

Early Learning Newsletter

February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back from half term and we hope you all had a lovely break.

We have been very busy here at preschool for the first half of the spring term. We have been celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. During Mental Health Week we spoke about what makes us happy and how we can be kind. The children have also been learning about the aboriginal artist Gloria Petyarre who was one of Australia's most successful and significant female artists. We had a parent drop-in session at Forest School which was well supported and great fun.

This half term we have already celebrated Shrove Tuesday and we will be exploring Holi, which is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love and new life. Some families hold religious ceremonies but for many, Holi is more a time for fun. It's a colourful festival, with dancing, singing and throwing of powder paint and coloured water. We will also be talking about Mother's Day and Easter.

The artists of the term are the Russian artist Kandinsky and the African-American artist called Alma Thomas who was inspired by Kandinsky and was the first Black woman to have a show at the Whitney Museum of American Art. So, lots of exciting things to be exploring with the children this term.

TAPESTRY: Everybody should now be able to activate their Tapestry account. If you are having trouble with this, please do get in touch and we can resend the activation link. Your child's play partner will endeavour to put on one observation of your child each week, however, please be assured that they are observing and assessing continually.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS: These start on **Monday 13th March** and you should have received a letter explaining how to book. If you have not, please do get to touch with the preschool office. Learning conversations give you the opportunity to share with your child's play partner, any interest your child has at this time and any concerns you may have. This will support us to plan activities for your child.

We suggest that you have a look at '**What to expect in the EYFS**' on the preschool website prior to the learning conversations. This document explains child development and what we would generally expect children aged 3 and 4 years to be doing, so is definitely worth a read; but please remember every child is unique and they are at different ages and stages of their development.

Dates for your diary:

Learning Conversations – w/b 13th March

Last day of the spring term - 31st March

First day of summer term - 18th April

The **17th April is a PD day**, so no children will be in.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Sharron and the Preschool team