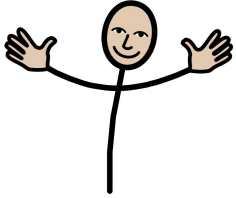




# Sunshine Preschool Newsletter



St Gerard's April 2026



**Welcome** to the start of the summer term! We hope you all have an enjoyable Easter break. Thank you to all those who supported our Easter events, the children had a wonderful time joining in egg hunts and Easter hat parades.

**SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB** - Our summer holiday club is running again this year (Tuesday - Thursday; 21st July - 13th August 2026) at our Whitchurch setting. We expect this holiday club to be popular again, so please book your sessions early! **You can book your space at Holiday Club [here](#).**

## TERM DATES

**Term starts**  
Monday 20th Apr 2026  
**Last day of term**  
Friday 22nd May 2026

## CURRICULUM TOPICS

**Curriculum topics** that we are exploring this term are detailed below, and we will be using these topics to explore the natural world by investigating plants, minibeasts, habitats and life cycles. We will also be using our visit to Warleigh Lodge Farm to explore farm animals and where our food comes from (see below).

Date	Learning Themes	Sound of the Week	Story of the week	Song of the week
20 - 24 April	Down on the Farm	Qu	What the Ladybird Heard	Dingle dangle scarecrow
27 - 1 May	Down on the Farm	W	The Enormous Turnip	Farmer's in the den
4 - 8 May	How does your garden grow?	J	Jack and the Beanstalk	Five Little Peas
11 - 15 May	Lifecycles and minibeasts	C	Very Hungry Caterpillar	There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf
18 - 22 May	STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) week	Z	The Girl Who Loves Bugs	There's a worm at the bottom of the garden

**JUNK MODELLING** If you have any cardboard boxes, toilet roll tubes and other packaging to contribute to our 'junk modelling' supplies, we'd be very grateful!

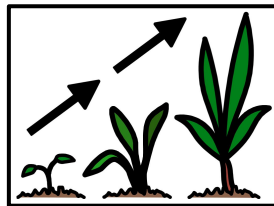
**Thank you** to everyone who came into preschool over the past two terms to share an instrument they play or to share their occupation. We have had a wonderful time and the children have been so proud to show off their grown up! We are always looking for parent visitors to show us a “window” into the community outside our door, or to be a Secret Reader and share a book with us, so if you would like to come in, please chat to a member of staff.

### GROWING

---

During the term we will be planting a range of seeds and plants so if anyone would like to donate any plants from their garden or if you have any flower or vegetable seeds spare then we would love to have them.

We are looking forward to planting lots of vegetables at pre-school and at the allotment.



### LIFE CYCLES

---

We will be exploring the life-cycle of butterflies and frogs by having real caterpillars and tadpoles in the setting and watching them grow. If anyone has any tadpoles at home and would like to donate some please let us know.

### IMPORTANT DATES

---

Apr 23rd: Warleigh Lodge Farm  
May 15th: Photographer at Sunshines



### STEM

---

Although we weave science, engineering, technology and maths into our learning throughout the year, we have decided to make it a feature of our week to promote curiosity and wonder, as well as providing children with plenty of opportunities to explore this area of the curriculum in more detail. We are hoping to invite members of our community with this background into our settings, so if you know of anyone that would like to support us with this project, please get in touch.

### WARLEIGH LODGE FARM

---

**On Thurs 23rd April** we would like to invite all children to accompany us to Warleigh Lodge Farm near Bath. We have visited the farm several times before and it is a wonderful experience for the children. It is a working farm which is not open to the public but only accepts school parties. During the visit we will explore the farm, feed chickens & cows, collect eggs, bottle feed lambs and have a tractor ride. You can view photos of farm activities on the Warleigh Lodge Facebook page. You should have returned your slip and paid by now, but if you haven't please contact the office ([office@sunshinepreschool.org.uk](mailto:office@sunshinepreschool.org.uk)).

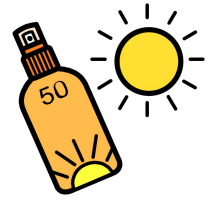
### DRESSING UP

---

To celebrate STEM week, please can children bring an over-sized white shirt 'lab coat' to preschool.



**Sun safety** - All children **need to arrive at pre-school with sunscreen already applied**. Staff will reapply sunscreen to children staying all day at lunchtime but do not have time to apply cream when children arrive. Sunshines will provide a hypoallergenic children's sunscreen but if your child is allergic to suncream please see a member of staff and we will make arrangements for your child to have their own. We will be using Sunshine sun hats for outside play so there is no need for children to bring their own.



### SELF-HELP SKILLS

As lots of children will be leaving us soon to move on to school we will be working on children's self-help skills during the next two terms. You can support your child by encouraging them to dress themselves independently and make sure they wear suitable clothes and footwear to enable them to be independent whilst at pre-school. During snack times and at lunchtime we will be encouraging children to be as independent as possible with opening their own food items and making healthy choices. Please support your child by providing suitable wrappings and containers that they can easily open themselves.

### FOOTWEAR

As the weather (hopefully) warms up it will not be appropriate for children to wear pre-school wellington boots when playing outside or going on walks in the community. We would therefore ask you to make sure your child wears suitable footwear to keep themselves safe. Please do not send them in open toed sandals or crocs as these are not suitable for running and climbing in the garden or when out walking. Please make sure children have **correctly fitting shoes** as this causes us lots of problems when children are using the walking rope.



### SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER

Please let us know which school your child has been allocated so we can use the information to group children together who will be going to the same school and to let parents know who their child will be going to school with. Please advise staff when dropping or collecting your child.

### DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Please can you remember to let us know if your child's dietary requirements change at any time, especially with regards to allergies or food intolerances. This will ensure our records are kept up to date and we can amend food practices as necessary.

### PHOTOGRAPHER AT SUNSHINES

Emily Beer will be back to take preschool photos on **Fri 15th May**. If this is not your child's usual day, please book a slot with the team at drop-off or pick-up.