

# Arlesdene Nursery School and Pre-school

Newsletter 3

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

The first half of the spring term has been a chilly one, with cold temperatures and plenty of seasonal illnesses making their way through the school for children and staff alike. Despite this, staff have shown great resilience, continuing to work hard and support one another.

As we move towards the second half of the term, we look forward to longer days, warmer weather, and the fresh energy that spring brings. Here's to a healthier and brighter season ahead!

Claire Cobain

Headteacher



## MaD Awards

### *Making a Difference*

Our MaD awards for the last month went to Ellie Clark, Senior Early Years Practitioner in Pre-school. Ellie works extremely hard in Pre-school, ensuring children enjoy their experience, she is a great team player and is always thinking of ways she can support children further.

Please remember that you can also make nominations when you feel staff have made an extra difference to you or your child.

Slips are available in either the Nursery or Pre-school office or you can email a nomination to:

**[mad@arlesdene.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mad@arlesdene.herts.sch.uk)**

Continue to watch this space for our MaD awards.

# PS, N & R

## Sensory Garden

We are developing the disused courtyard area situated near the Pre-school/ Rainbow 2 entrance into a sensory garden for small groups of children to enjoy. The pictures show the work that has taken place by Pete who works for the school occasionally carrying out maintenance and school projects. The garden will be a great addition to our provision and enable children to enjoy a calm and relaxing space. We will eventually be looking to plant some plants for a smelling station, if anyone has links of purchasing these please do get in touch. If any parents have 'green fingers' and would like to help with this again please let me know.

Plants needed—Lavender, Rosemary, Mint, Sage, Roses, Dill, Camomile, Lamb's Ears, Mock Orange and Purple Coneflowers

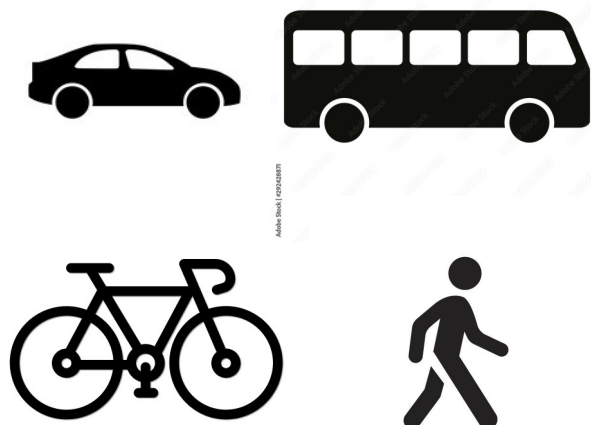


# PS, N & R

## Let's go Zero

As a school we are trying to measure our carbon footprint to see where we can make reductions. As part of this we are carrying out a travel survey on the 27th February. We will be asking all parents, children and staff how they travelled to school. It really is important for us to gather an accurate picture so please look out for a member of staff on that day to share your mode of travel.

## How do you travel to school ?



## Potty training



follow us on instagram



Are you planning to potty train your child during half term ?  
Do you need any help or support ?

Please use the following website for tips with potty training.

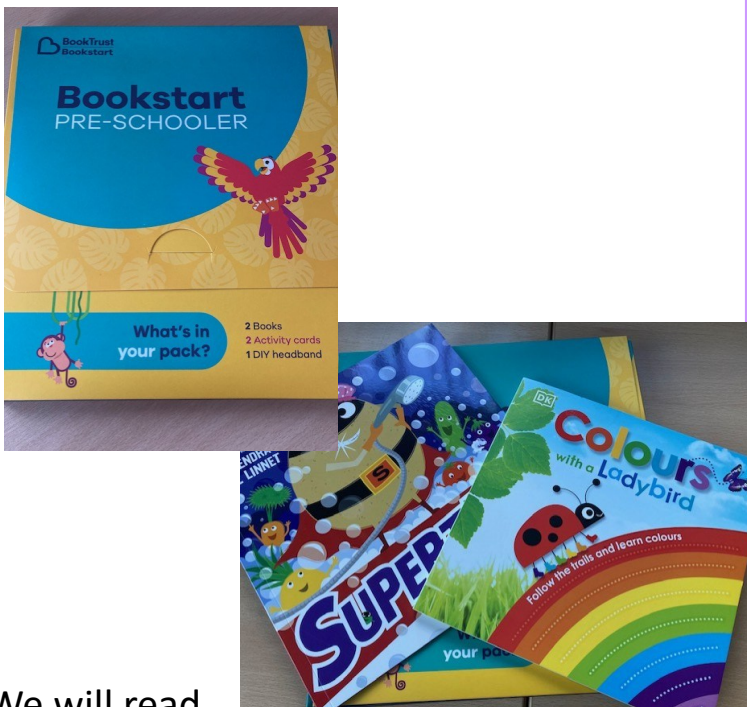
<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/lets-go-potty/>

We can also supply you with a simple visual pack with symbols and pictures showing your child the routine for using the toilet. Please speak to your child's key person if you would like a pack.

# PS, N & R

## Book start packs

Bookstart is a national programme that encourages all parents and carers to enjoy books with their children from an early age as possible. Bookstart gives free packs of books to all Nursery children in the UK, to inspire and create a love of reading that will give children a flying start in life.



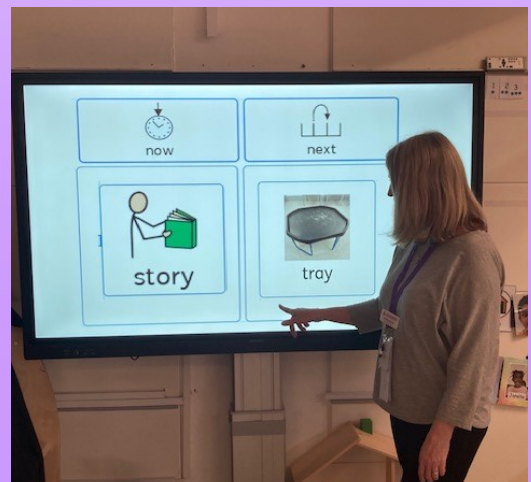
We will read these books at our next story session Friday 28th February and present children with their packs. There is an additional book for our children that speak another language at home and packs for our children with SEND. We will be asking for feedback of how well these books have been used at home so please look out for this.

This is only for Nursery children, Pre-school children will receive them next year.

## New Interactive board

We have recently purchased a new interactive board/ computer for our Rainbow 2 classroom. This enables their learning to be visual at all times.

The new board has also been extremely useful for our staff training.



## World Book Day

You should have all received your £1 book token towards a book or to exchange for a free book at local stores. This is to celebrate World Book Day on the 6th March. We will be inviting children and staff to dress up as their favourite book character on this day.



# PS, N & R

## Ideas for half term

Cedars Nature Centre  
Cedars Park  
February Half Term!

Whose Poo at The Zoo Trail!  
15th-23rd February

📄 During Half Term every child receives a Whose Poo at The Zoo trail on entry! 📄

Yes we know... BUT kids love chatting about poo and it was our most popular trail in the Summer!

See if you can match all of the poops to their owners and bring it back for a prize! (The trail

### Important dates

Monday 17th—Friday 21st February  
- School closed for half term

Friday 28th February - Story time

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day, costumes welcome

Monday 31st March - Story time

Friday 4th April - Easter singing, more details to follow

### Easter challenge

We will be holding our annual Easter challenge during the Easter holidays 7th April - 22nd April. This will involve children taking part in a challenge (more details to follow) and asking family and friends to sponsor them to complete the challenge.

### Kids Eat free or £1

Many restaurants or cafes offer deals during half term with some offering free children's meals when adult meals are purchased whereas others offer children's meals for £1.

### Family Centre's

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/events/whats-on-at-family-centres-in-hertfordshire.aspx>

Don't forget to check your local family centre's for drop in sessions and classes that are on during half term.