

AUTUMN 2023

Parent Carer Newsletter

www.watotopreschool.org.uk



Hello

Sharon Brown - Manager

Hello Everyone,

It was lovely to see all the children back in preschool old and new faces. We have welcomed our new children into the butterfly, caterpillar, and baby rooms this term. It's been wonderful to see children enjoying taking part in many activities and learning through play and building relationships, making friends, and learning new routines.

My staff team has been tremendous as usual, always going above and beyond, thank you! If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's key worker.

In the summer holidays, the preschool was flooded. Thankfully, our insurance covered most of the costs to repair the ceiling and replace damaged flooring and equipment. We carried out other repairs to the building and built a wooden surround for the outdoor bins to prevent the grey xxx from getting into them. The building's interior was painted. This term, both washrooms used by the children were updated with the baby changing area.

This term we said goodbye to two long-standing staff members, Rebecca and Hafsa, who have moved on to other opportunities. Join me in wishing them all the best for the future.





2024 Fee Increase

Janette Brown - Chairperson

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 the increase in National living wage, heating, lighting, and other general inflationary costs have necessitated this increase. However, our fees continue to be cheaper than most other providers in our local area.

The fees for childcare places per hour will increase from £6.50 to **£7 per hour** for parent/carers, for organisations paying for a child's childcare the increase will be **£7.50 per hour**.

Increases for snack, lunch etc will come into effect on the **1st April 2024**.

A letter with more details will be issued before the end of term.

Sharon
Manager
BA Hons



Lisa
Deputy Manager
Level 5



Sam - Senior EYP L3



Vicki - EYP BA Hons



Joanne - EYP L3



Shannon - EY L3 Apprentice



Paris - EY L3 Apprentice



Staff Team

Maddison - EY L2 Apprentice



Kara - EY L3 Apprentice



Luke - EY L2 Apprentice



Ola -
Housekeeper &
Lunchtime Supervisor



Jasmine -
Business Admin
L3 Apprentice



Staff Updates



Shannon is fast approaching the end of her Level 3 apprenticeship and we're all super proud of her.

Vicki recently took a Makaton course to further help with our children's communication skills.

We said a sad goodbye to Rebecca & Hafsa in October, join us in wishing them all the best for the future.

Please welcome the following staff members who have joined the team:

- Sam, Senior EYP (started in Feb)
- Maddison, Apprentice EYP (started in Feb)
- Joanne, EYP (started in May)
- Luke, Apprentice EYP (started in May)
- Kara, Apprentice EYP (started in June)



Room staff changes

This term we've shuffled the room staffing around a little bit. Safina is back in with the Over 3's children.

Children's Learning

This term our curriculum focus is for children to learn how to:

- Do things for themselves.
- Take turns and share.
- Listen and pay attention.
- Interact with peers and adults
- Communicate their needs.

The new term is now in full swing and the children have been very busy learning through play, each day brings something different. Our children never cease to amaze us as they continue to learn and grow.

So far the children have been learning about Autumn and now our Christmas theme is fast approaching, children are so excited as they decorate the tree and their rooms with things they have made.

We will include the following topics in this terms curriculum

- Halloween
- Diwali
- Children in need
- Christmas/Hannukah
- Kwanzaa

Thank you to all Parent Carers who attended the Halloween and Children in Need workshops.

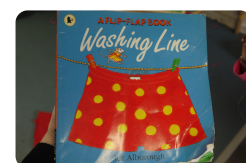
This term's Core Books

We believe an important part of learning to read is to develop a love of books. Through sharing books, children develop a range of skills and become confidence readers.

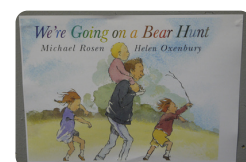
In our preschool we have chosen a selection of books which we call out Core Books. Each book has been chosen because of the special qualities it has. Most are repetitive, allowing young children to quickly join in and retell the story in the absence of an adult. Repetition is really important so we ensure we regularly read these stories to the children, and they are always available for them to access in our book corner. We also link a variety of opportunities and activities to the chosen book.



Under 2's



Over 2's



Over 3's



Benefits of Preschool

Of course, every child is different and attending preschool is a transition, but the benefits will have some positive effects on your little one.

At Watoto Preschool your child will benefit from:

Socialising

Social interaction with other children of a similar age, including:

- Making friends and learning to establish connections
- Learning to share
- Taking turns
- Listening to others
- Playing together with others in groups, as well as independently
- Learning from their peers, copying and helping each other



Developing Communication Skills

Being more socialised and interacting with their peers and preschool practitioners, your child will also develop their communication skills, increase their vocabulary and language through a wide range of different contexts.

Learning how to communicate their feelings and opinions and interacting with their peers and adults other than their parent/carers is a vital part of their development. Playing with other children at preschool is a useful way to ease your child's transition to starting school. Starting school will not come as a shock to a child that is already used to spending time in a learning environment, and it provides an idea opportunity for them to gain a greater understanding of other people's feelings and empathy.

Increased Independence and Confidence

Preschool may be the first time your child has been away from you for a short period of time, which can be daunting for you both at first. However, it gives your child the opportunity to be independent, have freedom to explore and to make other relationships, which is critical for their long-term wellbeing.

That added independence can nurture your child's self-confidence, help to develop their own personality, disposition, thoughts and ideas, and encourage them as they discover more about life outside of their family unit.



Benefits of Preschool

Learning New Skills

Starting preschool will be an exciting new adventure for young children and they will nurture a wide range of new skills. From learning to hold a pencil correctly through to developing their emerging numeracy skills, your little one will be rapidly expanding their skill set at preschool.

Having so many different things for your child to discover and explore helps to develop their interests and encourages them to try new things out for themselves. It's an exciting new adventure and the bonus is, you can leave the messy play to preschool.

Routine and Structure

The benefits of routines in the lives of young children is a subject often spoken about as a way of establishing a feeling of security for little ones. Attending preschool provides children with some routine, structure and flexibility and choice in their day. This strong foundation enables children to play a more active role in tasks as they know what to do and when to do it. For example, they will know that before home time they need to tidy up, before lunch time they need to help set the table and wash their hands.

At preschool, your child will be participating in activities, constantly learning new things and exploring the outside space. By keeping children busily engaged in play opportunities, it helps to build their physical stamina and supports large motor skills development, which will certainly be needed for school and beyond!

Building Immunity

Interaction at preschool with other children and adults support developing their immunity to common infections such as colds. Being outdoors in the fresh air and getting daily exercise is good for all round wellbeing and will help keep your little one fit and healthy.

Become 'School Ready'

Attending preschool will help ease your child's transition to starting school. Starting school will not come as such a shock to a child that is already used to spending time in a learning environment.

Preparing to be Life-Long Learners

Many of the benefits above help to build the foundations of your child's future. Preschool encourages critical thinking, positive dispositions to learn, tenacity and confidence. Preschool prepares children for the outside world and their journey into adulthood.



Caring for Our Pets

Keeping a pet at a preschool can have numerous benefits for children. Pets can provide emotional support to children, helping them to feel more secure and less anxious. Interacting with animals can also help children develop empathy and compassion, as they learn to care for another living being. Additionally, having a pet at preschool can provide a fun and engaging way for children to learn about animals and the natural world. This can help to foster a love of learning and curiosity in children. Overall, the presence of pets in preschools can have a positive impact on children's social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Meet our beloved hamsters Toto and Tyson and our (pre)school of fish!





Autumn Workshops

Lisa Haywood - Deputy Manager

Over the last two months we have held our parents' workshops. It was lovely to see all the families that came, we had so much fun!! We will be holding a workshop every month and would love for you all to attend. These workshops are a great way for you to talk to staff ask them for advice and see your child in nursery but also to have some fun with them.

The next one is on **Wednesday 6th of December** where we will be making Christmas cards/pictures, decorating biscuits, and making sparkly play dough. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please keep an eye out on WhatsApp for future workshops too!!

Halloween Workshop

October 19th

We enjoyed a variety of Halloween activities such as pumpkin carving, decorating spooky biscuits, reading themed stories and arts & crafts. The children also enjoyed introducing our hamsters Toto and Tyson to their parents.

Children in Need Workshop

November 17th

In November we tried cupcake decorating, face paint was available by members of staff, an array of Pudsey Bear colouring pages, finger painting and for this year's theme of 'spotty', we had a coloured ball tray for the children to colour match.



Summer Term Round Up

Holiday Club

Lisa Haywood - Deputy Manager

We had a spooktacular time at holiday club this term, we decorated our pumpkin biscuits, painted some spooky ghosts, and went on a ghost hunt in the garden. The children really enjoyed playing out in the garden having races on the bikes and rolling down the banking. They also enjoyed getting messy in the slime.



Graduation 2023

When the older children graduate from preschool and set off on their journey to "big school", it's really important we mark this transition. After all, children learn more in their first five years than at any other time in their life. It's also a time to say goodbye after a close relationship over four or more years of child care and love.



Looking ahead, the children are very well-equipped to take on the next part of their learning journey. They have strong foundations, and we feel very confident that we have given the children a great start in life. They have learned many priceless lessons. The Watoto Family wish every child all the best for the future



Notice Board

Reminders

Changing Weather

- Can parents make sure that their child comes in warm clothing. Please bring them in a warm coat with a hood. They will also need a woolly hat, gloves, mittens, a scarf and wellies as it gets colder and wetter. The wellies need to be labelled and will be left at preschool until the end of the school year.

Arrivals and Departures and Security

- Your child's safety and happiness are of the utmost importance to us. Please encourage your child to hold your hand when walking to and from preschool. We do our best to teach children road safety and appreciate your support. In a few weeks' time, we will be talking to the children about what we do in the event of a fire at Watoto Preschool and will be carrying out fire drills when the children have settled in. Please note that the staff at Watoto Preschool are responsible for your child when they have been brought inside the building and been noted on our register. You resume responsibility when you collect your child.
- To strengthen our security procedure, we require a password for people collecting your child other than yourself or your regular collector e.g., childminder. The password will be agreed by us and you when you inform us someone other than yourself is collecting your child from preschool. Parent / carers must inform them of your password as for safeguarding reasons we can't let children go home with somebody unknown to us.

Any Changes??

If you have moved house, changed your telephone number or your emergency contact person, please let us know by emailing or writing down the new details.

Should your child start taking medication for asthma, develop an allergy or anything else please keep us informed.



Illnesses

If your child has a high temperature, please keep them at home until they are better. Please also don't send your child into preschool if they have a really snotty cold. Pre-schoolers are generally unable to blow or wipe their own noses and therefore spread germs very quickly to other children and staff which can cause issues with adequately staffing each session.

If your child has a stomach upset remember to keep them at home for 48 hours after a period of sickness and/or diarrhoea.



Absences/Holidays

If your child will not be coming to Watoto Preschool because they are ill, please ring or text us between 8.00 -9.00am (if possible) and keep us informed when they are likely to return.

For longer absences e.g., family holidays please provide a letter detailing dates and reasons for the absence as our funding is based on children attending regularly, although preschool is not like school so a week's holiday in term time is not seen as an unauthorised absence.

Staying Connected

As a preschool we believe working in partnership with parent/carers is crucial to the success of your children's time with us and this is why we have a variety of ways to help you stay connected with the Watoto Team.

Contact Us

Tel: 03300165668

info@watotopreschool.org.uk
-general enquiries

accounts@watotopreschool.org.uk
-money queries

www.watotopreschool.org.uk

Parent Zone



ParentZone is a smartphone app which gives you access to the information about your child's day at a time which suits you best.

All new parent/carers are sent an email so you can set up your own login and password. Now you're ready to rock and roll, check out this Youtube video on the preschool website.

www.watotopreschool.org.uk/parent-carer-zone

Find us on social media!

@watotopreschool



Watoto Pre-school



Parent/Carers are linked to 2 WhatsApp's groups (the general group and the group specific to our holiday play care scheme). We have found these WhatsApp groups to be extremely beneficial for sharing general and targeted information and update notifications

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any queries, concerns, questions or wish to change your child's sessions etc either approach your child's key person or contact the office directly on 0330 016 5668 / 07403675320

Whatsapp is our main form of communication with parents so please ensure to at least check the group chat when you're able.

If you are not receiving any notifications via WhatsApp please inform a staff member so we can ensure your included in a group.



**We are a nut free zone due to allergies.
Please refrain from bringing any food items with nuts in them for the safety of the children. Thank you for your consideration.**

Dates For Your Calendar

6th December	Christmas Workshop	18th - 22nd December	Holiday Club
12th December	Xmas Concert	25th Dec - 5th Jan	Xmas Holiday
13th December	Xmas party	8th January	Back to Preschool