



April 2021

Staff News

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new Manager for the Pre-School. Samantha Allen has been working with us since January 2021 (as an Early Years Consultant) and joined the permanent staff on Monday 12th April. Sam is a Level 6 practitioner, with extensive teaching and management experience in both independent and state sector schools. She is currently undertaking a Primary PGCE with the University of Buckingham. Sam will be working one day a week (Mondays) through the summer term, whilst she completes her post-graduate qualification, and will assume the full time Manager position later in the year. Jane Bonnett has kindly agreed to continue in her role as Acting Manager for the rest of the summer term to help manage this transition. If you have any queries during this time, please continue to address them to Jane in the first instance. Sam is looking forward to meeting all of our families and we hope that you will join the Staff and Trustees in welcoming her to the team.

We are also delighted to welcome Alana Jones to the Staff. Alana has recently joined us as an Apprentice Early Years Practitioner. She will be completing her Level 3 Childcare Apprenticeship over the next 2 years at West Suffolk College.

COVID-19 & Wednesday Re-opening

We are cautiously optimistic that the UK Government's 'roadmap' for easing the lockdown in England remains on track. We are therefore working on exciting plans to re-open the setting on Wednesdays in the second half of the summer term. If you would like your child to have a place at our **Wednesday morning session and/or lunch club**, please sign up at the link below before the 4th May, 2021. We will also be launching a new **Baby & Toddler Group** on Wednesday afternoons. Under current COVID guidelines we are limited to 15 parents plus children so places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please sign up at the link below.

[Sign up for Wednesday AM Session \(google.com\)](#)
[Baby & Toddler group registration \(google.com\)](#)

We will provide an update on these exciting developments in due course. In the meantime, please be aware that we may offer tours/settling-in sessions to new families as permitted by the latest government guidance. Our registered families are still requested to drop off and pick up at the door (observing social distancing at all times) in line with the latest government guidance and our system of controls.

Topics & Festivals



We celebrated world book day with the children dressing up as their favourite characters and bringing their special books from home. The books brought in from home were all read to the children throughout the day.



We celebrated Easter with lots of crafts and themed activities.

We have explored the life cycle of plants and chicks and we will be continuing this topic by growing our own peas. **HELP, can you please save any clear litre bottles to start our peas off so the children can observe root structure and development.**

We also had fun celebrating Comic Relief day with face painting and various red nose themed activities. Our children dressed up in either their pyjamas or dressing up clothes. We raised nearly £20 for charity – thank-you for all donations!

Regular Notices

Parent Trustees

If you would like to play a more regular and active role in the management of the Pre-School, or in its fund-raising activities, please do let Jane know as we are always interested in welcoming new Parent Trustees.

Office Opening Hours

Please be aware that the office is not manned throughout all of the opening hours as our priority remains caring for the children. If you need to telephone or email, we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Facebook

We update our Facebook page on a weekly basis with the activities we have planned for the children. Please follow and like our page “Lavenham Pre-school.

Easy fundraising

When you shop with Sainsbury, Amazon or other shopping online you can use Easy fundraising to raise money for the Pre-school. You can sign up at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/; please enter Lavenham Pre-school as your cause.

Uniform

Uniform is optional but can be purchased online from <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/> or via telephone order on 0114 251 2501. Please note that our supplier is experiencing delays on orders due to the current COVID situation.

Items to bring into Pre-school

Please limit the items which are brought into Pre-school. Regrettably no unnecessary items, including toys, can be brought into the setting in the current circumstances. Children will need a named water bottle and lunch box.

Please ensure clothing is named and cleaned daily and please remember to bring a winter coat as we are still experiencing some cold weather.

Bottles must contain WATER ONLY; bottles containing juice will only be given at lunch time. We follow a Healthy Eating policy; children will be required to eat sandwiches, fruit & yogurt before eating any treats. Chocolate bars should be kept to a minimum. We do not allow sweets at all and we have a NO nut policy (this includes chocolate spreads).

Term dates

Summer Term begins on Monday 12th April

PD Day Friday 28th May

Half term week commencing Monday 31st May

Summer Term ends Tuesday 20th July