thank you.