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Chirpy Chicks Newsletter March 2017

There's more treasure in books than there is in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island (Walt Disney)

We've lots coming up this month so hold on to your hats!

March Theme

After a very successful month where we went shopping to Tesco, a pet shop, the bakery and a pizza take away we are now looking at **Things that Grow**. As the seasons change from winter to spring we have started with a plant and garden centre to discover how plants grow. We will be planting seeds to grow our own sunflowers and grass. We will be learning what they need to grow and how to take care of plants and flowers. We will also be looking at how we grow and how to look after ourselves to keep healthy and safe. Finally we will explore growing animals, learning about life cycles of some animals to build on learning about caring for animals with last month's Pet Shop.

Learning outcomes

Some of the learning outcomes we will be looking at with this month's theme are highlighted below in the 6 areas of learning we follow in our preschool curriculum.

Physical – moves confidently with increasing control and co-ordination

Early Maths – an awareness of the passage of time

The Arts – actively participates in role play

World Around Us – has a basic knowledge of living things

Language – makes marks on paper to represent ideas/tell a story

Personal, social & emotional – concentrates for 5/10 minutes on an activity of interest

A full breakdown of our monthly and weekly plans is available on the notice board in the hall.

School Photographer

We're bringing in **Cool for School** who have done a fabulous job in pre-schools, primaries and more getting wonderful photos of children. They will be coming to photograph our pre-schoolers on Friday March 10th from 9am.

For pre-pre children there on Friday we'll have pictures taken as well just in case parents would like one. For children not there on Friday if you let us know via email at info@chirpychicksplaygroup.com or text Jill on 07577855185 we will arrange a time to stop by on Friday for a picture to be taken if you can make it.

My First Poem!

Staying with the theme of books after *World Book Day* we're putting some of that imagination and energy into the **My First Poem** competition. My First Poem works with nurseries and pre-schools

across the UK, introducing children to poetry and offering the opportunity to write their first poem with a specially designed template.

This excellent programme has promoted poetry and creative writing within nurseries and pre-schools since 2007 by running annual competitions. The children have a chance to have their stories published, imagine being an author at only four, and pre-schools can win equipment and books.

Poem templates are included in folders simply fill them in with your child and return them completed to playgroup, we'll package them up and send them in together. Closing date is March 31st so get writing and have forms back in to us no later than March 28th. For more details check out www.myfirstpoem.com

Free Parent's Course from Aware

Following discussions with some parents before Christmas, we are beginning to put together a series of courses focusing on their needs to allow us to support the whole family. Our first course open to Chirpy Chicks parents and the wider community is from the charity **Aware**, who focus on looking after mental health, which is often a neglected subject.

On Monday April 24th from 7-9pm Aware will present **'Mood Matters'** for parents of young children and expectant mums as well. The course will look at mental health impacts on new and almost mums, how parents can look after themselves and their children, and what sources of help are out there. We'll have more details on our website, and a reminder announcement closer to the time. Numbers are limited so please confirm if you can attend via email to info@chirpychicksplaygroup.com or by texting Jill on 07577855185. Do please spread the word to anyone you think might benefit and encourage them to come along. Light refreshments will be included on the night.

Staff training

Playgroup staff continually update their skills and knowledge through training. In addition to Jayne and Donna continuing on the Level 5 Diploma in Leadership Child Care Learning and Development we have recently attended the following training sessions:

Music in Early Years - ETI

Curriculum and Programme Support Cluster - curriculum update and good practice ideas

Education Authority Cluster – Books for Preschool and Digital Observation Tools

Curriculum and Support Training – 6 Areas of Development

Visit to Kilmood Playgroup

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 28th March My First Poem submissions back to playgroup

Friday 7th April Finish for Easter Holidays

Monday 24th April Playgroup re-opens & Aware 'Mood Matters' free parents course

Monday 1st May May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 29th May Bank Holiday

Thank you for your ongoing support – The Chirpy Chicks Team