

Medstead Pre-school & Nursery Newsletter

Issue 123, Autumn/Winter 2025



Message From the Team

We are looking forward to welcoming children in September, whether that be children returning after the summer holidays or new children joining us for the first time.

We have a year of fun activities planned and can't wait to see how the children grow over the coming year.

Term Dates

2025-26

AUTUMN TERM: 04/09/2025—17/12/2025

HALF TERM: 27/10/2025—31/10/2025

SPRING TERM: 05/01/2026—27/03/2026

HALF TERM: 16/02/2026—20/02/2026

SUMMER TERM: 13/04/2026—20/07/2026

HALF TERM: 25/05/2026—29/05/2026

INSET DAYS

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Thursday 18th December 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Tuesday 21st July 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Dates for Diaries

03/09/2025—INSET DAY

Pre-school is closed to all children. Breakfast Club will be open for school children attending Aspire Sports group.

23/10/2025—Autumn Disco—3.15pm-4.15pm

We are holding a pre-school disco for all pre-school children who would like to attend. The children will be able to sing and dance to some of their favourite songs. Snacks and drinks will be included in the ticket price of £5.00.

19/11/2025—Parent's Evening—6.00pm-8.00pm

Parents are invited to come and speak with your child's key person about their learning and development. More information on how to book will follow nearer the time.

27/11/2025—Grandparents Day—2.00pm-3.00pm

We would like to invite all grandparents to come and play at pre-school. The children love to show all of the things they have to play with and what they can do. Please let the office know if your child's grandparent(s) would like to come along.

04/12/2025—Nativity Performance—2.15pm

Early Learners (those going to school in 2026) will be performing their nativity. We would like to invite parents/carers to come along and watch.

12/12/2025—Nativity Performance at Westlands Care Home

The children will have the opportunity to perform their nativity for the residents at Westlands Care Home.

Dates for Diaries continued...

08/12/2025-12/12/2025—Christmas Shop

The Christmas Shop will open its doors for children to buy gifts for family and friends. It's a great experience for the children and also helps raise valuable funds for pre-school. More information to follow.

17/12/2025—Christmas Parties

Younger Children 11.00am-12.05pm / Early Learners 1.30pm-3.05pm

All children are invited to join us for some Christmas fun. More information to follow.

Being Healthy

Please help us try and combat the winter germs by helping the children learn good hygiene practises such as Catch it, Kill it, Bin it!

Please see the Illness section overleaf for advice and guidance on when your child may be too poorly to attend pre-school.

Whilst we understand it is difficult when you need to take time off of work to care for children when they are poorly, it is the best way to reduce the risk of an outbreak.



Being Healthy

Getting young children to eat a healthy balanced diet can be tricky. Here are some helpful tips to encourage your child to eat a variety of healthy and nutritious food.

- *Don't force your child to eat food he or she truly dislikes.*
- *Offer small amounts of food at a time. ...*
- *Don't offer rewards for eating. ...*
- *Don't discuss your family's food likes and dislikes in front of your child. ...*
- *Encourage your child to eat meals with family.*



If you are worried about your child's eating, please feel free to come and speak to a member of the team.

Development & Learning

Toilet training

All children develop differently which means they will all be ready to toilet train at different times. Although it can seem daunting, try to keep positive and do let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Some signs that your child might be ready

- *Can they get on, off and sit on the toilet (with a step or a seat)?*
- *Are they showing signs they can hold their urine and be dry for a couple of hours?*
- *Are they going for a poo at similar times each day?*
- *Do they know when they have had a wee or poo?*

We are very happy to support toilet training, so as soon as you are ready to give it a go, let us know and we will copy your approach at pre-school.

If your child doesn't seem to get to grips with using the potty or the toilet don't let it get you or your child down. You can either go back to nappies and try again at another time, or just keep persevering. There's no right or wrong answer! If you decide to take a break, leave it a few weeks to avoid confusing your little one.

Help and support is available from pre-school staff, GPs and Health Visitors. You can also find lots of useful information on the ERIC website.



Development & Learning

Communication & Language

From the moment a baby is born they are communicating with you. Crying, smiling and babbling are the starting points for future language development.

As children become toddlers, they begin to build on a their vocabulary through experiences and interactions with others.

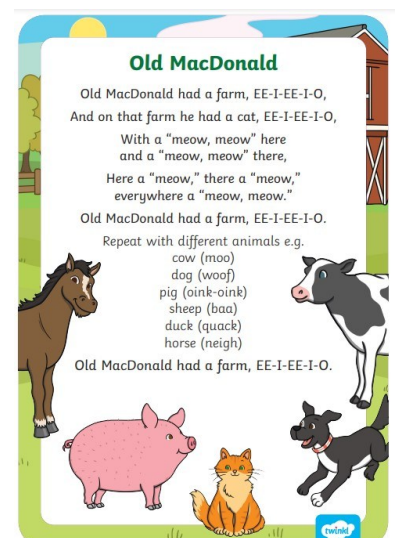
When they reach pre-school age, children begin to use language to share ideas, interact with others, and use words to express more than just their wants and needs.

No matter where your child is in terms of developing their communication and language skills, you can always help support them even more by;

- Making sure you **give them time** to respond
- Role modelling **good language** (not using baby language)
- Reading **books/telling stories**



- Singing **songs and rhymes**
- Give **visual clues/gestures** alongside spoken language
- And, **listen to them**



Reminders

CONTACT DETAILS:

Please ensure you keep us updated of any changes to your contact details, including emergency contact details to ensure we are able to contact someone AT ALL TIMES.

LUNCHBOXES & BAGS:

Please ensure lunchboxes are NAMED ON THE OUTSIDE.

We are a NUT FREE ZONE due to life threatening allergies.

Please ensure bags only contain a change of clothes, nappies and a comforter if needed.

ILLNESS:

If your child has had diarrhoea or vomiting, you must keep them at home until 48 hours after the last episode.

If your child is prescribed antibiotics, please keep them home for 48 hours after the first dose is given. *If children require antibiotics for an infection they are unlikely to be well enough to attend pre-school.*

Children with a temperature must stay home.

If your child has been given Calpol (or any similar medication) please keep them at home for at least 4 hours. *Children who require Calpol (or similar) are unlikely to be well enough to attend pre-school.*

Pre-school will follow guidance from HSE regarding exclusion periods for illness, however, we reserve the right to implement additional exclusion periods during an outbreak.

HEAD LICE:

If your child is receiving treatment for head lice, please ensure the treatment is washed out of hair prior to attending pre-school. *This prevents the risk of accidental ingestion or allergic reaction to chemical based products.*

MEDICATION:

Pre-school are only able to administer emergency medications for asthma and allergies, and medications that require four doses within 24 hours or at specific times.

SUN CREAM:

Pre-school are able to apply Garnier Solaire Factor 30. If your child requires a different brand, please provide a named sun cream to leave at pre-school.

CAR PARKING:

Please DO NOT use the school car park or tennis club car park at any time. Please use the pull-in on the green.

Reminders contd.

SCHOOL CLIMBING FRAME/WOODLAND AREAS

Please do not allow your children to play on the large climbing equipment or in the school woodland areas. *The climbing frame is not suitable for children under 6 years.*

LATE COLLECTION:

Late pick-up will be charged at £20.00 for the first 15 minutes, then £10.00 for every additional 5 minutes.

POLICIES:

Our policies are available to read on our website (www.medsteadpreschool.co.uk). If you have any questions, please feel free to email.

Message From the Committee

Thank you to all of you who have supported our fundraising this year!

Keep an eye out for more ways to help support pre-school!

Funding Reminder

'30-hour funding'

'Two year-old funding for working families'

If you are eligible, please ensure you have applied via the Government Gateway and provided us with your code and National Insurance number by the end of each term to ensure we are able to claim.

'Two-year old funding for disadvantaged families'

If you are eligible, please let us know by either providing your code or emailing us to apply on your behalf before the end of each term.

