

The newsletter is a bit later than normal this year because we have been so busy after the Christmas break! So we've rolled up the Spring and Summer editions together to give you a bit more advance notice of events coming up to help you plan.

Our fabulous Lodge is completed now—thanks to Oakston Solutions (Bloom's dad) and hopefully lots of you got to see it at the Christmas Fair. It has been invaluable during inclement weather for the Forest Schoolers and is also being used for small group keycarer sessions which is exactly what we had planned for it. Immense fundraising really helped bring this dream to reality, so thank you all for your support.

Our next project for fundraising, which kicked off at the Christmas Fair, (and many thanks to Alaria's mum for nominating us for the grant from Toyota Sandhurst) is to install acoustic sound clouds in the main room. Acoustic sound clouds will help reducing echo and background noise. This means children will be able to hear one another more easily during play, learning, and group time. For children who find noisy spaces overwhelming or need extra support with communication, this upgrade will make a real difference. It's a simple improvement that creates a more comfortable, inclusive environment for everyone.

There are a few opportunities for you to get involved in preschool so I hope you'll be able to join in, eg Mothers Day and Fathers Day fun and a Parent DIY day too. We're looking forward to seeing you all.

Hayley



Parent DIY day—Saturday 21 March

You may not be familiar with our Parent DIY days (or you may have been involved in the past and can't wait for the next one!).

For those that don't know, we set aside a couple of hours when Parents come into preschool on a Saturday morning, with sleeves rolled up and set to tidying up and refreshing preschool so that it looks it's best for the Summer.

We have a list of jobs that need to be tackled, so there is something for everyone of all abilities:

- Painting
- Tidy the Eco Garden
- Trim the hedges around the garden
- Make a bird hide and handwash station (woodworking skills required!)
- Spring cleaning

A little community spirit goes a long way, and your support would mean the world to us.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our



Sustainability Action Plan

Since September, the Government has required all early years settings and schools to have a Sustainability Plan. So we are working towards our Curiosity Approach Sustainability Award to educate our children about sustainable living and achieve our Sustainability Plan.

We try really hard at

Recycling, composting, planting, saving water, repurposing, saving electricity, using eco friendly products where we can, buying locally and sharing resources.

We will be sharing our journey with you all, so watch out for some tips the children can try at home.



One of our favourite ways to recycle while raising funds for preschool is the Bag2School scheme. If you are having a clear out of clothing, please bag it all up and bring it to preschool for our collection at the beginning of the Summer Term. Check what we can accept here: bag2school.com/what-we-collect



We'll be suggesting other ways you can join our sustainability journey, so please join in and support us where you can.

Tesco to Tacos: The great avocado journey

Throughout this month, the children have been taking part in a wonderfully hands-on learning experience that blended real-world skills with delicious results. What began as a simple idea—making guacamole and salsa—quickly turned into a full adventure filled with independence, teamwork, and plenty of curiosity.

To start, the children explored different recipes, comparing ingredients and talking about flavours. They helped write shopping lists, thinking carefully about what we needed and how much to buy. With lists in hand, we headed out to catch the bus, giving everyone the chance to practise real-life skills like reading signs, waiting safely, and talking about our local community. (We even came across a fire engine!). Once at Tesco, the children used the self-scanner to find and check items off the list. They hunted for ripe avocados, tomatoes, onions, and limes—feeling, smelling, and discussing what makes good ingredients. The shopping trip was a brilliant opportunity for listening, maths, language, and confidence-building.

Back at preschool, the real fun began. The children prepared the avocados for guacamole, chopped ingredients for salsa (with support), and mixed everything together. They loved seeing how the fresh ingredients transformed into something they could taste and share.

Finally, everyone enjoyed dipping tortilla chips and vegetable sticks into their homemade creations. It was a joyful, sensory, and very tasty celebration of all their hard work.

This experience brought together so many areas of learning—communication, independence, problem-solving, healthy eating, and community awareness. And the children were incredibly proud of what they achieved from start to finish.

Now for inspiration for next months adventure....



Important Reminders

- Drop off/pick up—In order to keep children and adults safe, please use the bottom car park or the leisure centre car park only. The College is ordering new signs for the car park nearest to preschool—it is a Staff Car Park. Please, please, please **under no circumstances park on the paths or yellow lines**. It is not safe and endangers children and adults.
- Please check all your child's clothing and belongings to make sure that they are clearly named.—It saves a lot of time and confusion if we can quickly identify all their bits and pieces.
- Please don't bring in precious toys from home—they can easily get mixed up with preschool toys and lost! There have been a few upsets recently :-)
- Please make sure children have lots of waterproof outdoor clothing (especially layers for Forest School) while the weather is still cold.

Resource donations?

We are after the following for preschool if you can help?

- ◆ Ribbon and wool
- ◆ Buttons and cotton reels
- ◆ Scrap paper / wallpaper
- ◆ Any other interesting antiquities to inspire curiosity :-)

Tapestry Childhood Education Platform

Since implementing the Tapestry system this academic year, we have ironed out some wrinkles and thank you all for your patience during this settling in period. We've noticed that some Tapestry email activation links have expired (mostly dads for some reason?), so we will be sending these out again in the hope that more parents sign up to get access to their children's learning journey, notifications and memos. If you have any access issues, please contact the office and we will try our best to sort them out.

Committee news



Hi there!!

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely festive break. Welcome to the new families joining us in 2026.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Caroline and I am the Chairperson of the Preschool Committee. I'm also Mummy to Darcey, who's at Potley Hill Early Years, older sister Clara and baby Toby.

Firstly, a big thank you to Oakston Solutions for our fabulous new Lodge – the preschool really are going to make great use of this space both for the forest schoolers, but also those who remain at preschool and need a quieter space for activities in smaller groups.

Last term we welcomed Santa to preschool for some festive stories alongside our Christmas Fair – I hope you all had a fantastic time. If there is any feedback on things we could do to improve

this event next year, please email the office, they'll forward to the Committee and we'll take it on board in our planning. I would like to extend my thanks to all the committee, staff and parents who made the Christmas Fair and Raffle such a huge success. In total, we raised over £1200 which (after expenses) will be put towards some acoustic sound clouds for the main room, improving the environment for the children and staff.

As we look forward to the rest of the Spring Term, the committee will be meeting to plan our events, so if you want to get involved, however big or small your contribution, you would be most welcome – just let us know

potleyhill.preschool@yahoo.com and we will send you the meeting details.

We're also organising a Parents DIY day to do some jobs around preschool – no experience necessary so please put the date in your diary and come along to help if you can. It's nice to be able to chat with other parents. We'll supply the biscuits and tea! Thank you for your continued support; I hope you all have a lovely term.

Caroline (Clara, Darcey and Toby's mum) – Chair of the Committee

The friendships your children make at preschool may last for years, the same can be true for their parents!

Committee Fundraising and Events Spring/Summer 2026

March

Handprint pictures for Mothers Day (15th March)

Watch out for the order form—coming soon !

A lovely memento for Mothers or Grandmothers—a framed print of your child's handprints with a heartwarming poem.

Parent DIY Day—Saturday 21 March

Parents, we need your help!

Come and spend a couple of hours with other parents/grandparents helping spruce up the preschool

April

Sponsored Toddler Waddle—Friday 24 April

Fabulous afternoon of fun toddling round the playing fields, followed by a family picnic. This is our big fundraiser of the year and the children love it!

June

Friday 19 June Summer Party

The Committee are working on organising a lovely Summer Party for the children.

July

Friday 3 July Summer Fair at Potley Primary

We've been invited to join in the fun with the primary school's Summer Fair Party for the children. More details to follow.

If you have any ideas for fundraising or events, we'd be more than happy to hear from you. Remember, Potley Hill Early Years is a Committee run charity—we can't continue to thrive without your support!



Diary Dates

Spring/Summer2026

Watch our for more details!!.....

Monday 16 February— Friday 20 February	HALF TERM
Friday 6 March	Deadline for Mothers Day Handprint orders
Monday 9 March am) Wednesday 11 March pm) Friday 13 March am)	) Mothers Day Fun
Saturday 21 March	Parent DIY Day 10am—12noon
Monday 30 March - Friday 10 April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 13 April	INSET for staff training—PRESCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 16 April	Bag2School Collection
Monday 20 April	Parent Consultation evening
Friday 24 April	Sponsored Toddle Waddle and picnic afternoon
Friday 1 May - Monday 4 May	INSET/Bank holiday—PRESCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May	HALF TERM - PRESCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 15 June am) Wednesday 17 June pm) Friday 19 June am)	) Fathers Day Fun
Friday 19 June	Summer Party
Friday 19 June	Deadline for Leavers T-towel orders
Friday 3 July	Summer Fair at Potley Primary School
Tuesday 21 July	Last day for returners in September 2026
Wednesday 22 July	Leavers celebrations—Preschool closes 11.30am