

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Volume: 15 Issue: 5



Little Gregs  
Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank all Little Gregs Families for our lovely cards and gifts at Christmas. The thank you messages in the cards, were wonderful to read and the Little Gregs Team really appreciated them.

I would like to welcome our new Little Gregs Families, and the new children who have joined us. They have all settled in really well.

The pre-school is now in full swing and we have lots planned for the rest of the spring term. Lions and Tigers will be enjoying phonics with Robot Reg on Friday afternoons, more information will be given to Lions and Tigers parents.

Cubs will be going on a trip to the butterfly farm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. I am looking for a parent helper, if you would like to support this trip, please let me know.

To support these wonderful extra-curricular activities, fundraising is so important to help make this happen. Our Christmas fundraising raised an amazing £409.00. A very big THANK YOU! For your support.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a cake sale. Any parents who can help support the cake sale, this would be appreciated, and the only request is please ensure the ingredient is clearly labelled on the cakes.

Kind Regards  
Sarah Wilkes  
Pre-School Manager



## Reminders:

- If your child is absent you must inform the pre-school by 9am. Please phone or email. This has to be done for each day of absence.
- Please be at the gate for 8.30am
- Water bottle needed for each session. Please ensure the bottle is clearly labelled.
- Please label your child's belongings including a full change of clothing including socks.
- No Nuts** in snack boxes or packed lunches.
- Hot Lunches can be ordered daily at the gate when you drop off.
- A coat is needed as we go out in all weathers.

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Dates for the Diary	
Cake Sale	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
End of Half Term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Half Term Break	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Return to Pre-School	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
Cubs Butterfly Farm Visit	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
Last Day of Term	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Easter Break	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Return to Pre-School	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
Bank Holiday (Closed)	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023
Bank Holiday (Closed)	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 (King's Coronation)
Inset Day (Closed) Teacher Training	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
May Half Term	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
Return to Pre-School	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Lions and Tiger Educational Visit	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Lions and Tigers Leavers Service	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
End of Summer Term	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023

It has been tragically shared by Child Accident Prevention Trust two young children have died choking on food. One choked on a grape. The size and shape of whole grapes means they can block a child's airway and can be difficult to dislodge with standard first aid techniques.

That's why grapes and other round foods such as cherry tomatoes, blueberries and cherries should be chopped in half lengthways and ideally in quarters before being given to children.



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## Cubs

In order to continue to develop your children's communication and language skills, we are reading lots of special stories in the Cubs. So far we have shared "The Friendly Snowman" and "Going on a Bear Hunt". Everyone has enjoyed both books, especially the latter together with activities we have based around these stories. We are currently sharing "Dear Zoo", with "Rainbow Fish" coming just before half term. Rainbow Fish is a lovely story to help teach children how to share and be kind to one another, so we'll be playing lots of turn taking games.

We are seeing the children interacting more with one another now and will be encouraging more of these social interactions. Hopefully the weather will become a little warmer after half term, so we can use our outdoor classroom more and have an additional role-play area for the children to play in.

If you could please ensure your child has an all-in-one at pre-school on a Wednesday morning, it would be appreciated.

From Cubs Team.



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## Lions and Tigers

Lions and Tigers have been busy exploring storytelling, using small world play, role-play and acting out.

Storytelling is so important in Early Years; storytelling provides many psychological and educational benefits, such as enhanced imagination to help visualize spoken words, improved vocabulary, and more refined communication skills.

This coming week we will be celebrating storytelling week, at home you can join us by sharing stories with your children and uploading photos to Tapestry!

We had great fun celebrating Chinese New Year, exploring different foods, singing, dancing, and being creative and gaining knowledge by watching and listening to stories.

P.E with Andy, we have been developing our running, throwing and balancing skills. We are all improving our listening skills to! As we have to follow lots of instructions during P.E.

For maths we are exploring shapes and have been creative building with different shapes.

We are going to continue developing Literacy. We are exploring rhyming words and learning the early stages of phonics.



From Lions and Tigers Team



## **Safeguarding theme of the month: Online Safety**

We recognise that children of all ages enjoy using technology and Ofcom's recent research has shown that 86% of 3-4 year olds have access to a tablet at home and 21% have their own tablet.

We also now see young children going online to play games, talk to family, watch videos and even learn to use voice enabled tech like Alexa and Siri to find out about their world. Having conversations about online safety within our early settings and homes is therefore really important and should begin as soon as children begin to engage with technology.

Please see below 8 top tips that you as parents and carers can put in place at home, and the guides provide useful information to help keep your children safe!



## KEEPING UNDER FIVES SAFE ONLINE

**8 top tips** that you can put in place at home, to help keep your youngest children safe online.



### Enjoy going online together

The best way to keep your family safe online, and to understand your child's internet use, is to use technology and the internet together. Get to know how a game or device works by exploring it as a family and finding where the main settings and safety features are.



### Establish clear boundaries

In the same way that you set boundaries for most areas of your children's lives, establish your expectations with technology use and online activities. Creating a family agreement is a useful step, which might include time spent online, where and when devices can be used and what to do if they see something upsetting. You can find the Childnet Family Agreement at [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation).



### Supervise your child's use

We recommend that you always supervise a young child when they are online as they may stumble across something which could worry, upset or confuse them. Since the internet can be accessed from a number of devices and many of these are portable, we would advise you to keep family and child devices in a busy part of your home e.g. the living room or kitchen. This makes it easier for you to be involved in their technology use and you are right there to answer any questions and help them.



### Consider the quality and quantity of online activities

Young children can be enthusiastic users of technology but try to encourage a healthy mix of online and offline activities. There are some strategies that can be used to help manage the time your child spends online, such as setting time limits or using time limiting tools, designating weekly times to use the internet together, or removing portable devices from your child's bedroom at night to avoid tiredness.



### Make use of parental tools

Make use of parental controls and filters which can be used on your home internet, devices, phone networks and online services such as Netflix and YouTube.

Visit the Parents' Guide to Technology on the UK Safer Internet Centre website to find out how to set up controls on a device [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech).

Visit [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls) to find out how you can set up controls on your home internet, phone network and online services such as Netflix.

Parental controls will work best in combination with supervision and engagement to help your child understand how to stay safe online. As your child grows and develops, so do their online needs, therefore you may want to periodically review your parental controls to accommodate this.

Always remember to choose a strong password and do not share it with your child.



## Start the conversation early

It's important to begin the conversation about staying safe online as early as possible in order to establish positive behaviour and routines early in a child's life. The age that you should begin speaking to your child will differ between families but essentially as they start engaging with technology and the internet these conversations can and should begin. Try using the conversations below to help you with this.

You can also give your child strategies early on that they can use if something ever worries or upsets them online. These could include: switch the screen off, close the laptop, exit the website, or turn the iPad or phone over and come ask for help.



## Choose age appropriate apps and games

Gaming may be the very first way that your child encounters life online and there are lots of fantastic online games and apps to support their learning and development. When choosing a new game or app for your child the first thing to be aware of is the age rating. Much like films, games have age ratings too and these are determined by the game's content. PEGI ([pegi.info](http://pegi.info)) set these ratings along with content descriptors which indicate if a game contains things like violence, in app purchases or scenes of a sexual nature. Google Play and Windows Store apps are also rated by PEGI and the App Store has age ratings too.

You can also proactively find great age appropriate apps and games for young children to use by filtering by age at [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org). Common Sense Media is a website which provides reviews and lots of useful information on games but they also cover films, apps, TV shows, websites, books, and music too. Reading online reviews of games from other parents' experiences is a really useful way to highlight potential safety issues like whether the game features inappropriate adverts or bad language.

Many games also offer in-app purchases which means spending real money on in-game features. You can turn off in-app purchases and protect them with a password. To find more information about how to do this visit [www.childnet.com/in-app-purchases](http://www.childnet.com/in-app-purchases).



## Know where to report

Reports can be made to websites through their safety/help centres and moderation services. If you are worried or suspicious about someone who contacts your child online report them to CEOP ([www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)). For more information regarding reporting, visit our Need Help page in the parents and carers section of the Childnet website [www.childnet.com/parents-help](http://www.childnet.com/parents-help).

## Conversation starters for under 5s



- Q - What is your favourite thing to do on the iPad/tablet/my phone etc?
- Q - What is your favourite game/app and why do you like it?
- Q - Where do we use the iPad/tablet/games console and when can we use it?
- Q - What can you do if something online upsets you?
- Q - Who can help you with your favourite games and apps?
- Q - If a message appears on the screen, what should you do?
- Q - Who can go online? Do we know everyone online?



# Little Greys

Pre-School

## Cake Sale

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Cakes will be available to buy @ pick  
up times.

(11.30am, 12.30pm & 3.30pm)



Cake donations would be appreciated. Please  
bring them in on the morning of the sale.

All monies raised will be put towards extra-  
curricular activities.

