



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

As this is the first newsletter of 2024, I would like to thank all Little Gregs Families for our lovely cards and gifts at Christmas. The thank you messages, 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 settled in really well.

The pre-school is in full swing and we are planning events to support partnership with parents, and Robot Reg has been a massive hit with the Lions and Tigers children. We are so lucky to have a great partnership with Stratford Library, the Library bus will continue to visit us every few months, and Lions and Tigers have made another brilliant display for the Library.



I would like to thank you for your support over the autumn term with our fundraising over the term we raised £645.41. Fundraising is important as it support extra – curricular activities, new resources and improvements of the setting. We have set a target of £1,500 for this school year all your help very appreciated!

| Event / Activity | Amount Raised |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Clothing Bank | £8.61 |
| Second Hand Uniform Sales | £37.00 |
| Christmas Fair | £161.60 |
| Christmas Cards Commission | £24.70 |
| Nativity Donations | £11.50 |
| Christmas Raffle | £385.00 |
| Guess the Name of the Teddy | £17.00 |
| | |
| Total Raised Autumn Term 2023 | £645.41 |

Our cake sale this month raised £99.33. Thank you for your cake donations and you kind money donations. The new PTFA at St Gregory's Primary school have included us within some future events, please keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events. Working in partnership with St Gregory's is very positive for the pre-school.

If you would like to help and get involved with fundraising events, please speak with Sarah or Helen.

Kind Regards

Sarah Wilkes

Pre-School Manager





Little Gregs
Pre-School

| Dates for the Diary | |
|--|---|
| Last Day of Term | Friday 9 th February 2024 |
| Half Term | Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th February 2024 |
| Children Return to Pre-school | Monday 19 th February 2024 |
| Mother's Day Creative Tea Party 2.15-3.15pm @ Little Gregs Pre-school | Thursday 7 th March 2024 |
| Teacher Training Day - Closed to Children | Friday 22 nd March 2024 |
| Easter Break | Monday 25 th March - Friday 5 th April 2024 |
| Children Return to Pre-school | Monday 8 th April 2024 |
| Bank Holiday Closed | Monday 6 th May 2024 |
| Teacher Training Day - Closed to Children | Friday 24 th May 2024 |
| May Half Term | Monday 27 th - 31 st May 2024 |
| Children Return to Pre-school | Monday 3 rd June 2024 |
| Father's Day Creative Treat 2.15-3.15pm @ Little Gregs Pre-school | Thursday 13 th June 2024 |
| Whole Pre-school Trip to Hatton Country World | Date to be Confirmed - Tuesday 2 nd July 2024 |
| Pre-school Leavers Graduation 2-3pm | Tuesday 16 th July 2024 |
| Last Day of Term | Friday 19 th July 2024 |
| Closed for Summer Break | Monday 22 nd July - Tuesday 3 rd September 2024 |

Parent Helpers!

I am planning a pre-school trip on Tuesday 2nd July 2024. I cannot finalize the trip, till I have enough adults to support the trip, maintaining child: adult ratio.

If you can help with the trip, please speak with Sarah.

The trip is to Hatton Country World. We will leave at 9am and be back to pre-school for 3pm.

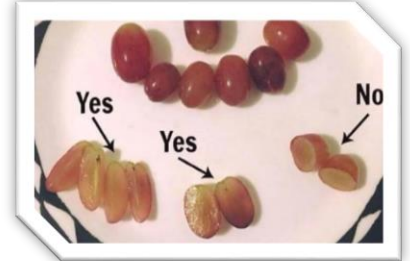




Little Gregs
Pre-School

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 and the reason for absence. 01789 290198 / littlegregs3506@welearn365.com
- Water bottle needed for each session. Please ensure the bottle is clearly labelled.
- Please provide nappies if your child uses them.
- Please label your child's belongings.
- No Nuts in snack boxes.
- Please cut up grapes.



Cubs

This term, The Cubs have been learning about the story book 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears' and we've been learning about the different sizes big daddy bear, medium size mummy bear and small baby bear. We made our own bears, getting creative putting eyes, nose and ears on. We made some lovely art work that is displayed in our room.

The Cubs have really enjoyed the story 'Dear Zoo', we have watched videos of animals in the zoo and copied the Makaton sign for each animal. We also found out fun facts about what food they like to eat.

The Cubs have really enjoyed using story blocks building the boxes into a tall tower to create the story in the correct order of Dear Zoo. We have also enjoyed finding animals in the story sack and making our own stories.

We have been looking at different colours, red, yellow, green, pink, blue, brown, white and black. We had to find the correct animal with the correct colour.

The Cubs have enjoyed the Lego, we made a matching animal game with the pictures of the zoo animals, the children soon figured out how to find the correct head and body to connect the two blocks together, creating the full picture of each animal.

In Cubs we have been encouraging the children to be a little more independent. Cubs have been working really hard at taking their coats off when they arrive at pre-school and putting them on their own pegs by themselves. As the weeks have gone by we have seen the Cubs become more independent.

Well Done Cubs!

From Cubs Team





Little Gregs
Pre-School

Lions and Tigers

This term may have been short, but Lions and Tigers have been very busy! With the cold weather we have had recently we have enjoyed talking about Winter; we have looked for ice outside, looking at how it is made, and have talked about what we need to wear to keep us warm.

Early Literacy skills and sharing stories is so important. We have looked at the 'Three Little Pigs' and 'Stick Man', acting these stories out. There have been many creative opportunities around these stories such as making the Three Little Pig's houses using straw, sticks and bricks. We have also painted our own Stick Man pictures and some of us have made Stick Men using real sticks we have collected from Nature Nursery.

We continue to enjoy our weekly visits to Nature Nursery, our Wednesday morning music lesson with Renata, and PE with Andy. This term we have started our phonics session with Jo and Robot Reg on a Friday afternoon, where we learn new letter sounds each week through singing, music, playdoh and lots of games.

As we round of the term we have looked at the story of Chinese New Year, see if your children remember which animal won the race, or which animal fell into the water! We have shared Chinese foods and have danced as Dragons.

From Lions and Tigers Team



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.



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.

Visit 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) 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. 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.



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). 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.

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?