



Penhill Playgroup Newsletter  
February 2025



Dear Parents and carers,

The children have been enjoying our themes this term, especially trying Chinese food and exploring our igloo last week. This week we are focusing on shapes.

Sadly, on the staffing front, *Ginette* decided to leave Penhill in January, but we are pleased that we have been able to recruit Sarah Scaysbrook who has worked in several Early Years settings over the last 15 years and will be joining us after the February Half Term, working four days a week.

February 11<sup>th</sup> is Safer Internet Day, so to remind you of some top tips to keep your children safe online and where to find out more information and advice, we have put together an information sheet you may find useful. Please ask if you have any particular concerns, and even if we don't know the answer ourselves, we will do our best to point you in the right direction.

We have been particularly concerned by children telling us about computer games they play or watch at home, which are not appropriate for their age. The PEGI rating given for each game should give you an idea of whether it is suitable for a 3 or 4 year old - they shouldn't be viewing or playing anything above a 3+ rating, We realise this can be a challenge if older siblings or parents play these games, but please bear in mind that these games have been given their rating because some of the content is unsuitable for a young child to view and can impact on their knowledge and understanding of what is acceptable behaviour. We are certainly noticing an increase in children thinking that killing or hurting people in their imaginative play is ok and clearly it is not.

The most important part of keeping children safe online is to access it with them. This way, they are still engaging in human interaction and you can help your child to learn by asking questions about what they are doing and why and you can share the experience with them, just as you would in the "real" world.

### **Dates for your Diary**

We are closed from 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February for Half Term

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Shrove Tuesday (pancake day)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Dressing up for World Book Day (book character or pyjamas)

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April - last day of term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April - closed for Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Summer Term starts