



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 26

Welcome to this month's newsletter – it might not feel like Spring just yet but we're crossing our fingers that sunshine is going to appear soon!!

CONGRATULATIONS EMMA

I'm sure most of you will be aware that Emma gave birth to a beautiful baby boy in January, a little earlier than planned! Both mum and baby are doing well and we wish them all the best!

PEOPLE WHO HELP US

Thank you to all of you for a fabulous trip to the fire station last month – the children had a fabulous time, and we really appreciate the effort our families made to come along! We also had a fab visit from the Royal Engineers which the children loved!

A big thank you goes to the team at Holsworthy Fire Station and Kris Jewitt and his colleagues from the Royal Engineers.

A WELL DONE TO OUR LITTLE LISTENERS!

A big well done goes to our children who recently took part in our sponsored read with Usborne Books! Between you you raised over £220 in sponsorship funds! Thank you to those of you who also supported our pop up book shop, purchased from our book basket in setting or placed an order online. With all totals combined, and the free spend we've received from Usborne Books we've been able to place an order for over **£550 worth of books!** Which is AMAZING!

We're very excited to receive them and will share some photos – thank you so much to Charlotte Brown, Usborne Partner for all her help and support!! It was also brilliant to see lots of you dressed up for WORLD BOOK DAY!

STAY & PLAY

Our stay and play session this month is on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 18th** and runs from 1.30 – 3pm. It's a great opportunity for little ones and their grown ups to get a taste of what Sallywags is all about! Come and meet the team and let your children enjoy freeplay. Session costs £2 per child. Current Sallywags are also welcome if it's not their normal day.

FEES & FUNDING

You will all have received a separate letter with more details but following our annual fees & funding review the committee has made the decision to raise fees which will apply from April 1st. As I'm sure you all appreciate costs are still rising across the board. Any questions, then please speak to Pennie.

SCALLYWAGS DIARY

APRIL

2nd – Easter Egg Hunt

3rd – 19th EASTER BREAK

20th – Start of Term

MAY

4th – BANK HOLIDAY

25th – 31st HALF TERM

JUNE

1st – Start of Term

TBC – BBQ Bingo

JULY

17th – Last day of Term

17th – End of term Disco (TBC)

OCTOBER 2026

28th – Glass Making Event

We are always open to staggered payment plans and can advise on funding provision you might be entitled to.

**From April 1st our fees will be:
£5.80 per hour for 3 & 4 year olds and £7 per hour for 2 year olds.**

For those of you entitled to funding please remember early application, and reconfirming your entitlement regularly is key to securing funding. Without eligibility codes we cannot claim funding on your behalf, and you will be charged fees. Pennie can assist with any funding questions.

ADMISSIONS

Yet again, we find ourselves the busiest we've ever been at this time of year. This is of course great news that lots of families wish to use us, however it does mean that we are reaching capacity. Therefore, similar to last year we are now closing for new admissions this academic year (other than those already registered for the Summer term). All new applications will be added to our waiting list.

If you were looking to increase hours after the Easter break, please speak to Pennie or Lorraine as soon as possible – spaces in sessions are very limited and priority will be given to those who will be due to start school in September. A reminder that booking forms are requests for hours and not guaranteed until confirmed.

You will have seen we are again actively seeking more staff in order to help provide more places – sadly recruitment in this industry is often challenging. Also, as you are aware we are still looking into the possibility of working with the primary school to enable us to expand both number of places and to accommodate children from 9 months. We are currently waiting on a funding application from the government which will determine what is possible, but we will of course keep you all updated.

FACEBOOK PARENTS GROUP

For our new families or anyone not yet a member – please be aware we have a private closed Facebook group where we often share extra / useful information and often pop reminders up. You cannot find it by searching but please speak to Lorraine, Pennie or Lorna who can send you the link to join. This is for parents and legal guardians only so please do not invite extended family as it will be declined.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to those who have completed this so far, unfortunately the response has been low – only 10 so far – if you haven't had chance to complete this year then please do take a look. The results from this are key in how we can plan for the year ahead and also look at what we're doing right – or perhaps wrong! The QR code is above the signing in desk and you have been sent a link by email, and it's also available on the parents Facebook group. Your feedback is so important to us, and it helps us to ensure we are providing the best service we can. In recent years it's the feedback from surveys that have triggered the introduction of breakfast club and the additional later 'after school' session, which have been a great success!

Contact Us

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Our Team

Lorraine Crocker – Manager,
SENCO, Safeguarding Lead

Jenny Bryant – Deputy Manager,
Deputy Safeguarding

Pennie Channing –
Administrator

Ella Dannan
Tash Lambden
Vicki Bluett
Emma Murphy (Maternity Leave)
Alicia Law
Amanda Harrison –
Early Years Practitioners

25/26 Committee

Lorna Prickett Treacy
Caroline Rutley-Frayne
Stacey Bellamy
Sarah Gliddon
Milly Clifford
Becky Garrad
Megan Brooking
Catherine Chandler

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Registered Charity Number:
1033643

Ofsted registered number:
106369

FUNDRAISING

Thank you to those of you who support our fundraising events. Unfortunately, it is getting harder and harder to raise the much need funds to cover the amount needed annually. Neither the fees we charge, nor the funding rates we can claim off government are enough to cover our expenses – we would rather not pass the extra costs onto our families therefore fundraising is essential.

A separate letter will be coming out soon with details of why fundraising is crucial as well as an online questionnaire to see what you, our families want to see in the way of events. Sadly, we have had multiple events in the past 12 months where no Scallywags' families have supported them (other than the committee members involved in the organisation). Our most recent Bingo, normally our biggest event of the year brought in less than a 1/3 of our usual income. Further events have had to be postponed as we cannot staff them or risk poor turnout.

We completely understand the financial pressures affecting us all in recent years, but support does not only have to come in the form of money – we are always really grateful for any help to run events – whether its selling cakes, helping a the discos and making teas and coffees! We also always appreciate any help with advertising the events – putting up posters or sharing the event across social media – it all really helps

Challenge 2026 & Big Breakfast – Temporarily Postponed

EASTER EGG HUNT – THURSDAY APRIL 2nd

We've had a word with the Easter bunny and our Easter egg hunt will return this year on Thursday 2nd April from 3.30pm – 5pm. As always it will be open to all local children from little ones right up to Year 6.

We're looking for 2-3 extra grown-ups to help with this year's event - from 3.15ish until 5pm. Having the extra helpers will determine if we can go ahead, so please let us know if you're able to help

We'll be serving up delicious bacon baps again and we're also looking for tasty and delicious cakes! Homemade or store bought are absolutely fine! (please include an ingredients list with all homemade items and leave store bought in all original packaging - thank you!)

We are also hoping to hold a small Easter themed raffle so any donations for that would be gratefully received.

HALWILL PARISH HALL

The hall is vital to Scallywags – as you know, and we use it a lot for our events as well as when we have busier sessions or extremely bad weather! The hall committee (chaired by our very own Pennie) are currently fundraising for a big project to enable the hall to lower the ceiling and therefore improve the heating – something which we will all benefit from! This comes at a huge cost, and they've worked really hard to fundraise for it. They are currently holding an Easter Draw with some top-notch prizes – tickets are £2 each and are available directly from Pennie or any of the hall committee and will be available to buy at the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank-you.

Lorna & The Team at Scallywags

How you can help us fundraise!

Don't forget you can support us every time you shop online with [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk).

Simply set up and account – choose us as your cause and then visit hundreds of your favourite websites, via the easy fundraising app and we will get an extra cashback donation with no extra cost to you!

As of 2025 you can now add in-store donations! If you regularly shop in stores and pay with Apple or Google pay, then please download the easy fundraising app where you can link cards and we will also get a donation every time you pay in person too!

Its and simple way to support us without it costing you anything!

Scan the below code to view our supports page & sign up;

