



Spring Term 1 2020

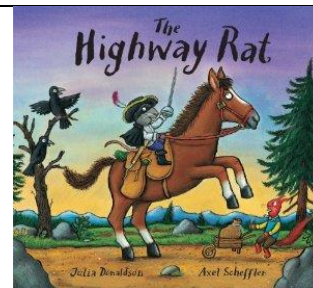
A warm welcome to all of the new little people and their families who have joined us this term - it's lovely to have you as part of the pre-school community.

Hard times for Early Years settings

You may or may not be aware that the minimum wage will be going up in April, rising from £8.21 to £8.72. Whilst we applaud that the government are doing this for low paid workers it is going to put a huge strain on any employers who employ workers in this wage bracket – of which early years settings are one! To make matters worse the government have only increased the amount of money we receive for funded children by a few pennies. The numbers just don't add up and it is resulting in many early years settings having to close down due to being financially unsustainable.

At Portreath Pre-school we are currently looking at different ways of being able to maintain our outstanding provision whilst also ensuring that we can afford to operate and keep the pre-school open for future generations. It is not an easy task. Research has time and time again shown that what happens to children in the early years has a huge impact on their later learning through their childhood, teenage years and beyond.



We are fully committed to ensuring your children are receiving the very best we can offer but we need to be thinking flexibly about how we can achieve this with the money we receive. With this in mind, we will be sending out forms, the week after half term, about what you would like re sessions and days for your child from September 2020. We realise it may be tricky for you to know at this point in time what your needs will be for September but we really need to have some idea of requirements so we can start making plans for next year. Please feel free to speak to Rebekah, Sophie or Claire (the chair of the committee) about any of the issues covered in this.



Come and join us for a
Snuggledown

at Preschool on Friday
28th February from 6 –
7pm.

All children are invited to join us for a fundraising evening of a movie, hot chocolate and popcorn with their friends and families. This time we will be showing 'The Highway Rat'. Please wear your pyjamas, bring cushions and blankets to 'snuggle' in, and your toothbrush and paste to give those teeth a good clean before home to bed! Siblings are very welcome to come along too. Past 'Snuggledowns' have been very popular and enjoyable occasions. The cost per ticket is £3.00. Cheese and biscuits for the adults will be available to purchase for donations. If you have lost the letter with the slip to return, please just pop the money in an envelope with your child's name on.

	<p>Socks!! We desperately need spare socks to put on the children when they get wet feet or need two layers for cold 'Out & About' sessions (little toes can get very cold in wellies!). If you happen to have any that you are about to throw out, we would greatly appreciate them. (We are fine for pants though!)</p>
	<p><i>It is the season of coughs and cold – and lots and lots of runny noses!! We are getting through a huge amount of tissues and wipes at the moment. In a bid to try and save a few pennies, we wondered if everyone would mind donating one box of tissues and one pack of fragrance-free baby wipes. Please do not feel obliged to but any extra that we can obtain all helps towards saving money for other resources. Thank you!</i></p>

Cornwall County Council **Healthy Under 5s**

Children's Mental Health

The world our children are growing up in is a very different to the one we experienced childhood in. Many aspects are better but some aspects are worse. The overriding evidence though is that children's mental health is much worse than it's ever been, with 1 in 8 children and young people having a diagnosed mental health problem. It is our job as parents, carers and early educators to help support our children's emotional development so that they grow up being aware of different feelings and how they can manage them. Children's Mental Health Week ran from 3rd – 7th February and this year's theme was 'Find Your Brave'. Bravery isn't about coping alone or holding things in. It's about finding a positive way of dealing with things that might be difficult and looking after yourself.

Here are some top tips for encouraging your child to 'Find their Brave':

- **Remind your child that bravery comes in many different forms and everyone is different.** What's brave for them might not feel brave to someone else.
- **Chat with your child about a time when you had to 'Find your Brave'.** It might have been something big or small.
- **Praise your child when they 'Find their Brave'.** Maybe they've kept going at learning a new skill or tried something outside of their comfort zone which boosted their confidence.
- **Point out examples of bravery in books or films to your child** and talk about how different ways of being brave will help them feel good.
- **Reassure your child that not feeling brave is ok too** and that there are times when it might be more difficult to feel brave.

Parent Workshop - Building the foundations of your child's literacy and numeracy development

Monday 2nd March: 7 - 8pm (ish) at the pre-school.

From the feedback on the Spring Term questionnaire, this was an area which lots of parents were interested in and was very well attended when we ran it last year. We will be feeding back on recent research about indicators of children's future success in mathematics, plus providing top tips for how to support your child in this and literacy; explaining the reasons behind the tips.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Snuggledown : Friday 28th February 2020 6 - 7 pm, at the preschool.

February Half term : Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020

Monday 2nd March: Parent Workshop - Building the foundations of your child's literacy and numeracy development, 7 - 8pm (ish) at the pre-school

Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March - Our World Book Week (World Book Day = Thursday 5th March) Children can come to preschool dressed up as their favourite book character.

Preschool closed due to training day - Friday 20th March 2020

Easter Holidays : Monday 30th March - Monday 13th April 2020

Tuesday 14th April 2020 - Preschool opens. Summer term begins

May Bank Holiday - Friday 8th May 2020

May Half term - Monday 25th - Friday 29th + May 2020

Summer Holidays begin : Thursday 23rd July 2020