



## Parents Newsletter - March 2017

### Contents:

- News from the children's rooms
- Celebration dates for your diaries
- News from Gill
- Staff news
- Reminders

## News from the children's rooms

### ❖ Baby Room

We have been celebrating Valentines' day by having an exciting "Valentines" themed week. We had lots of fun exploring and investigating the pink play dough with heart shaped cutters, making patterns and hearts. We made beautiful heart shaped pictures for Valentine cards using different textured tissue paper, sparkly paint and glue.



And we got very messy making some yummy heart cakes together!!

For Easter time in babies we will be having an Easter themed activities such as Easter egg hunts, decorating Easter biscuits and making our own eggs. We will also provide you with the opportunity to look through your child's profile and have a chat with your key worker.

### ❖ Toddler Room

We are in the process of creating a book for parents and Ofsted to demonstrate how we involve children of all ages in celebrating different cultures.

We celebrated the Chinese New Year by making paper lanterns, dragons and performed a dragon dance in the garden.



We also celebrated pancake day and for St. David's day we made daffodil pictures.



We know the children feel really proud when they can give their mums and dads their creations when they go home.

Soon we'll be celebrating Book Day over the week and it would be great if the children could come to Nursery dressed as their favourite book character and bring some of their favourite books with them to read with us

Later on, we're planning to celebrate Red Nose Day by making some cakes with the children to sell and raise money. We will also be face painting in the room and may have the staff pretending to be babies so that the toddlers can 'show off' their caring skills.

Leading up to Easter we will be making Easter Baskets to take home, and have an Easter Egg Hunt – using paper eggs to encourage counting and supporting their maths development.

### ❖ Ladybird Room

In March, we will continue with our topic on the five senses, learning next about the senses of sound, smell and taste. After this we will begin a new spring related topic, starting with "Growth". We will be celebrating St. David's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Mother's Day.

In April the children will celebrate Easter and St. George's Day. We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt to which the parents are invited to join us, followed by a chance to look at the children's Learning diaries on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm.

### ❖ Pre-school Room

This month, the Pre-school children have been developing their understanding of mathematical concepts such as more or less. They've been participating in adult led activities where they've been able to explore a variety of resources and learning different ways to count and problem solve with objects, such as adding, taking away and looking at differences.

One adult led activity was a group of children were sat at the front gate observing the vehicles on the road. The children collected their results on a chart and to conclude we discussed our findings, which category has more or less.





At Easter we will be asking parents to help their child make an Easter bonnet and parade it at our Easter parade where parents will be invited to see their child sing some songs. Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2.15pm.

### Upcoming events in Pre-school

We will be focusing on re-cycling and the environment. Through a range of activities, the children will learn the importance of re-cycling and what happens if we don't. We feel it is very important for children at this age to be educated and make a difference to the world we live in.

With spring approaching, we shall look at the early signs of spring and a close look at our new meadow grass and help the children understand how meadow grass is a vital habitat for future generations.

#### ❖ Celebration dates for your diaries

Mother's day – 26th March  
St. Patrick's day – 17th March  
Easter Sunday – 16th April

Red nose day on the 24th March we will have a week of fun and games and hopefully raise some money. On the day itself we will be having a silly dressing day.

The 6th March is "World Book" day but we will be extending the day to the whole week so that all the children can take part. We are inviting children to bring their favourite book in and dress up as their favourite character.

#### ❖ News from Gill

I'm really pleased to let you know that the children's visits to Willow Bank are continuing with the next planned date arranged for 3rd May 2017.

During our last visit we took the dragon the children had made as part of their Chinese New Year celebrations and performed their dragon dance to the delight of the residents.

One of our parents, Natalie Veale, runs a Mother and Baby choir and has offered to teach our children some new songs and come along with us to Willow Bank with her choir.

These visits will continue to take place on either Monday / Wednesday / Friday to allow for as many pre-school children to be involved as possible. The residents make us all feel very welcome and provide refreshments for the children and let them play on the keyboard and pool table! The residents tell us that they always look forward to our visits and the children are now becoming confident to engage with them. It's really pleasing to learn that the residents look forward to our visits and that it gives them new topics of conversation after we have left!

It is really heart warming to see some of the youngest and eldest members of society socialising and enjoying each other's company.



## Staff news

We bid a sad farewell to Louise Pickard who has been with us for 7 years, most recently as Baby Room Leader. Louise has left us to move nearer her family and we wish her every success in her new role.

Helen has joined us as the new Baby Room Leader. Helen has plenty of previous experience working with babies and I'm sure she will share some new initiatives with us over the coming months.

We have also said farewell to Katie Hegedus, who initially joined us as an 'as and when' employee but quickly became an established member of the team. Katie has left us to work in Budapest and we wish her every success in her new role.

Jenny Staples has joined us primarily as Admin Support, although on occasions she may help out at lunchtimes and in the rooms as he has experience of this in her previous setting. Please do introduce yourself to her as she may well be the person answering the phone and it's sometimes useful to be able to picture the person you are speaking to.

And a welcome back to Chelsie Harding, who has been away on maternity leave. Sadly, Chelsie has decided to take up a term time position in another setting and will be departing soon. We wish Chelsie and her family all the very best. Chelsie has worked with us for 8 years.

We are recruiting replacements and as soon as I can I will announce our new staff and give you some information on their background.

### ❖ Reminders

And finally, no newsletter would be complete without reminders:

- Please do not park across our neighbour's driveways or on the small drive to the rear of the Nursery.
- Please make sure that you arrive by 5.35pm if you would like to receive feedback on your child's day. This allows time to speak to you before the Nursery closes at 5.45pm
- Please ensure that a member of staff accompanies you to the door when leaving the premises so that we can maintain security by locking the door behind you.
- Please note you are able to view your child's Learning Diary at any time please ask your Key Person who will arrange for you to come in earlier before you pick up your child.
- Please do not use your mobile phones in the Nursery.

Susan Papier  
**Proprietor**