



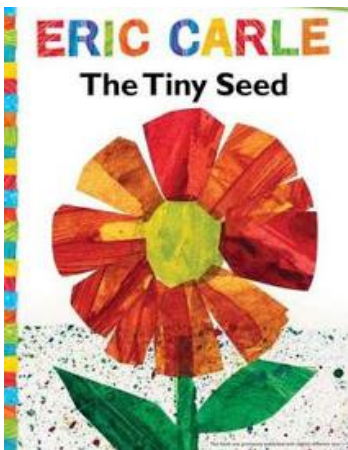
Charity Reg. No. 1057036

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Newsletter

Summer Term 5 2023



Theme: This term we are focussing our learning around the story *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle (author of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*) this will open up a world of fun learning opportunities, particularly about nature and wildlife, planting and growing - specifically sunflowers, and sustainability. Your children are welcome to share any relevant items with us, including flowers, seeds, or other stories by Eric Carle.

We are also focussing on **Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**, thinking about what we use water for, the water cycle and why we need to conserve water. For further information on the sustainable development goals, please see:

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

We are learning about at Eid Al-Fitr during the first week of term. If your family celebrates this, we would love to hear all about it and see some photographs please. If you have any suggestions of how we can celebrate in pre-school, please have a chat with your key person.



We are excited that Water Meadows Primary School will be holding a **Big Lunch** to celebrate the Kings Coronation on **Friday 5th May**, in the afternoon. All families are welcome at this wonderful community event, so if you wish to join the celebration, you are most welcome to take your pre-school children with you. Take a picnic blanket and picnic lunch with you for a **13.15** start. If your child usually attends pre-school on a Friday afternoon, you are welcome to collect them to attend the party, just have a chat with Isabel or Denise.

Easter Bunny Hop: Didn't the children do well! Thank you for the sponsor money that has already been collected, please send any remaining monies into pre-school by Friday 21st April. Your support is very much appreciated, thank you.

Parents/Carers Questionnaire feedback 2023: A big thank you to all of you who completed our questionnaire, with 25 out of a possible 29 families we are delighted with the response, thank you.

We are so pleased that 100% of respondents strongly agree that they feel welcome at pre-school and that the staff team is approachable. 100% of respondents also strongly agree that they feel confident that their child is safe here, which is obviously of the upmost importance to us. 100% are also

pleased with how well their child is progressing, which is fabulous, because we feel the same about the amazing progress of all of the children.

Three respondents were not fully aware that key person meetings are held every term, and that all parents are invited to make an appointment. Please do read your newsletters, and keep them safe for future reference, as they invite you to key-person meetings and inform you of termly events for parents to become involved, such as parent readers, or special events etc. (Newsletters are also available on our website.) We are also looking into ways to improve our communication around this, if you have any ideas, please do let us know.

15 out of 25 respondents expressed their preferences regarding the delivery times of sessions, here are the results:

- 12 of the 15 who expressed a preference would like pre-school to open earlier, at 8.45.
- 2 of the 15 who expressed a preference would like pre-school to stay open later, until 16.15.
- 8 of the 15 who expressed a preference would like their child to be able to attend for the morning and lunch session, without needing to stay all day.

In response to this we are looking at changing our opening hours and the times of sessions to accommodate the majority of preferences, where we can. We are doing this in consultation with our Management Committee, and we will liaise with our sustainability officer at KCC to ensure compliance and sustainability. Please note that any changes made will not come into effect until September 2023, we will notify those who will be affected by the changes as soon as possible, i.e., families who will have children attending in September.

It was lovely and informative to read all of the comments about what you all like best about pre-school: the staff are highly appreciated by many families, which is great to hear, especially in these difficult times for early years and education settings (I am sure you will have seen the recruitment and funding crisis in the news) it is so important for the staff to know that they are valued. Many of you also commented positively on the amount and variety of activities and learning opportunities available for all of the children, and how this is helping your child to learn and progress. The social aspect of pre-school is valued by many families, as the children make friends and improve their communication skills. Families also commented on how much they enjoy the learning journals, both the written observations and the photographs. Thank you for your written feedback, it is incredibly valuable to us to know families' views on the setting.

Thank you again to those who took part, I hope that you can see how useful your responses have been for us, in striving to improve our setting.

EYPP funding: To support learning at home and the development of Communication and Language and Literacy for all of the children, we have used some of the Early Years Pupil Premium funding to purchase a book by Eric Carle for each child. We have purchased the majority of books from "WOB", a fabulous online second-hand book shop, which follows our ethos of sustainability and our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We are currently enjoying sharing the stories with all of the children, and we will be sending a copy home for each child to keep and share with their family, along with ideas for learning at home, towards the end of term. We hope you will enjoy sharing these books with your children.

Parent Readers: The children love having visitors to pre-school, so we would like to invite parents/carers/grandparents or friends to come to preschool to tell their favourite story, or read one of our books, to the children. Please chat to Isabel or Denise if you would like to do this.

Family Board: Thank you to everyone who has provided a photograph for this ongoing display in preschool, of all the children and their families, which the children love to look at and talk about. This helps to teach them tolerance and respect of differences in a relevant way. If you have not yet done so, please send in (or email) a family photograph for your child to share, discuss and display.

Dates for Your Diaries:

Monday 1st May: Pre-school is closed for the bank holiday.

Friday 5th May, 13.15: Big Lunch to celebrate the Kings Coronation at Water Meadows Primary School.

Monday 8th May: Pre-school is closed for the national bank holiday, for the King's coronation.

Thursday 11th May in Key Person Meetings: Please take the opportunity to discuss with us how your child has settled in and their progress through the EYFS, you can make an appointment with Isabel or Denise. If you haven't yet returned your child's Learning Journal, please do as soon as possible. Don't forget to use the yellow stickers provided, or a post-it note of your choosing, to record your child's learning and achievements, or "wow" moments of which you feel proud. Alternatively, you can email these to us, for inclusion in their Learning Journals.

Holidays: Term 5 ends on **Friday 26th May at 16.00**. Term 6 starts on **Monday 5th June at 9.00**.

Kind Regards

Isabel Harvey
Manager & Teacher