



**The Duckling Nursery Ltd**  
**Writtle Infant School**  
**Lodge Road**  
**Writtle**  
**CM1 3HZ**  
**8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

## **Newsletter 2024/A**

### **Welcome Back**

Welcome back to the spring term and we would like to thank you for your kind gifts and cards. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with lots of fun and hopefully a little rest. We wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope 2024 will bring joy and kindness to us all (with a little less rain please).

We welcome two new little Ducklings this term. We wish Dora and Edward many happy times with us.

### **Spring term topic**

The topic for the spring term is:

*Animal stories, rhymes and songs are what we love  
They could be about caterpillars, bears, cats or doves.  
When it's story time we listen with our ears  
When it's rhymes and songs we sing with our peers.  
Some are old favourites and some are new  
But they are always fun for me and you.*

We look forward to another exciting term ahead and will be exploring different animal stories and rhymes together. We welcome any ideas or resources you may wish to share with us.

### **Friends of Ducklings**

What a great year we've had enjoying some fun events and also raising money for Ducklings. There is money in the account that needs spending this term. We have some thoughts about the resources we want to buy to enhance the children's experiences at Ducklings, however we would love to hear any ideas from you. As always I thank everyone for their support throughout the year, as we couldn't hold these events without you. We have a small committee ready to begin organising events for this coming year and we would always welcome more parents to come along and join us. We will let you know the date of our next meeting as soon as this has been confirmed.

### **Reading week**

We would love you to come and join us the week beginning Mon 5<sup>th</sup> - Fri 9<sup>th</sup> February to share books and read with the children. This will take place each morning between 9-9.30am. If you are able to come along please let me know.

### **Mummy's morning**

This will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 9-10am. Further details will follow but don't forget to pop the date in your diary.

### **Parent/Carer agreement forms**

If you haven't already returned your completed parent/carer agreement form please can you do so as soon as possible? These are a requirement from Essex regarding the claims for the 15 hours and 30 hours funding.

### **Two year funding**

I have just received the following information from Essex County Council regarding the new funding arrangements for 2 year olds. Please don't hesitate in coming to see me if you require further information.

*As you are aware the HMRC application process commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> January for working parents to apply for their code to access the working parent entitlement for 2 year olds (the term after the child is 2 years old)*

### ***Working Parent entitlements April 2024 – when to apply for a HMRC code***

*From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds are able to apply for a code for 15 hours of funded childcare, starting from 1 April 2024. The DfE recommend that parents start applying for their codes from mid-January.*

This term is a very short one of only 11 weeks. Six weeks until half term (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February) and only five weeks after half term to Easter. The last day of term is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Mrs Homer