

Newsletter December 2024

Pre-School Term Dates

We follow the same term dates as Madley Primary School, including their INSET days. These dates can always be found on the website for reference.

	Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Term Starts		Monday 6 th January	Monday 28 th April
Half Term		Mon 17 Feb-Fri 21 Feb	Mon 26 May – Tues 3 June Inclusive of INSET days
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December	Friday 11 th April	Friday 18 th July

Facebook:

We hope you enjoy our daily Facebook updates.
If you haven't joined, please search for Madley Pre-School and agree to our group rules to join our closed group.

Winter Wear!



At Madley Pre-School we really value the importance of outdoor learning and do get out and about in all weathers. It is vital that you send your child appropriately dressed for the weather and provide them with at least one (if not more!) sets of clothes to change into if needed. Please ensure your child has a named woolly hat and gloves each day.

Christmas Celebrations:

We would like to invite all parents and children to join us at Pre-School on Thursday 19th December at 2.30pm for our Christmas Craft and Song afternoon. More details to follow.



Safeguarding

Thank you for ensuring the gates are closed and bolted after leaving the premises. Please do not hold the gate open for others, each visitor must be 'buzzed' in by a member of staff to ensure we know who is on site.

Parking

We are aware that parking at drop-off and pick-up times can be tricky in Madley but have been asked by local residents to remind parents to park thoughtfully and not to block residents' drives or park in the bus bay, pub car park or on the brow of the hill. Many thanks.

Outstanding Fees

Please ensure any outstanding invoices are paid before the end of term. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or require copies of invoices.

Primary School Places: For those children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2025. Applications can be made online at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schools-education/primary-school-admissions

Autumn Learning

Our curriculum thus far has been 'All about Autumn'. We have used stories and walks in nature to engage the children in learning about the changing weather and season. They have noticed the changing colour of leaves and used this to inspire their paintings and crafts; printing with leaves and other natural resources, mixing different colours to match the leaves they have collected, creating Transient art pieces using natural resources found on our walks, using their senses to sort and explore the different textures. They have developed their mathematical skills through sorting and counting leaves, conkers and acorns, making repeat patterns with natural objects, comparing and measuring sticks, using mathematical language in their baking, sensory and mud kitchen play. They have enjoyed listening to and retelling stories, developing an understanding of beginning, middle and end. They have enjoyed learning new rhymes and songs about the days of the week and seasons, using scarves to dance in the wind and instruments to create their own music.



Outdoor play forms a big part of our day at Pre-School and is a vital part of a child's well-being. We have managed to get outside every day, in all weathers, seeing first-hand how the season has changed. They have developed their gross motor skills through large construction play; carrying and moving large equipment, building boats, buses and cars for imaginative role-play, dens and homes for toy animals. They have created obstacle courses and developed their perseverance and resilience, turn-taking and risk-taking skills, as well as negotiation and cooperation with others. They have enjoyed sweeping leaves and filling wheelbarrows. They have also developed their fine motor skills through using pipettes, funnels, scoops and jugs in their mud kitchen play, mixing and stirring mud, herbs, seeds and water to create 'hot chocolate' and other delights; hammering, 'tweezering' and scooping out pumpkin flesh and seeds to explore the inside of a pumpkin.

Throughout December we will be developing an understanding of the Nativity story through role-play, stories, songs and small world play. We will develop our fine motor skills by cutting, baking, drawing and painting to create various Christmas crafts and develop our awareness of letter shapes by writing Christmas cards, labels and letters. We will explore our understanding of 3D shapes and their properties by sorting and wrapping presents, estimating and measuring wrapping paper, string and sellotape.