



# NEWSLETTER



## AUTUMN TERM 1 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year and welcome to all those children new to the nursery this term.



### Happy Birthday Pumpkins!

This term is a very exciting one for us at Pumpkins as we celebrate our 10 year anniversary at Tormarton. We opened the first week of September 2008 with a team of 4 staff –We had about 6 children each day and only operated as a pre-school, term time only for the first year. Numbers at the nursery steadily grew and we very quickly realised that full day care was what we needed to provide. We had no idea that demand would be such that Pumpkins would grow to the point we have reached today, with around 60 on roll in each of our settings and 30 in the Out of school club. Along with that the staff team also grew. Annabel returned from living in Australia and joined us in July 2010 followed by Katherine in April 2011. Marie then joined in January 2014 followed in the following year by Claire. Sarah was persuaded to move from our Badminton nursery where she had been since 2006 along with Becky who joined the team after returning from maternity leave in 2010. The nursery was revitalised in March 2011 when Jane joined us as Nursery Cook. The nursery was managed during all this time by Cheryl, who still works at the Badminton nursery, until Laura joined us in June last year and what an impact she made! In her first year Laura took the nursery to an Outstanding rating with Ofsted, achieved a Makaton Friendly award for the nursery and Millie's Mark accreditation for excellence in paediatric first aid, all in her first year. The rest of the team, Vickie, Kim, Rachel and Gemma are all relative newcomers within the last 2 years but their contribution has been no less significant. Thank you to all the girls for the hard work that they put in each and every day and for being such a lovely team to work with! In those early days I could never have imagined the success that we would achieve today and put this firmly down to the loyalty and commitment of my amazing team of staff and to the superb care that they all provide for all our children. I hope that you will all join us in our birthday celebrations at the end of this month and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible then.



The weekend before the start of term we learnt of the sad news that Noah's Ark nursery in Sherston was to close at the end of this month. This resulted in many local parents looking for alternative childcare arrangements and my first two weeks of term have been spent conducting numerous showrounds and signing up new starters. Between the Badminton and Tormarton nurseries we have managed to offer places to everyone who contacted us. For the benefit of new Parents I have included Our Millie's Mark Newsletter issued earlier this year at the end of this term's Newsletter to let you know what is involved in this achievement.

Best Wishes  
Amanda Wallis



## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WEEK

Throughout next week (w/c 24 September 2018) we will be holding lots of events and we hope that you will be able to join in some or all of them to help us celebrate our 10 year anniversary.

### Wednesday 26 September – Birthday Activity and Coffee Morning

9.30am – 11am – Main Hall



Activities for the children and an opportunity for parents to come along and have some cake and a chat - meet other parents and experience a typical morning at nursery. So if you've always wanted to play with spaghetti in the tuff tray come along and have a go!



## Competition Time!

### Birthday Cake Competition

Enter our best birthday cake competition – anything goes small, large – only rule is that your child must have helped you to bake it.

We will be enjoying the cakes at the coffee morning and will be putting the entries on sale to take home.

### Birthday Card Competition

Make a birthday card for Pumpkins and enter it in our best design birthday card competition.

Prizes for the winners!



Welcome to the following children who have joined us new this term. We hope you will be very happy at Pumpkins

#### Pre School

Amelie Bleaken    Ava Hamman    Fionn Herbert    Florence Dunn    Lily Scott

#### Pre School 2 – 3 years

Beau Daniels    Theo Dann    Evelyn Polley

#### Toddler Room

Elliott Oliver    Esme Wilkins    Ezme Baten    James Hobby    Henrietta Henton  
Olivia Dury    Samuel Bahadoor    Zach Hamman

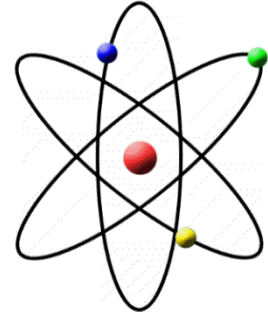


# STEM



Science Technology Engineering  
Maths

Each year at Pumpkins we take an area of the curriculum or learning to focus on as part of our continuing plan for improvement. This year we are focussing on STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. It is widely recognised that it is important to interest and educate children in these areas and work towards closing the gender and ethnic gap often found in STEM professions.



What relevance has this to Early Years? Many of these areas are things that we do with the children currently without consciously thinking about how they are categorised. Science includes, making a volcano with baking soda and vinegar as part of a dinosaur display; looking at life cycles of butterflies and frogs; recycling and thinking about our environment; gardening; forest school; cooking; weather – the list goes on. Engineering includes building with blocks; cogs and wheels; push and pull; junk modelling; loose parts play; using real tools; properties of materials as well as looking at the world around us cranes; architecture; buildings; bridges. Maths is around us in the world we live in from road signs to stories and whilst numbers and their relevance comes later in the pre-school room, Toddlers are still experimenting with basic maths when they develop their physical skills – reaching for a toy; exerting force to knock a tower over; filling and emptying containers.



And finally Technology..... This is where our decision to adopt this area as a focus this year came from as the children themselves have shown an increasing interest in the use of IT – from bee-bot programming to the use of tablets. This in turn has led us to review our use of IT and the subsequent review or writing of policies to go with that but it is an area that is experiencing considerable growth and we must grow with it to keep up with these changes.



More and more frequently now we see one year olds, when given a book, swiping at the pictures, rather than turning the pages. In this day and age it is important that they can do BOTH. Use touch screens **and** read a book; use a mouse or a key board **and** use a pencil and paper and it is the early years that they develop all these skills most quickly.

STEM is an area that is therefore relevant to all of our children and a focus that we are very excited about for the coming year. Even Pumpkin Bear (our intrepid explorer) has become involved, with his unexpected journey to the moon when he went home with one of our pre-school children at Badminton last year. Check out their adventures for yourselves in the attachment to this newsletter.



Dates for your Diary

**AUTUMN TERM 1 2018**

Monday 3 September – Friday 26 October

**HALF TERM: Monday 29 October – Friday 2 November 2018**

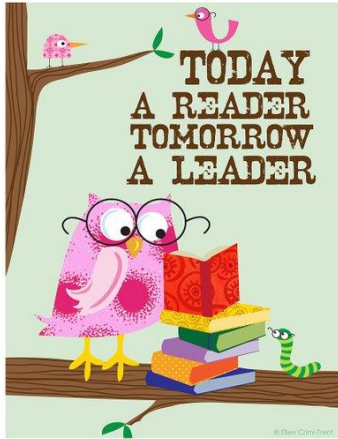
**AUTUMN TERM 2 2018**

Monday 5 November – Friday 21 December 2018



Term dates and Nursery Closure dates are on our website : <http://www.pumpkinsnursery.co.uk/our-settings/pumpkins-tormarton/> Click on Icon at the bottom of the Tormarton page

# TERMLY OVERVIEW



## PRE SCHOOL

Welcome back to Pumpkins 2-3's and Pre-school unit, we hope you had a lovely Summer and we have loved seeing your adventures on Tapestry. A very big welcome to all of our new friends who have joined Pumpkins over the Summer.

As most parents would have seen through other newsletters or our Facebook page we have had a move around in the pre-school unit allowing us to have now 2 different units within the one hall. This has been working very well with the children allowing us to aim the activities we provide to the correct age ranges. This does mean that your child's key person may have changed so please check out the keyworker boards that are within the units or just ask a member of staff.

This term in Pre-School we are looking at books that may be unfamiliar to the children. We have picked some of the staff favourites. We are learning about our bodies with Funny bones written by Janet and Allan Ahlberg, we are then going on different adventures with Mr Toad and Badger with the Wind in the Willows. To follow on with the animal theme we will be visiting Mr. McGregor's vegetable garden with Peter Rabbit, Flopsy, Mopsy and cotton-tail and then moving from one garden to another with the Secret Garden, finally finishing the term in a magical land for Alice in Wonderland.



**We would love for parents to come in and read a story that may be new to the children, so if you would like to do this please speak to Laura and we can organise this**

September is an exciting time for Pumpkins – Tormarton as we are celebrating our 10 Year anniversary of opening!! We have lots of fun and exciting things happening for this so keep an eye on your emails and Facebook for notices about this.

Thanks Laura and the 2-3's/Pre-School team





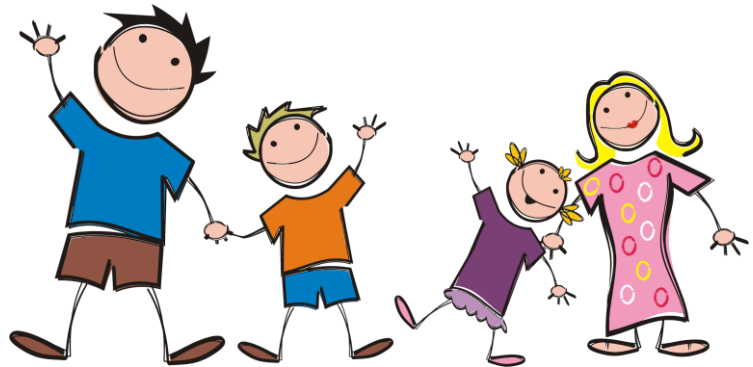
# Little Pumpkins

## All about me and my family

Welcome back to those of you who have been off for the summer and to all our new starters.

With lots of new children and a few of us having new siblings, we would like to focus our topic on "All about me and my family"

During the term we will be focusing on Mummy, Daddy and people that are special to me, and we would ask if all children could bring in a photo of themselves and one of anyone that is special to them, this could be family members or close friends.



Through out the term we will be exploring lots of activities about ourselves, looking at our faces and things that we like and dislike.

Where we live is an important thing in our world and again it would be lovely if you could take a photo of your house for our display, we would like to displays our homes and children's pictures, encouraging them to place their photos on their home.

To end the term, we will be looking at our family pets, again if you have any photos of family pets that you would like to share with us, it would be great to see them.

We look forward to seeing all our lovely photos and learning about ourselves and our families.

Many thanks Marie and the toddler room team.

