



# Ide Hill Pre-School



Pre-School Mobile: 07929 129567

Email: [manager@idehillpreschool.org](mailto:manager@idehillpreschool.org) Web - [www.idehillpreschool.org](http://www.idehillpreschool.org)

## Newsletter No 4 – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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## Welcome to our fourth newsletter of the year!

What a term it has been. Even with the constant rain tapping on the hall roof and turning our outdoor space into a very soggy adventure zone, the children have brought their own sunshine to every single day. Their laughter, imagination, and enthusiasm have filled the hall with warmth, proving once again that nothing dampens their spirit.

We are so proud of each and every one of them. It has been another truly lovely term—full of fun, laughter, and those small but magical moments that make preschool life so special.



## Wet Play

With all this wonderfully soggy weather sticking around, we want to make sure the children stay comfy and happy outdoors. Please could you send in waterproofs and a full change of clothes so we can embrace the puddles without the soggy socks.

### **A little side note from our very grateful staff team:**

Please label everything clearly. When we're changing several damp, giggly children at once, unlabelled clothes turn into a bit of a lucky dip — and we're not always lucky.

We're also running very low on spare clothes at preschool, so anything you can send in for your child really helps us keep everyone warm, dry, and ready for more adventures.

Thank you for helping us keep the fun flowing, whatever the weather brings.





## Parent Consultations – Week Commencing 9th March

We're looking forward to welcoming families in for our upcoming **parent consultations**, where you'll have the chance to chat with your child's key person about how they're getting on, the progress they're making, and all the lovely things they've been enjoying at preschool.

A sign-up sheet will be available **at preschool from next week when we return**, so please do pop your name down for a time that suits you. It's a great opportunity to share insights, celebrate achievements, and work together on next steps.

And just a gentle reminder that **Mrs Ferguson is always available for a chat** — whether you'd like to speak with her in her role as **SENCO** or as **Manager**. If you ever need a conversation, simply ask.



## Easter Show & Bonnet Parade

We are delighted to invite you to our Easter Show and Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday 25th March at 1.30pm, held here at preschool.

The children have been busy preparing a short performance featuring some of our favourite songs from our Jingle and Jive sessions, as well as a retelling of the much-loved story *Chicken Licken*. After the show, the children will



take part in a joyful Easter Bonnet Parade, proudly showing off their homemade bonnets.

We ask that bonnets are made at home with your child—simple, creative, and fun is perfect. We can't wait to see their wonderful creations.

We hope you can join us for this lovely celebration of spring and the children's hard work.

If your child does not usually attend preschool on Wednesdays, we would love for them to join us for the show. Please bring them to preschool at 1.15pm so they can get settled and ready to take part in this special event



## Talking Walk-In Service

As mentioned in our recent Tapestry post, Kent's **Talking Walk-In Service** is a free, friendly drop-in for **any parent who has concerns about their child's speech, language, or understanding skills**.

There are no referral and no appointments needed — just turn up and chat with a speech and language therapist who can offer reassurance, practical ideas to try at home, and guidance on whether any further support might be helpful.

Find dates, times and locations here:

**Talking Walk-In Service** [Talking Walk-in Service | Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust](#)



## Celebrations, Customs and Belonging

At Ide Hill Preschool we want every child to feel seen, valued and connected. One of the most powerful ways we can do this is by reflecting the wonderful diversity of our families in our everyday practice. If your family takes part in any celebrations, traditions or customs—big or small—we would love you to share them with us. This might be a festival you enjoy, a special food you make together, a family routine, a song, a story, or anything that is meaningful to you.

Your contributions help us bring our curriculum to life and ensure that all children can see themselves and their families represented in our environment, just as they do on our Belonging Tree and our Street-Scene family photos. To keep this growing, we warmly welcome ideas, objects, photos or simple explanations from **any member of your family**—parents, grandparents, siblings, carers.

This supports the EYFS focus on building a strong sense of identity and community, helping children learn about themselves and others in a way that feels natural, joyful and respectful. **If you can help, please let Mrs Ferguson or your child's key person know.**

Thank you to those who have already shared family and house photos. If you haven't yet, please post them on Tapestry. The children enjoy seeing their families on our Belonging Tree and finding their houses in the Street Scene.





## Early Drop off Reminder

We would like to remind you that there is an option of an early drop off time of 08:45am

For those parents who wish to drop their children off at 08.45 we will need to make a small charge to cover the additional staffing costs for this time. For you to drop your child/ren of at 08.45 instead of 09.00 the charge will be £5.00.

This will be in addition to our normal session fees. For those parents who haven't already done so, please speak with Mrs Ferguson if you would like to swap to this time for the whole term.

## Potty Training Guide

As shared earlier this month on Tapestry, take a look at this helpful link:

[The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#)

This guide is full of handy hints and practical advice for supporting your child through potty training. Whenever your little one is ready, please know that we're here to help every step of the way. If you have any questions or simply want to chat, your child's key person or any member of our team will be delighted to support you.





## Forest School

We're thrilled to announce that Forest School is back for our older children this term! Please keep an eye out for the forest school list, which will be sent to you by email. On your child's Forest School day, kindly dress them in suitable outdoor clothes, so they're ready for adventure and we can head off for a fun-filled morning in nature together!



**Term 4: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Term 5: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**Bank Holiday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

We hope you and your families enjoyed a lovely, relaxing half term break. We can't wait to welcome all the children back to Preschool and share another fun-filled, adventurous term together!