

**WELCOME TO SPRING ... and the beginning of a new decade!** It's been lovely to hear all about how much the children have enjoyed Christmas, and I hope that you all had a lovely break with your families!



## New Arrivals – Welcome to the world and to nursery

- Myself & the rest of the team would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome all of the new children & their families – both those who have joined us in recent months and those who will be joining us over the rest of this term. We are extremely happy to have you here and we know that you will all enjoy your time here at our lovely nursery.
- I would also like to officially welcome our two newest staff members – Ellie who joined us in preschool in November and Ben who started with us last week, covering Lauren's maternity. We would also like to officially welcome Seman, Leah and Elly who have joined our ever-fluid bank staff team. All of our new teachers are building strong relationships with the children, staff and parents and have settled in really well.
- We can also share the lovely news that Lauren G has given birth to a beautiful **baby girl** – a week early! Her name is Hollie and both baby and mom are both doing really well!
- Although they haven't arrived yet, we have lots of families expecting babies over the coming term as well as our lovely office administrator Marie-Claire who is due to have her second child in June – we wish all of you the best of luck and are looking forward to hearing your happy news and meeting your new additions!

## A Successful Christmas

Christmas at nursery is always lovely and this year was incredibly smooth and enjoyable for all! The children had a wonderful time preparing for and singing at the Christmas Gathering with their families and of course Santa's visit to their party was an exciting experience for them all! Dave's Christmas dinner went down extremely well as always - by children and staff alike - and I think everyone had fun with the crackers! Thank you also for all of the lovely cards and gifts we received.

## Ofsted!

We are GOOD!! As you all know we were inspected just before Christmas - we really didn't think they'd come that close to Christmas!... but they did, and we're glad! It was lovely for us all to have a well-deserved break afterward too. We are very proud of everyone and so happy to have achieved a 'GOOD'. We don't rely solely on Ofsted's feedback from their one-day snapshot (*we know* how lovely our setting is, how happy the children are and how assured you are as parents from the day-to-day interactions that take place), but it really was great to spend the day with the inspector, hear all of her lovely feedback (of which she has tried to include as much as she can using the very small word-count of her report), and of course to get a deserved 'official GOOD grading' that we can now be proud of going forward.



I know I've already said it, but I just want to give one final CONGRATULATIONS to the whole team and another thank you to all of our wonderful parents and carers who provided written feedback – we were quite overwhelmed by how many of you sent in words of encouragement and your opinions for the inspector – they were a great support to us all on the day and the inspector thoroughly read them all so thank you for your efforts.



## Parent Survey

As parents and carers of the children who are the very reason that we do what we do, your voices and opinions are held in very high regard as you know. It is therefore important for us to present opportunities for you to share your thoughts and feelings. In the next few weeks you will receive a parent survey for you to complete – we tried moving this process online last year but didn't get a very high completion rate, so have decided to go back to hard-copy surveys. Once your surveys have been returned, we will analyse the data and send out a response letter to you all. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this.

## Parent Forum

As the spring term is such a short one and there is so much going on this year, we have decided that we will not be holding a parent forum this term. The summer term parent forum however, will be much earlier in the term so it shouldn't feel like there is too much of a gap.

For those of you that are not aware, our termly parent forum is a great opportunity for us to come together informally to chat about matters that are important to you, and to share ideas and any inspirations that you may have to further enhance the children's experience here at nursery. This gives you as parents and carers a voice to enable you to contribute to decisions made, and to ensure that we are providing a high level of care and development for your children. After the meeting, the minutes are collated and shared with all parents to keep everyone in the loop.

On that note, we are still looking for parent reps for each of the rooms so if you would be interested, please let us know - the only requirement is that you are willing to attend the termly forum as a representative of your child's room. You would, of course, be able to opt-out of this position at any time.

## Parent Workshop

Last term we held a parent workshop about supporting your child's speech and language skills. It was a great success and so we have decided to hold another one this term. We asked for suggestions and a few of you have requested that we do one around eating. Our workshop '**Focus on Food**' will be held on **Thursday 19th March**. If you would like to attend, please let us know so that we can reserve your space. You are welcome to bring your child but again if you could let us know with as much notice as possible, it will allow us to prepare adequately.



## Kindergarten/Preschool Dance Class

After much deliberation, we have decided not to continue our kindergarten & preschool dance classes this term. Jodie has worked wonderfully with our setting for many years and she will be missed. However, the team have been working closely with her for a long time too and will continue to provide dance sessions for the children across the week so they will still get all of the benefits. Luke from Active Adventures will still be continuing with us in kindergarten & preschool for the foreseeable future, as will Nicola who does her tiny-talk session with the babies and toddlers.

## Nursery Defibrillator

As it stands, if you were to have a heart-attack outside of a hospital you have approximately a 6% chance of survival in our country. However, if a defibrillator is used within 3-5 minutes of cardiac arrest, your chance of survival increases to 74%. As a result, many public places now have an accessible defibrillator and First-Aid training courses have been updated to include the use of one.



With regards to children, the statistics for nurseries are unknown but 270 children die in the UK every year after suffering a Sudden Cardiac Arrest at school. As we have around 110 children and adults using nursery every day, we think it would be a good idea for us to have a defibrillator on site. A defibrillator with adult and child-sized pads costs around £1,280.40 and we are asking for contributions towards the cost for this from yourselves and from members of the local community because they will also be able to access it if needed. If you would like to make a contribution, please go to our just-giving page which we will send to you in a separate email in the next few days. We will also be holding a '**Heart Awareness Week**' during **w/c 16th March** where we will be raising money with the children through different activities.

## Sponsored Read

Two years ago, we did the Usborne sponsored read at nursery. It was a huge success – the children loved it, many of you commented that it had boosted the amount that you read with your little ones at home and we raised £400 for new books at nursery from Usborne! We would like to do the sponsored read at nursery again because the benefits to our families was great, but we don't need any more books as it stands so we are going to donate the books that we get to a local women's refuge. The sponsored read will be taking place **w/c 2nd March** (World Book Day is the **5th March**) and we will send more information out about how you can get involved, near the time.



# ALSO...

## **Employee of the Month**

Many thanks to everyone who has nominated a member of staff and recognised their hard work this last term – it's great when parents take the time to recognise the efforts of the team in writing. Please do continue to make your nominations by email and look out for the winner's certificate displayed on the entrance noticeboard each month.



## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

**Thursday 5th March 2020**

**Fancy Dress** - Children are invited to come into Nursery dressed as *Their favourite book character* – the children can also bring in their **favourite book** to show their friends during the day.

Our Sponsored read will also be taking place this week  
- **w/c 2th March 2020**

## **Stay and Play**

Stay and play this term will be

**w/c 17th February 2020**

**This is an invite to all parents and grandparents** - Please email us to arrange an appointment. If this week does not suit you, please let us know and we will arrange another time for you

- you are always welcome to come and play!

## **Reminders for Everyone**

Please pack the following in your child's bag:

- A couple of changes of clothes in case of accidents, water play, messy play or a messy lunch time.
- Enough nappies and wipes to get them through the day
- Drink bottle for your child to use throughout the day – this will then be sent home at the end of the day.

We also request that you **label all of your child's clothing and shoes**. Especially with the older children being more independent with their belongings, this really helps us to be able to identify items that may go missing.

## **Dates for your Diary**

w/c 17th Feb – **Stay and Play**

w/c 2nd March – **Sponsored Read Week**

5th March – **World Book Day (Fancy Dress)**

w/c 16th March – **Heart Awareness Week**

19th March – **'Focus on Food' Workshop**

2nd April – **Parent's Evening**

10th April – **Good Friday (Nursery Closed)**

13th April – **Easter Monday (Nursery Closed)**

## **Song and Story Sacks**

Just a gentle reminder to ensure that you sign these out and in again when you borrow them – it's so great to see that so many of you use them, but please remember that they take a long time to create and we need to be able to keep track of them. ☺

## **Parent's Evening**

This term's parent's evening will be held on:

**Thursday 2nd April 2020**

Please make an appointment by adding your child's name to the chart on their playroom door beside your chosen time in the weeks leading up to the parent's evening.

## **Room News...**

**Babies:** Happy new year from baby room – we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! As we enter a new term, we wave goodbye to Alexander, Oliver and Annabelle, we wish you all the best in your new adventure! We also give a big warm welcome to Orla, Summer and Tobias to our room! Last term we explored different seasonal and natural objects including leaf printing, pinecones, cinnamon sticks and we also ventured into seasonal food tasting! We will be starting this term off by looking at books in all their glorious form! – getting as much from each story we focus on as possible! If your child has a favourite story, please let us know and we'll be sure to include it in our plans. Sophie and Sian

**Toddlers:** We would like to take this opportunity to say a big welcome to all of our new children and their families – we're very happy to have you with us!

Over the last term we have been learning about 'Superheroes in our World'. In Toddlers our main focus was to begin to build an understanding of different occupations and how these people help us. To enhance our children's learning, we set up different role play areas and gave the children the opportunity to explore this topic more through different activities and going on trips (e.g. we went to the shop, the doctor's and the pharmacy).

Toddlers also enjoyed celebrating Christmas of course! We had many wonderful activities that the children loved such as Christmas tuff trays, baking, food tasting and parties with a visit from Santa! It was really lovely to see many of our children begin to grasp the concept of wrapping, giving and opening presents!

In the spring term, we will be looking at a wide variety of different books in our new topic 'Once Upon a Time'. We will be following the children's interests to provide a range of stimulating and exciting activities for them to take part in that are related to familiar stories. If your child has a favourite story, please let us know or bring it in with them and they can show their friends at nursery! As well as this, we will be focusing on introducing lots of new words and vocabulary through the stories we read, further supporting the children's communication and language.

**Kindergarten:** Firstly, we would like to give a big welcome to Ben and our new children who have moved up from toddler's! And we would also like to wish Lauren G all the best!

Last term we learnt about 'Superheroes in our World'. We had a room mascot throughout the topic called "SuperTed" who the children loved having by their side while they played. We learnt about doctors, vets and firemen - we explored these occupations in a range of ways through role play, tuff trays and cooking animal biscuits for the charity 'Peppers Pet Rescue'. We were also superheroes ourselves when we went on a trip to Asda to buy food and donated it to the local food bank!

In preparation for Christmas we were very creative making things for our folders, we focussed our learning on maths and scissor control also practicing active learning, playing and exploring and concentrating for short periods of time. The children have also really enjoyed being outside during free-flow and splashing in the puddles in their puddle-suits and wellies!

This term we will be looking at lots of books and stories and taking part in activities linked to these that cover the 7 areas of learning.

**Preschool:** A big welcome to the new year and a new theme in Preschool!

Before Christmas, our topic was 'Superheroes in our World' which the children were really engaged in and learnt lots through! They especially enjoyed making their friends better in their role-play doctor's surgery and their visit to the crossing patrol officer, which they talked about lots afterwards! The children also learnt about helping others with our reverse advent calendar, where they raised money for a local charity - Mission Christmas... we went to the shops on the bus and chose presents for the children. For some of our children, this was their first experience on a bus! We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind donations.

In December, the children worked hard in preparation for Christmas - we focused on the real meaning of Christmas and even had a visit from our local church who told us the story with music and drama. The children were then able to extend their learning through our nativity tuff tray. To celebrate Christmas, we held our annual family gathering, this was a huge success with many parents joining us for the occasion. The children really enjoyed sharing the songs they had practiced with you all and we hope you enjoyed the homemade mince pies!

We would also like to tell you that many of our children are making great progress with their pencil control. Each child now has their own workbook where they can draw pictures and practice their writing, showing the progress as they go through the year.

For the spring term, we have started working with the theme of 'Once Upon a Time' and in the coming weeks we have lots of exciting activities planned for the children. A few of these include a 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' tuff tray, Pirate Week where we will be creating our own treasure maps (amongst other things) and water play around 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. Throughout our topic, we would love it if the children could bring in stories from home to share with their friends at nursery!