

AUTUMN 2022

# PARENT CARER NEWSLETTER



[www.watopreschool.org.uk](http://www.watopreschool.org.uk)

## HELLO

Manager Sharon Brown

Welcome back everyone, we hope you all have had an enjoyable summer.

It has been lovely to return and to be able to welcome all our children back into Pre-School. A big welcome to all our new children and families who are joining us too and welcome back to our amazing staff team.

The children are all settling in well and enjoying following their own interest through free play, adult led activities both indoors and outdoor play.





**Angela - Senior EYP**



**Sharon - Manager**



**Lisa -Deputy Manager**



**Hafsa- EYP**



**Rebecca- EYP**



**Vicky- EYP**



**Roseen- EYP**

# **STAFF TEAM**



**Arooj EY - Apprentice**



**Shannon EY - Apprentice**



**House Keeper &  
Lunchtime Supervisor**



**Safina EY - Apprentice**

We are currently recruiting 3 new staff a qualified and apprentice EYP and a reception office administrator.

# Childrens Learning Manager Sharon Brown

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

- Make their own choices
- Grow independence as they learn the preschool routines
- Enjoy singing, action songs and rhymes
- Develop listening and attention skills
- Understanding simple words and instructions
- Love and enjoy books

Children will learn these skills through play, their own interest and staff will provide the appropriate learning environment for them to do so.

We will include the following topics in this terms curriculum

- Black history month
- Halloween
- Christmas
- Bonfire
- BBC Children in Need

Information will be sent out to you regarding these activities and your child's key person will contact you to discuss how we can work together to enhance children's learning and development.

You are more than welcome to arrange to speak to your child's Key Person or any staff member at any time. To arrange a time ring 0330 016 5668 or please email [info@watotopreschool.org.uk](mailto:info@watotopreschool.org.uk)

## This Terms Core Books

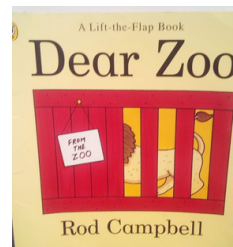
Angela Shepherd



**Under 2s**



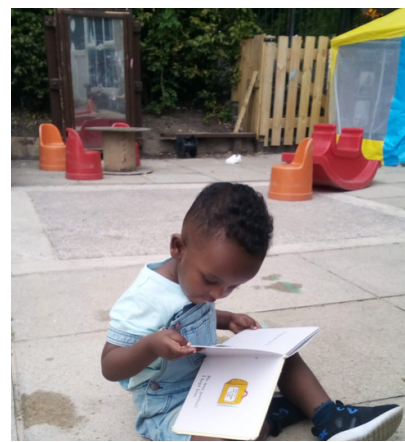
**Over 2s**



**Over 3s**

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 confident readers.

In our preschool we have chosen a selection of books which we call our 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.



# Staff Team Updates



Lisa, our deputy manager, has successfully completed the national award ..Early Years Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO). This award authenticates and enhances Lisa's already good practice of supporting children with additional needs that attend the preschool.

Shannon successfully completed her level 2 Early Years Practitioner (EYP) apprenticeship with distinctions. This term Shannon starts the Level 3 EYP apprenticeship., we know she'll smash it.



Vicky is settling back into work life after returning from maternity leave



Sadly, we said goodbye to Phoebe the apprentice business administrator. Phoebe completed her apprenticeships successfully with Watoto Preschool receiving distinctions for her hard work

## Our Budding Artist

Shan-e-zahra, Lait, Mohammed, Nanati, Lyaan

Painting helps your child to:

- exercises their brain.
- express their own feelings and ideas
- build self-esteem.
- make decisions and problem solve.
- de stress.
- develop fine motor skills (small muscle control) and our child's hand eye coordination.
- provide opportunity for your child to experience cause and effect.
- develop verbal language.
- build self-confidence



# 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 Communications Skills

Being more socialised and interacting with their peers and preschool practitioners, your child will also develop their communications 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 such a shock to a child that is already used to spending time in a learning environment. also provides an ideal 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.

## 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 rapidly expanding their skill set at pre-school.

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.



# Benefits of 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 choose 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 supports 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.



# Summer Round Up

## Holiday Play Care

Lisa Haywood

Our holiday club achieved great success once more. We collaborated with Sheffield City Council's Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) and welcomed some new children from across the city.

We had a great time. We began our excursion by diving beneath the waves and investigating all the various creatures. While dodging sharks, we swam through the reef, waving to the fish. When we got to the ocean's bottom, we constructed a few sandcastles and had a great time playing in the sand.

We created a rocket ship, painted it blue and white, and flew it into space. There, we explored all the different planets and stars. It was soon time to depart from space and head back home, where we embarked on a new journey. We headed out on an investigative walk-in search of various insects and flowers. Working as a team to search beneath rocks and around trees was fascinating during the insect hunt. The garden's tomato and pumpkin planting was interesting, we picked ripe apples from the tree. We went down to the beach, had a paddle in the pool and ate a picnic. Now was the start of our messy week. We navigated slimy rivers, skidded down vibrant slopes, and whirled through white snowstorms. To finish off our journey, we enjoyed a movie day. It was a lot of fun making our own movie tickets and popping our own popcorn.

## Graduation 2022

When the older children graduate from preschool and set off on their journey to "big school" it is 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.

## Family Fun Day

Everyone said they had a great time.

Checkout the photos on the website  
<https://www.watotopreschool.org.uk/our-community>

We raised £319.53 on the day. Thank You everyone who came and the volunteers who made it happen.



In July our recent partnership with Hallam Cash for Kids allowed us to secure a £35 gift voucher for 47 eligible parent carers to help food and the basic essential. One parent said "I'm finding so difficult times are hard and this will help"

# Notice Board

## Reminders

- We would appreciate name labels in children's coats / hats etc . This will help with children not going home in another child's coat etc.
- We do a lot of messy play and children can have accidents with toileting and having a set of spare clothes at preschool would be great ... remember the name labels
- All late pick up will incur a charge after the 5 minute grace period of £1 per minute.

## Changes

If you need to change your child's sessions please ring the office directly

Tel: 0330 016 5668

Can families returning ensure that the information we hold regarding your contact details and medical information is correct and up to date

Do you have a spare pram you could donate to the preschool?  
Talk to Angela



## 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.

### 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 or SMS so you can set up your own login and password detail. Now your ready to rock and roll check out this Youtube video on the preschool website  
<https://www.watotopreschool.org.uk/parent-carer-zone>

### Contact Us

Tel: 0330 016 5668 / 07403675320

[info@watotopreschool.org.uk](mailto:info@watotopreschool.org.uk) ... general enquiries.

[accounts@watotopreschool.org.uk](mailto:accounts@watotopreschool.org.uk) ... money queries

[www.watotopreschool.org.uk](http://www.watotopreschool.org.uk)



Parent Carers are linked to 2 WhatsApp's groups (the general group and the group specific to your child's rooms. We have found these WhatsApp groups to be extremely beneficial for share 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

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



# PARENT/CARER STAY AND CHAT SESSIONS



**COMING SOON**

The up and coming Stay and Chat session are open to all preschool parent carers and their friends.

These session will provide a chance for a chat with other parent carers and our local Health Visitors who can relate to your experiences whilst you enjoy a nice cup of tea with a biscuit or two.

The following dates and times have been scheduled

Toilet training Tuesday 27th Sept @ 1.30pm – 2.20pm  
Healthy Eating Tuesday 8th Nov @ 10am – 11am  
Teeth Tuesday 13 Dec @ 1.30pm – 2.30pm

If you have any ideas for workshops please let us know! Look out for more up-and-coming workshops!



## Holiday, Breakfast & Afterschool Clubs

Holiday Playcare runs in the school holidays 9am - 4pm

Breakfast club runs from 7:30-8:30 in the mornings.

Afterschool club runs from 16:00-16:30.

If you have older children that attend Byron Wood, they can also join our breakfast/afternoon club and be dropped off/picked up from school.

If you need to book a place please call the office on 03300 165668 or speak to Sharon or Lisa





## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

19th Sept	Queen's Funeral	31st Oct	Halloween
27th Sept	Parent / Carer Stay & Chat	5th Nov	Bonfire Night
1st- 31 Oct	Black History Month	8th Nov	Parent / Carer Stay & Chat
23th -28th Oct	Half-Term Holiday	13th Dec	Parent / Carer Stay & Chat
23th -28th Oct	Holiday Playcare	TBC	Xmas Party
		19th -23rd Dec	Holiday Playcare
		19th Dec - 6 Jan 23	Christmas Holiday
		9th Jan 23	Back to PreSchool