



Inspiring young minds to grow and shine

NEWSLETTER TERM 2 October 2025

www.testonandwateringburypreschool.co.uk

To find out more about what we do with the children each week and keep up to date with government guidelines and health notices, follow us on [Facebook](#)

Welcome

We hope you all had a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming back our children and families.

We would also like to extend the welcome to our new starter Luke.

Dates/events for your diaries

Bags 2 School collection from pre-school – 09.00am on Wednesday 5th November

Term 2 ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Term 3 starts: Monday 5th January 2026

All term dates can be found on our website

Our children's Christmas concert will be on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th December. (further information will follow).

ANY DONATIONS OF PAPER WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. We encourage your children to use our mark making table every day!

Bags 2 School Collection – Weds 5th November at 09.00am

By getting involved in our [Bag2School](#) collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags, soft toys, towels and bedding (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

You can use any bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well! **Please bring these bags along Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday morning that week.**

Parent WhatsApp Group

We have a parent WhatsApp group which is a great way to meet other parents. If you would like to join please email me your telephone number on tandwngroup@gmail.com

Term book

Each term we have a special book that we work around and use at discussion time throughout the term. Our focus for term 2 is based around the book 'Dream Snow' by Eric Carle. So, parents ...work with your children and help them choose what to bring in each week. (As per attached list).

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to those celebrating birthdays during term 2: We have Freya turning 4 and Lucas, and Eva turning 3. We hope you all enjoy your special day.

Choking Hazards

*Can I please remind all parents about choking hazards in packed lunches. Could we please ask you all to cut up foods such as whole grapes, cherries, berries, olives, raw vegetables, and tomatoes **lengthwise into quarters**. Many thanks*

Please help us keep our children safe

Water? Juice?

Earlier this year we focused a term on healthy eating and oral hygiene. As part of this we looked closely and discussed with the children how much sugar is in juice. To reduce our sugar intake, we decided as a group that we would only have milk or water at snack time. We would now like to extend this further to include lunchtimes. Could I please therefore ask that you only send your child in with water with their lunch and save the juice for special occasions at home. They ALL drink water at pre-school, even if they refuse at home!

Frube yoghurts

Could we please ask you to refrain from putting these in your child's lunchbox, not only do children find them hard to open but we have had many yoghurt explosions over lunchtime, covering walls, themselves, and other children when they have tried to squeeze them open. A pot of yoghurt and a spoon are also great for children to practice their fine motor skills and co-ordination.

PLEASE NAME ALL PACKED LUNCH BOXES and SCHOOL BAGS. We are a nut free pre-school so please do not send your child in with any foods that contain nuts or MAY contain nuts. Please check ALL packaging.

Administering medication at pre-school

We only administer medication to children if they are on a pre-school care plan and/or the medication has been prescribed by a doctor and has the child's full name and dosage on the bottle. A medication form will then be completed with the parent and signed by staff and parent at the end of the day.

Please DO NOT send your child in if they are unwell.

Phonics Classes

Phonics classes for our school leavers will be starting this term. Mrs Jordan will let you know which group your child will be in and on which days they will attend so you can ask your children which sound they have learnt.

The good old English weather



We endeavour to have outside play every day so please dress your child accordingly. This time of year, we can have sun, rain, wind, snow so please bring in a bag with sun hats, jumpers and a full change of clothing, in case your child gets wet or muddy through play. **Most importantly PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHING.**

Preschool Uniform for sale

Please speak to a member of staff for colours and availability.

T shirts - £8.00

Sweatshirts - £13.00

Messy play

We appreciate you would like your child to look nice but when at pre-school we always have an area of messy play, whether that is with mud, water, sand, paints etc. so please dress them in their old clothes.

Due to messy play, we would also remind you that all children will need a change of clothes in their school bag.

NEWS Tree

We would really like to hear about your children's achievements, special events and news, so please write anything they would like to share with us and their friends on a piece of paper, with their name and the date on the back and we will stick it on the news tree in the hall.

General reminders

- Children should come to pre-school in shoes suitable for both indoor and outdoor play i.e., **no Crocs/flip flops.**
- Long hair should be tied back.
- Label all drinks, bags, shoes, hats, and coats with your child's name.
- In accordance with Health Protection Agency guidance, children who are ill or who appear to be ill should not be at pre-school even if they are not infectious. Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay away from pre-school until they have been symptom free for **48 hours.**

Please notify Tina Driver if your child can not attend pre-school.

IMPORTANT: Parents must keep pre-school updated, in writing, of any changes to their child's medical needs or change of contact details.

Check out some useful links on our website:

What to expect, when? is a great document for parent/carers to use as a guide to where your child should be within the Early years foundation stage, remembering that all children development at different rates – see what you notice your child can do and use it as a prompt to explore and try new things together at home.

In using this document if you feel unsure about anything please feel free to talk to your keyworker.

NSPCC link –Let's Talk PANTS. With the help of our friendly dinosaur Pantosaurus, talking pants is a simple way to teach your child how to stay safe from abuse.

Space 2 be me – Is an organisation that supports children and families with additional needs aged 0 – 25.

Flu Vaccination

Has your child been vaccinated against flu? If not, to find out more information on where and how it is administered. Please visit www.nhs.uk/flu/vaccine

MY NAMETAGS

If you would like to order some name tags why not use WWW. My Nametags.com and help raise some funds for our pre-school.

Our unique pre-school reference number is 92391

EASY FUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise money just by shopping online. You do not pay anything extra. To find out how to fundraise for our pre-school visit easyfundraising.org.uk and join today.

CONTACT DETAILS

For all your admissions enquiries please EMAIL Jo Jordan on:

testonpreschooladmissions@gmail.com

For all your accounts enquiries please EMAIL Caroline Smedley on:

testonpreschoolfinance@gmail.com

More information can be found on our website:

www.testonandwateringburypreschool.co.uk

Invoices

Polite reminder that all outstanding payments need to be paid within 14 days of receipt of invoice, and our preferred method of payment if possible is bank transfer. Any problems please speak to Tina. Many thanks.

FUNDING

From the term following your child's 3rd birthday, your child is entitled to 15 hours free nursery education per week for 38 weeks of the year. These can be used as morning sessions (each session is 2.5 hours) or as full days (5 hours).

From April 2024 eligible working parents will be able to apply for 15 hours of funded education for their 2-year-old. For further details on the criteria and to obtain your code which we will need please visit the Government website.

We now offer more funded hours under the 30-hour scheme. To find out more and to check eligibility please visit kent.gov.uk/freechildcare or speak to a member of staff. We only have a limited number of spaces under this scheme so please speak to Tina or Jo.

We are also an approved provider of funding for 2-year-olds through the 'Free for 2' scheme. You can now apply online, please speak to a member of staff who will be able to give you full details.

Are you entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)?

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Did you know your childcare provider may be entitled to £342 additional funding to further support the education of your child?

Your child's early years education provider could get up to £342 per year to help with your child's education. This will be paid direct to your provider.

EYPP will help your child to:

- benefit from extra resources and equipment suited to their needs
- enjoy a range of new play, learning and activity experiences
- be better prepared for starting school. Childcare settings will have to demonstrate to

Ofsted how funds have been used to improve your child's education.

Who can apply?

You can apply for early years pupil premium if your child is aged 3 or 4 and gets 15 hours free childcare.

If you are claiming one of the following benefits or credits, your provider may be able to claim additional funding for your child:

- Income Support • Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual, household, gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Universal Credit (if you are entitled to Universal Credit and have an annual net earned income equivalent to and not exceeding £7,400, assessed on up to three of your most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.

EYPP may also be paid for children who meet the following criteria:

You may also get EYPP if your child is currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales or if your child has left care in England or Wales through:

- adoption
- special guardianship order
- a child arrangements order.

You will be required to sign your funding declaration form termly. This is a binding document so please make sure you understand and check the content before you sign. If you have any questions, please speak to Tina or Jo.

We are here to help...

We want you and your child to have the best possible experience at our preschool and therefore any ideas or comments that you have for the development of the group are always welcomed. If you have any problems with or complaints about any aspect of your child's care, we would like to hear from you immediately so that we can resolve them as quickly as possible. Mrs Tina Driver (Tel. 07956 004363) or Mrs Caroline Smedley (07921 837477) are ready to listen and act upon any concern or suggestion.

Copies of our Complaints and Concerns Policy are available upon request or can be found on our website.

Do you know who our Trustees are...?

Tina Driver – Pre-school Manager
Caroline Smedley – Finance Officer
Andrew Driver – Elected member
Adele Solomides – Current parent

If you have any questions regarding how the pre-school is run, please speak to one of the trustees.

Ofsted

If you wish to contact Ofsted about any aspect of your child's childcare, please call 08456 404040 or visit their website at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Key contacts

Tina Driver (Pre-school Manager)
Mobile: 07805 796353
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Email: tandwngroup@gmail.com

Jo Jordan (Deputy Manager/Admissions Secretary)
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Anna Lomas (SENCO)
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