



## Term 1 Newsletter 2023-24



### New school year and term at preschool



We welcome back our children (who have all grown lots) from last term and welcome our new friends to Broad Oak Preschool, who seem to be settling in well so far and show positive signs of enjoying their time with us.

This term we are focussing on the change of season, saying goodbye to summer and hello to Autumn. We will be exploring the signs of change through colours, shapes, what is happening to the plants around us and the weather. We will be learning through music, songs and language rich activities whilst offering a range of creative activities and opportunities to explore with their senses.

We will be introducing the children to our zones of regulation approach to self-regulation, using the Colour Monster book to expose children to understanding emotions using colours. We will also be teaching the children some of the basic yoga poses and breathing techniques to help them to embrace moments of mindfulness and balance their emotions and nervous systems throughout the day.

We will also be developing our listening and attention skills through story, rhyme time and music to help our friends to develop language skills to help them on their journey.



### Forest School

We will be introducing the forest school to our new friends gradually over the next week. We are enjoying the blackberries and creating art with them and exploring the seasonal changes in the forest school.



We provide all weather outdoor clothing for the sessions, however, we do need you to provide spare long sleeve tops and trousers in your child's bag in case it is warm. We can't allow shorts or short sleeves to be worn in forest school.

### Important Dates

- Preschool Annual general Meeting: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm online. See email for zoom details.
- End of term – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.
- Term 2 starts on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

We will be running parent/family workshops throughout the year on various aspects of the EYFS curriculum.

We will be running a quick parent poll to see what time of the day is best for these workshops or to run them online in the evening.

To be confirmed soon.....

## **Blossom Educational App**

All children have been registered on to Blossom Educational App which all staff members will be using to record observations, daily diary entries and accident records on.

All parents have been sent an invitation to acknowledge your child's account and follow. You will need to download the app through your app store. On this app you will be able to:

- See observations and things from your child's day or week
- Send your own observations from home to show us
- Communicate through the messenger
- Request additional days or send messages through to us
- Receive and pay invoices

If you have not yet received your invitation to Blossom or are experiencing any problems, please come and see Kat.



We are currently taking part in the East Sussex HALO programme - Healthy Active Little Ones!

This programme supports early years settings to reflect on their practice across a broad range of health and wellbeing areas. It celebrates and strengthens what we already do and identify areas for further development.

Health and wellbeing topics include (but are not limited to) healthy eating, physical activity, oral health, social and emotional wellbeing, speech, language and communication and accident prevention.

We are receiving great Communication and Language support and training on how to lead Toddler Talk sessions and language through play, to support children with speech and language concerns.

As part of the programme, we can apply for one of two awards: the HALO Award or the HALO Excellence Award.

These awards recognise the ongoing commitment of early years settings to support the health and wellbeing of children, families and staff as part of an evidence based, whole setting approach. These also recognise continued improvement and the embedding of best practice across a range of health and wellbeing areas.

## **Support for our families**



With the cost of living being so high, we know how hard this is impacting on our families and friends.

We will do our very best to support you and yours, in any way we can.

Here are some sites that may help you, starting with childcare costs.

From 3 your child is entitled to 15 hours, or 30 hours if you are working.

[30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Tax Free childcare – pay your invoices through this account and you will receive your tax back.

[Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

Your child may be eligible for pupil premium funding which we can offer to use as a discount on your invoicing or go towards their educational experiences at preschool.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>

Cost of living support:

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

[Cost of Living Support for Families - Working Families](https://www.gov.uk)

Any questions or help needed, do come and talk to us. We will endeavour to signpost

Please do ask us about the programme and speak to us should there be any particular aspects of health and wellbeing in which you would welcome further information on/support with. Also look out for future newsletters , display boards and parent information session(s), that will showcase our involvement in the programme!

you to the right support and help in any way we can.

More curriculum information and support can be found on here:

[Information for Parents - Czone  
\(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](http://eastsussex.gov.uk)

## Parent Partnerships

At broad Oak Preschool, we passionately believe and follow the saying "it takes a village to raise a child". This is an African proverb that conveys the message that a child's upbringing is a communal effort involving many different people and groups. The "village" refers to the extended family, neighbours, teachers and others who provide a safe, healthy and supportive environment for children to develop and flourish. The saying also implies that children can learn life lessons from different adults and role models.

This is why we want to work with you. We want to hear your thoughts on what we should plan for your child. We want parent involvement – through cooking, painting, trips, gardening. Whatever you are interested in and feel you could help, please come and be a part of the broad oak family and help us to learn with the children.

So, if you are a builder, carpenter, chef, nurse, doctor or non working parent who wants to come and model some skills and lead a fun session.... Let us know!

Furthermore, if we can work with you on anything that you are finding difficult or want to gain advice on, we have some books/leaflets available in the foyer or chat to us.

If you are keen to join our committee or fundraising committee, then please come and see Kat.

## HELP!

We are a registered charity preschool which means that we are a non-for-profit organisation.

We rely on fundraising and donations to help us resource and continue to provide high quality experiences and equipment.

If you have any of the following items or know where to source them, we would be hugely grateful for your help:

- Loose parts (cogs, curtain rings, cones, slate, gems, pebbles, shells)
- Old CDs, mirrors, reflective materials
- Material- silk, ribbon, velvet.
- We are looking for a projector – anyone?
- An old telephone
- Planting equipment or seeds/bulbs for planting
- Kitchen roll tubes, empty boxes, yoghurt pots

## Additional info about us.....

For those of you who have just joined the Broad Oak Preschool family, we will introduce ourselves to you and our roles.

### Kat Varley – Manager

Kat is a qualified primary teacher with 14 years of early years experience. Kat is a mother of two children and is regularly frazzled, but loving the role and is keen to get to know you all. If you ever have any concerns, questions or want to contribute to the preschool in any way, please come and see her.

### Julie Williams – Deputy Manager & Forest School Lead

Julie has been with us for over 7 years and has established one of the best forest schools spaces in the area. Julie oozes experience and passion for early years. Julie has two children who are growing up fast and a family passion for steam railways.

### Niki Elliot – Practitioner and Preschool SENCO

Niki has been working in nurseries for over ten years and has a broad knowledge of the EYFS. Niki is currently studying to gain a full creditation in Special Educational Needs. She is also a mother to two growing young adults and is amazing at art, drawing and crafts.

Niki is here to support families with any concerns for your child and their development. We have good relationships with outside agencies who support us in ensuring that every child's needs are being met.

### Dawn Creasey – Practitioner

Dawn became a member of the team after her children attended the preschool. Dawn has just qualified as a level 3 practitioner in childcare and is developing her skills and training in different areas. Dawn is always approachable and here to help in any way you need.

### Anna Gilson – Yoga teacher and Practitioner

Anna Gilson is a trained Cosmic Yoga Teacher. Anna has completed courses in mental health and wellbeing in adolescences and life coaching. Anna is passionate about supporting wellbeing, self regulation and particular needs in young children. We are working on Anna offering parent morning groups, for you to come and take the opportunity to talk to other parents and discuss anything that concerns you or require support in when it comes to your parenting or home life. Anna is a mother to three boys and her calming nature has already had a positive impact on the setting.

### Jemima Gathercole – Individual Needs Assistant

Jemima has a degree in Early Years Education and her passion is supporting children with specific needs. Jemima has two children, whom have and are still attending the setting and it is a pleasure to be seeing Jemima become a part of our team.

***We are all passionate about delivering excellent care and education to your children. Our planning and vision are inspired by the Reggio Emilia Educational Philosophy and elements of the Curiosity approach too. We will be sharing our curriculum planning with you each term and how we like to bring these early years approaches to our setting.***

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