

Calendar for the remainder of the Spring Term 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 March 	4 Julie Absent Pat to cover, Pancake Day. Come dressed as your favourite character	5 Julie Absent Pat to cover	6 Come dressed as your favourite character 	7 Julie Absent Pat to cover Estelle leaving 3.00pm
10	11	12 Staff Meeting 6.15 pm	13	14
17 St Patrick's Day 	WE'RE BEING WOOLLY JUMPERS FOR SPORT RELIEF			21 
24	25	26	27	28
31	1 April Fool's Day, 	2	3	4 End of Term for term time only Funded Children
7	8 Sandra Annual Leave	9 Sandra Annual Leave	10 Louise & Sandra Annual Leave	11 Louise & Sandra Annual Leave
14 Jade & Lara Annual Leave	15 Jade & Lara Annual Leave	16 Jade & Lara Annual Leave	17 Jade & Lara Annual Leave	18 Good Friday Grafton is Closed and will reopen on Tuesday 22nd April
21 	22 Beginning of Summer Term Funding resumes for term time only children	23	24	25



Grafton Childcare

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World Book Day Thursday 6th March

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, this year World Book Day falls on Thursday 6th March. We intend to spend the whole week focusing on some of our many books featuring stories from around the world.

On Tuesday 4th March and Thursday 6th March we would like the older children that's our 2's, 3's and 4 year olds to come to Grafton dressed up as their favourite book character.

So Mummy's and Daddy's please get your thinking caps on and come up with an outfit for your child's favourite book character for them to wear on Tuesday 4th or Thursday 6th March.

It could be Where's Wally, Matilda, Bob the Builder, Goldilocks, Red Riding Hood, Prince Charming, The Beast, Peter Pan, the Gruffalo the list is endless.

March 2014

Sport Relief 2014 2

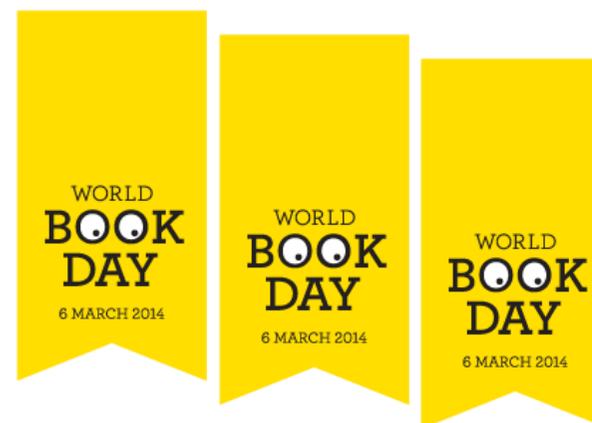
JOIN THE WOOLLY JUMPERS

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Sport Relief 2014

Friday March the 21st is Sport Relief 2014 and all week we shall be doing lots of wacky things to raise money for Sport Relief 2014, this time round Timmy from Timmy time and his friends are helping out. All week we shall be encouraging the children to become "Woolly Jumpers", just like Timmy and we shall be asking parents to sponsor their children to see how far and high they are able to jump.

We shall be holding a "Sheepstake", Timmy is dying his wool for Sport Relief, but which colour will he be? All will be revealed at 4pm on Friday 21st March. We are asking all parents to pay £2 and write their name under the Timmy of their choice on the big poster we have popped up in the conservatory. The winner will get to keep 50% of the money raised from the "Sheepstake". £2 could provide a child living on the streets in Nepal with a hot meal and a safe place to sleep for a night. On the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of March the children will all become "Woolly Jumpers for Sport Relief". Don't forget your woolly jumpers, hats, scarves or cuddly sheep to jump with.

1. We shall try a sponsored "do as many jumps as possible" activity each at £1 a bunch of jumps,
2. Have a "jump as high as you can" competition that children can pay a £1 to enter.
3. We shall also be herding all our little lambs together to do a mass sponsored "jump as far as we can" at a £1 for each little lamb.

Grafton Childcare's Opening Times 2014

Monday to Friday from 7.00 am till 7.00 pm, We are open 49 weeks a year.

We shall be closed on:-

- Friday 18th April (Good Friday),
- Monday 21st April (Easter Monday),
- Monday 5th May (May Day),
- Monday 26th May (Spring Bank Holiday).

We will be closed for our Summer Shutdown between Monday 25th August (Summer Bank Holiday) and Friday 29th August 2014 and will reopen on Monday 1st September.

We will be Closed for our Christmas Shutdown between Monday 22nd December 2014 and 2nd January 2015 and reopen on Monday 5th January 2015.

New Toys & Resources & Upgrading Premises

Since our last newsletter we have been busy adding new equipment, resources and consumables for the staff and children to use here at Grafton. We have purchased new stocks of laminating pouches, lilac paper and A5 wallets for storing Daily Diaries. A new Happyland Storage Bag, and 30 wooden balls for our Tubey's which we bought last month.

But mostly in the last month we have been busy decorating our lounge as well as having the ceilings in the lounge, dining-room and playroom re-plastered by Fynn's Daddy, Kevin Murphy. We are sure you have all been reading about it in our weekly blog, so we will not go into huge detail here as well.



Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents and grandparents of the following children:- Oliver, Leo, Nathan, Emily and Mia who have donated a Wooden Bookcase, Florist Ribbon, Crayons, Baby Books, Puzzles, a Pirate Costume, Cuddly Toys and a blow up baby toy.

We really appreciate all of the items which parents very kindly pass on to us here at Grafton Childcare, thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Donations of Resources

Donations of toys and resources help us keep our costs down, so if you have any of the following items on hand and are willing to donate them, it would be greatly appreciated.

- **Old Saucepans and Baking Tins**, the older the better as they will be used outside by the children in our mud kitchen.
- **Dressing up clothing** child sized **not** old adult clothing, costumes, hats etc.
- **Magazines** that depict other cultures, old birthday cards etc.
- **Paper of any kind**, brown, white, coloured, waxed, foil, Spring colours would be very useful next month, etc.
- Crayons, water colour paints, or any misc. **art supplies**, such as fabric scraps, glitter, pipe cleaners, paper plates, etc.
- **Any odd shaped boxes or packages, especially if you can get a dozen** or so of the same size and shape, maybe from your place of work, we are very happy to help you recycle, these come in very handy for our junk modelling.
- **Used padded envelopes and bubble wrap**, any size or amount.
- **Anything** that you think we might find useful for arts and crafts, just ask if your not sure.
- **Any non treated wood**, i.e. an old tree which we can chop up for our wood burners, Phil has a small chainsaw, so is happy to come and chop any large logs into moveable pieces!

4. We shall also be organising a **"Sheeplechase"** around the playground which is a very special obstacle course which we hope that as many of our **"Woolly Jumpers"**, will have a go at our bargain price of £1 an entry.
5. Our younger little ones will be doing a sponsored **"crawl and wiggle"** for a bargain price of only £1 per entry, but we will be keeping a close eye on them as things could get very bumpy!

We have a very special enormous Timmy Time measuring chart to use on the day to help us measure how, far and high our **"Woolly Jumpers"** manage to jump. We very much hope that all **"Ewe"** parents will be real superstars and sponsor your children to take part in all five of the events which we have planned each day during the week, and hope that you will feel able to send in a £5 donation to cover all of the events your little **"Woolly Jumpers"** will be taking part in across the week. If you would also like to take part in the **"Sheepstake"** that will be an additional £2. Your £5 donation could pay for a mosquito net to protect a mother and her baby in Africa from contracting malaria while they sleep. Or a hot meal for five children in the UK living in extreme poverty.

During the week the children will learn all about a four year old girl Ramatu who lives with her family in a village in rural Ghana. She has to help her mother, Zariato, pick nuts to sell at market. This is because like millions of other children around the world, Ramatu works to help support her family. However she is luckier than many of these children as she is being supported to go to school thanks to a project funded by Sport Relief. We would like to help other children like Ramatu go to school as well.

Please send in your **£5 or £7** donations during the week in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front and Timmy will collect together all of your envelopes to be sent into Sport Relief with the very special slip we have. Our very own **"Woolly Jumpers"** will be walking down to our local Natwest Branch to pay in all the money we are able to raise at the end of the month.

We have 100's of stickers and a bag full of Sport Relief balloons to give out during the week, to our best **"Woolly Jumpers"**

WE'RE BEING WOOLLY JUMPERS FOR SPORT RELIEF

Spring Term Topics

Spring Term 2 - This half term we will be using a range of themes as the basis for our activities and learning. We will be particularly focusing on the following:

- Kings and Queens (Half Term Project)
- St. David's Day
- Shrove Tuesday
- People Who Help Us - including visits from Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service and Police Force
- World Book Week
- Travel and Transport
- Sport Relief 2014
- Mother's Day
- Easter

As well as planned activities, we will also be noting, and following, the children's interests - who knows where that might lead us!

If you have any items at home that you would like to loan us to help extend these topics with the children we would be very grateful, we shall take very good care of them and return them once we have used them thank you. Remember to look in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet, for your child's own personal copy of their **Next Steps** which will be stapled into your child's you can't miss it, it will be on lilac paper.

Slippers, Artwork and Buggy Storage

In last month's newsletter we mentioned that we had decided that we shall no longer use slippers here and shall send them all home in the children's bags. We have noticed that quite a few pairs are still in the children's bags, please could you remember to remove them, thank you.

It would also be lovely if parents could remember to check their children's bags regularly for any pieces of artwork we have sent home, it's very sad when we often see beautiful things your children has created becoming crushed in your children's bag because they have been forgotten.

Last week we have a very busy week with lots of visitors here at Grafton Childcare, with a visit from the Ambulance service on Tuesday (thank you very much to Boann's and Paddy's Mummy), a visit from the Devon & Somerset's Fire & Rescue Services on Wednesday and a visit from our Community Police Officer on Friday.

In preparation for these visits we have been reflecting on our evacuation procedures here for both children and staff, following an incident the previous week when a member

of staff was unable to open the kitchen door because a parent had left their child's folded buggy partially across the doorway, this is despite our exit doors having very large stickers on them stating "**Do not block entrance**". We are always very happy to store your buggies and prams, however buggies must be folded and stored laying underneath our Parent's Notice board, one on top of the other. It would be helpful if larger prams could be folded and placed on top of our wooden water centre outside the kitchen window, thank you for your continued cooperation. Sadly as we are sure you can all appreciate we have nowhere inside where we can store buggies and prams, so it is always a good idea to ensure you have tucked your rain-cover around them to keep them dry in inclement weather.



Staff Updates

Sadly we have to inform you all that Angela Every will be leaving us at Easter to take up a teaching position at St Christopher's School in Staverton, she will be hugely missed by all of the children and staff and we wish her well in her new teaching post where she will be able to work alongside her husband Miles, which she is greatly looking forward to.

We shall be having a little collection for Angela, so she can buy something for her garden and hopefully remember her time with us fondly, as she is very green fingered. We hope to purchase Angela a Fermoy's Gift Voucher. Any parent's who would like to contribute towards this please pop a small donation into a sealed envelope and tuck it into your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet and we shall whisk it away.

welcome!

In March and April we shall have two new Apprentice's joining us here at Grafton, Emma Newton who will be starting in March will be working four days a week with our 2 year olds and Rebecca Murphy who will be starting in April will be working 2 days with our 2 & 3 year olds and 2 days a week with our under 2's. We wish them both a warm welcome to our little team here at Grafton, we are sure you will all make them feel at home.