




# Newsletter

## January 2024

### Spring Term

**Contacts** – You can contact us on (01884) 35018. The Pre-school mobile number is 07927057415. We can also be contacted at [admin@cullomptonpreschool.org](mailto:admin@cullomptonpreschool.org) Our website address is [www.cullomptonpreschool.org](http://www.cullomptonpreschool.org) See our website for general information and our weekly blog and photos of what children have been doing and learning.  'Like' us on Facebook to see regular updates of our session activities.



**We'd like to wish all our children and their families a very warm welcome back to pre-school. We hope you all had a wonderful time over the Christmas and New Year break.**

**Committee Meetings** – The next committee meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** via Microsoft Teams. Committee meetings are open to all parents, we would welcome your support. If you would like to join the meeting, please let the office know and we will send you the link.



Our pre-school summer fete will be held this year on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. It's a fantastic event for all the family! This is an amazing fundraising event for pre-school - save the date to ensure you can come along!

## Behaviour Support

We work really hard at pre-school to support all the children here to make fantastic progress among friends. At times friendships and sharing and turn taking and listening can be hard for many reasons. We are all managing lots of different feelings at a time and add in a moment when something goes wrong, and it is hard to stay calm and regulated! Remind yourself how you feel when the shopping bag breaks or someone makes a demand on you when you are already busier than is healthy, when you stub your toe while rushing to get to work or when the car is iced up and you are in a rush. It is hard to manage feelings even as an adult, so we take a lot of time to teach self-regulation to the children and teach them to think and feel at the same time is a big concept. It takes time and patience and while we are learning, some behaviours will continue.

Behaviour is communication – every behaviour comes from a feeling, a frustration, an upset, stress, anxiety, worry, fear, happiness even – some children will dysregulate and run around and throw toys when they are really happy and excited! Our job at pre-school is to help children recognise feelings, to understand triggers, to understand home situations that might make that harder and friendships that might be testing their listening and sharing skills. We all want to support a really positive day at pre-school and as a staff team we are committed to ensuring every child is safe, listened to and is able to share their views and know they will be heard. The Thrive approach is central to our Ethos – [www.thriveapproach.com](http://www.thriveapproach.com) - have a look at the parent section if you have concerns about behaviours at home that worry or upset you and if you are interested we can create a plan for your child at home which we can mirror at pre-school. I am the Behaviour Support Lead at pre-school and am always happy to chat – *Amelia*



### Healthy Eating

Our current group of children absolutely love to bake and mix and concoct and create using food! One of the most popular activities each week is when we make our own snack - using recipes from Sarah to cook oat cookies for example which we then eat later.

We have also used lunchtime as a learning opportunity to see what fruit we have in our lunchboxes and the children have helped me take a tally chart for each fruit (the results are on the whiteboard in reception!) We take it in turns to say what fruit we have and then make a mark by the right name of the fruit. It has helped the children learn the names for fruits which are not familiar to them and helped them identify which item on their plate is a fruit, distinguishing it from cucumber or peppers for example. In order to follow Ofsted guidance "a healthy diet" is part of our curriculum and we would like to remind you that just one sweet item in a lunch is OK and a pot of crisps is ok rather than a whole bag.



We are launching a new fundraiser for our pre-school! We are in need of new equipment for the garden, some new stories (the large books that really support all children to be able to see what we are reading) and some more mud kitchen equipment too. Details have already been sent to you all by email - we can't wait to hear how all our families get on

and will update the totals regularly! <https://www.givey.com/walkthemoon>



Sadly, Mandy Wallace leaves us this month (last day Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January). We would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the very best in her new role.

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There is now Facebook page for 'Parents of Cullompton Pre-School' (set up by committee members who are also parents). If you would like to join/follow simply scan the QR code – it will take you straight to the correct Facebook page.



# Applications for Primary School Places close on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)

Devon Admissions team can be contacted at

[admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)

You can call the Helpline on **0345 155 1019**

## The "free childcare" offer: what parents and carers need to know



### I keep reading about a "childcare crisis". What's the problem?



For many years, all three- and four-year-olds, as well as disadvantaged two-year-olds, in England have been able to access government-funded childcare and early education.

But the money the government gives to pre-schools, childminders and nurseries to pay for these places has historically not covered the cost of delivering it.

### Why is this such an issue?

Over recent years, government funding has remained still far too low, meaning that early years providers are under even more financial pressure than before. Even worse, funding for the schemes has failed to keep up with the many costs that early years providers face – like staff wages, rents, and energy – meaning that the situation is getting worse.



Many in the sector are concerned the situation will only get worse when government funding is offered to eligible one- and two-year-olds from working families.

### Early years costs are so expensive. How can providers be struggling?

Because government funding doesn't cover the cost of delivering funded places, early years providers have had to look for ways to fill the funding gap or risk going out of business.

In some cases, they have had to charge more for non-funded hours, meaning higher fees for families.

### But government says it's investing more than ever into the early years?

It's true - but the number of young children in England accessing funded places has increased too.

In fact, the Institute of Fiscal Studies estimates that, taking rising costs into account, providers have seen a 17% fall in funding for three- and four-year-olds over the past decade.

## Free online session for parents and carers: an overview of the early entitlement offers

10am - 11am, Monday 15 January

We know that many parents keen to access the new entitlement offers have lots of questions about how the schemes work in practice.



In our upcoming free Family Connect, our team of Alliance experts will provide a comprehensive overview of the early entitlement offers, and what it means for families.

The session, which is aimed at parents and carers, will cover:

- which families are eligible for the offers
- how the offers work in practice
- when families can apply for the new offers
- why many nurseries, pre-schools and childminders are concerned about the new offers

Parents can sign up for the session for free at: [bit.ly/familyconnect15Jan](https://bit.ly/familyconnect15Jan)



Date	Details
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	<b>Closing date for primary school applications</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	<b>Committee Meeting via Teams – all welcome</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	<b>Half Term – pre-closed is closed for sessions</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>Last day of Spring Term</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<b>First day of Summer Term</b>
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2024	<b>PRE-SCHOOL SUMMER FETE – save the date!</b>

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**Got something you would like to tell us?** Your child has had a 'wow' moment? You would like to give us some feedback or make a suggestion? Do you have any worries or concerns? You would like to share a healthy recipe with us? Use this slip to tell us anything at all! Post the slip into our post box in reception .....



If your comments are confidential, please put into an envelope and mark 'Confidential – for the attention of the Pre-school Leader'.