

PARENT CARER NEWSLETTER

www.watotopreschool.org.uk



HELLO

Manager: Sharon Brown

Welcome back after the Christmas and New Year, we hope you had a restful and safe break. It's great to see our new and 'old' families. The children are settling beautifully and are an absolute credit to you.

The staff team will do their very best to ensure that each child has a motivating and enjoyable learning experience in the preschool. However, we will also need your help, we all need to be partners in the learning process.

We need each of you to encourage your child at home to become independent learners. Talk to your child about what they have done at preschool, and let us know their achievements and interests so that we can provide an engaging curriculum, and a positive experience. Remember, you can call us anytime to arrange a chat, or request a video call, about anything relating to your child's learning, development, and general wellbeing.

We were hoping this term we could regain some 'normality' after Covid-19, we wanted to open the doors and have parent carers and the community back in the Preschool, but with the arrival of the Omicron variant we need to delay this plan and reassess, so please bear with us. We continue to follow LA guidance and local public health advice.

We are also reviewing how we can communicate with you more effectively; you can help by completing the preschool online Autumn parent carer survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/fVEXnyGZxr>

I know that with your help we are going to have a great 2022.

UPDATE: COVID –19 RESPONSE

Towards the end of last term, COVID had a substantial impact on the preschool. Due to a staff shortage, the committee took the decision to close the preschool for the last two days of term. We do count our blessings as this has been the only outbreak the preschool has experienced since COVID arrived, nearly 2 years ago. We hope its the last!!

During the break, we did a deep clean of the building including walls, flooring, equipment, soft furnishing, learning resources etc.

At the staff inset day we revisited the preschool's health & safety processes and procedures.

Check out the following new and updated policies and procedures, in line with the latest government guidance:

- COVID – 19 Policy and Procedure
- COVID – 19 Exclusion and Return Requirements
- Outbreak management Plan
- COVID Risk Assessment

All policies and procedures are located on the preschool website <https://www.watotopreschool.org.uk/policies-and-procedures>.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this pandemic.

IMPORTANT: With the current situation with Omicron please check WhatsApp and Facebook regularly.



Lets keep each other safe!

OUR TEAM



Everyone says it, but in our case it's true: our team is the secret to the preschools success. Each of our staff members are amazing, but together they are what makes Watoto Preschool what it is today; a provider of high-quality early education and childcare for each individual child.



Safina joined the Watoto family last term. We shall be supporting Safina over the next year to complete the level 2 Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship.



This month, Lisa Haywood, our deputy manager, is set to start the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Level 3 training course, run by the local Authority.

Student Placements

In preschool, this term, we have students from various establishment doing short- and long-term work placements.

Sheffield Hallam
Sheffield College
Local secondary schools

(All students have had DBS checks (background suitability checks))

WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING IN PRESCHOOL?

DfE has published a new guide for parent carers, produced by Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre – 'What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage' (formerly 'What to expect when') which guides parent carers through what to expect in their child's development. This guidance provides an insight into what and how children learn through play while at preschool.

Go to the preschool website to access the parent carer guide <https://www.watotopreschool.org.uk/parent-carer-zone>



**COMING
SOON**

**Watoto Preschool
Learning Through Play
parent carer home
activity guide**

PARENT CARER PRESCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

We believe partnership includes 'parent carers, families and practitioners working together to benefit your child/ren.' For a partnership to work well, it must be built on trust, transparency and responsibility from all parties involved with the aim of:

- Supporting learning and development
- Sharing information
- Contributing to the learning processes
- Making decisions and advocating different approaches and courses of action

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Deputy Manager: Lisa Haywood

Play is one of the most important ways in which young children gain essential knowledge and skills.

Play is meaningful: Children play to make sense of the world around them, and to find meaning in an experience by connecting it to something already known. Through play, children express and expand their understanding of their experiences.

Play is joyful: Look at children – or adults – playing, often smiling and laughing. Of course, play may have its frustrations and challenges (Who gets the first turn? Why can't I make this block building stay up?), but the overall feeling is one of enjoyment, motivation, thrill and pleasure.

Play is actively engaging: Watch children playing, and you will usually see that they become deeply involved, often combining physical, mental and verbal engagement.

Play is interactive: Play and learning are not static. Children play to practice skills, try out possibilities, revise hypotheses and discover new challenges, leading to deeper learning.

Play is socially interactive: Play allows children to communicate ideas, to understand others through social interaction, paving the way to build deeper understanding and more powerful relationships.

NEW BREAKFAST CLUB

Manager: Sharon Brown

New Breakfast Club from Monday 17th January 2022

Breakfast is a very important meal. Children who eat breakfast have more energy and do better in their daily activities. Without breakfast, children can get irritable, restless, and tired.

All children attending Breakfast Club (8am – 9am) will receive a FREE healthy breakfast. Breakfast is offered until 8:45am, to allow children to complete breakfast and be ready to join their friends in the main play and learning session which starts at 9am.

If you arrive after 8.45, we will presume your child has had breakfast at home and it will not be offered at preschool.

To book a Breakfast Club place, contact Phoebe in the Office: 0330 016 5668



LENDING LIBRARY COMING SOON!

Senior EYP's Angela Shepherd & Zamzam Essa

In preschool we aim to spark a love of reading in children, and we need your help!

We are re-introducing the lending library and making it accessible to parent carers to borrow a book to read at home with their child(ren), to extend their learning beyond the preschool environment.

The lending library offers a variety of books ranging from fiction to non-fiction stories, and a selection of activities and games, which the children enjoy. Both the books and activities will:

- Promote familiar relationships with adults who are reading the story to the child
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Aid cognitive development
- Support the development of communication and language
- Support good mental health and well-being
- Support and builds foundations of good literacy and reading skills, preparing the way for school
- Support the development of fine motor skills
- Support the development of listening and concentration skills

Twice a week you and your child(ren) will have a chance to choose a book to take home. This experience will be like visiting a library. Your child will choose a book, game, or activity that they enjoy, and we will lend them this book/game/activity to continue enjoying at home with their families.

The chosen book will be on loan to your child for one week only and must be returned the following week.

Working together we can spark that love for reading....Dr Seuss said “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go”.



PARENT CARER SURVEY

Have your say !

Thank you to all the parent carers who have already completed the survey. We love to receive your feedback this will help us to improve what we do in preschool.

If you haven't had the chance to complete the survey and you have 10 minutes to spare, please click on the link to fill in the simple survey <https://forms.office.com/r/fVEXnyGZxr>

All submissions are confidential.

As always, thank you for choosing and supporting Watoto Preschool.



WHAT PEOPLE SAY!!

We had to share this wonderful feedback we received from the Sheffield City Council's SEND Team.

"Just wanted to drop you a line to say how lovely it was spending the day at Watoto last Thursday.

It was a real pleasure to spend the day in a Nursery that so clearly has the children at the centre of everything they do! All of the staff, including the young man that was on placement with you, were so invested in the children and from talking to key workers, they knew their children inside out! The genuine care every single staff member had for each of those children was evident through the interactions seen from Sharon, at the top, right through all the staff and even to Ola who perhaps knows the children the least but demonstrated so much time and patience and care with the children. The attitudes of the staff towards the children in provision with additional needs was fantastic. Supportive, understanding and...

...willing to ask and learn from information we gave – nothing felt like too much trouble for them.

The Nursery as a whole has such a lovely, welcoming atmosphere and being present to witness lunchtime was fantastic. The way the children were sat, in small groups, chatting, serving their own food, pouring their own drinks and developing so much independence and social skills was truly wonderful to see and is a practice that so many other settings would really benefit from observing and implementing. The ethos and values of the Nursery are truly reflected in all the wonderful practice I saw.

Myself and my Teaching Assistant were both in awe of the wonderful set up you have and both agreed you are a fantastic example of how a nursery should run!

I really look forward to working with you further".

KEEP UPTO DATE!

WATCH THIS SPACE

COMING SOON
PRESCHOOL
BLOG



Parent Carers have voted with their feet and WhatsApp has emerged as the preferred method of day to day communication.



Don't forget our social media pages as they provide an insight into what children are doing in preschool. They also provide you with useful advice and information.



We are constantly updating and adding information to our website, so please keep your eye on it! We welcome comments as we add and improve it, to give you access to the necessary information.
www.watotopreschool.org.uk

CHILDCARE FEE INCREASE

Chairperson: Janette Brown

Preschool fees have recently been reviewed by management committee, and it has been decided to increase fees from 1st April 2022. The last increase of childcare fees was in 2018.

The management committee has worked with the leadership team to review fees for the coming year and have tried to keep fee increases as low as possible; however rising costs such as increased wages costs due to an increase in National living wage, heating, lighting, and other general inflationary costs have necessitated this increase. However, please note our fees continue to be cheaper than most other providers in our local area.

We are making you aware of the forthcoming changes to fees now, in order, for parents/carers to have sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements regarding funding sources such as Universal Credits. For help with childcare fees checkout the preschool website for more information and links. <https://www.watotopreschool.org.uk/opening-times-fees>

The actual childcare fee increase will raise from £5 to £6 per hour from 1 April 2022. We shall be writing to all parent carers in the next few weeks.



REMINDERS

- We continue to not accept bags or toys from home in preschool, please use paper bags to support our COVID safety measures and our drive to reduce the use of plastics.
- Please can parents take extra care when using our car park and be extra vigilant, especially during these darker evenings. At busy times there are children and parents constantly moving through the car park, and we want to ensure everyone is safe.
- Please ensure your child's clothes are labelled, including coats and shoes.
- Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for outside play - whatever the season. In particular, coats, gloves, hats and appropriate footwear for being outside.
- Please remember to bring in nappies and wipes. Unfortunately we will need to charge (£1) for the preschool nappies and wipes.

REFERRAL REWARD

Don't forget our referral reward, it's our way of saying thank you to those parents who recommend family, friends and colleagues to Watoto PreSchool. The reward will be £75 as long as the following criteria is met –

Your name is mentioned at the time of enquiry/booking
The new child's booking is a minimum of three sessions per week on a full time (48 weeks a year) contract.

Once the new child has attended Watoto Preschool for 3 full months the £75 reward will be issued in the 4th month

This reward is only applicable when fee-paying children are introduced to Watoto Pre-School, unfortunately we cannot extend this offer to children exclusively accessing the governments free early learning entitlement

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



1st Febuary	Chinese New Year	18th March	Red Nose Day
14 - 18th Febuary	Half term	27th March	Mothers day
14th Febuary	Valentines Day	1st April	End of term
3rd March	World Book day	5- 14th April	Holiday Playcare
8th March	International Womens Day	19th April	Holiday Playcare

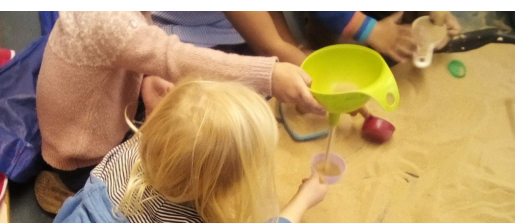
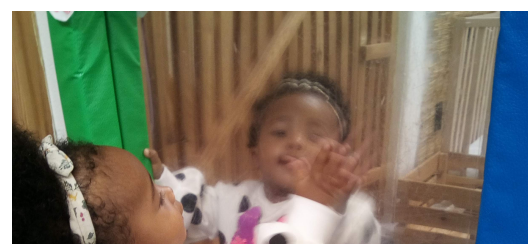
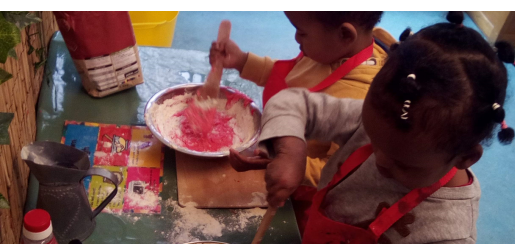
USEFUL INFORMATION

Winter Warning...Now that we are entering the winter months there is an increasing possibility of snow and ice, extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. The procedure if such weather is experienced is to check your WhatsApp or the preschool Facebook & Instagram pages, this will be updated by 7.30a.m.

Admissions to Primary School....If your child was born between 01/09/2017 and 31/08/2018 he/she is due to start primary school in September 2022. You can make an application for a school place from admission to Primary Reception. The closing date for applications is soon - 15th January 2022. Further information is available from School Admissions. The contact details are: - (0114) 273 5766 or by email at ed-admissions@sheffield.gov.uk
Website <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

Contact Details...can we please make sure your contact details are up to date if you have changed your mobile, email, landline or moved house. We need to have a minimum of 2 contact phone numbers for every child.

Contact Phoebe on 0330 016 5668 or info@watotopreschool.org.uk



HOLIDAY PLAYCARE

Half term: 14th -17th February

Easter: 5th - 14th April

9am - 4pm



BREAKFAST CLUB

Term time only

Mon - Fri

8am - 9am

FREE Healthy Breakfast



To book your place
contact Phoebe today
0330 016 5668

info@watotopreschool.org.uk

