



- Summer Term Newsletter 2019



Why we are different

Our ethos is based on the 'Forest School' ethos *and* the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Children aged two-to-five, immerse themselves in a long-term programme, where they have the freedom to learn in an *outdoor setting*. They are encouraged to use their experiences to improve and maintain their well-being. Children choose where, what and how to play and learn, learning observed, supported and progressed, by fully trained professionals. Children learn to manage their own risks and reflect on how their feelings change over time. This holistic approach results in increased self-esteem and better mental health which enables them to continue to succeed when they move on to their next learning environment.



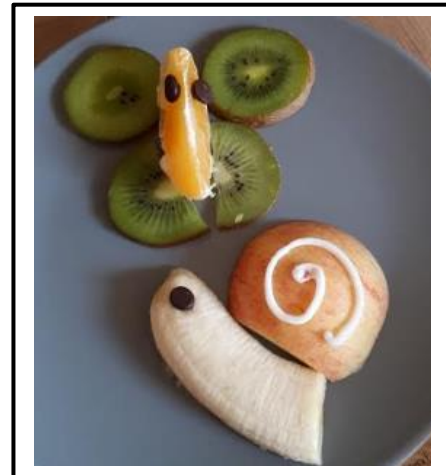
This term

We have planted lots of seeds and watched them grow into small plants ready to plant out into our veg beds and containers. The potatoes are now in the ground & we are looking after our courgettes, nasturtiums, tomatoes and broad beans. Thank you to our very generous parents who have donated wine crates to use as planters and a tyre which is now planted up with spring flowers! Also for the wooden pirate ship complete with a selection of pirates!

We have made chocolate Easter nests, made Easter cards and shared books and games that are Easter/Spring themed.

We have been looking for signs of spring around our site and on nature walks locally

We are also thrilled to tell you that we were visited by an AVDC environmental health officer and were given a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 ~ Very Good! The highest score possible.



Feedback for Parents

We are now using Tapestry for recording observations and tracking the children's progress with regard to the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. All our photos will also be uploaded to this system and parents will have access to these. This system will soon supersede the daily WhatsApp and weekly Facebook updates.

Most of our parents took up our offer of a 'parents meeting', but please remember that if you have any issues, worries or concerns we would rather you discussed these with us as they arise rather than waiting for the next 'parents meeting'. This is a two-way thing and we would like to reassure you that if we have any concerns regarding your child we will speak to you as necessary.

Staffing

We are absolutely delighted to be able to announce that Hannah is joining our team as a permanent member of staff. She is joined by Emily who has also been working with us in a temporary capacity. Both Hannah & Emily have rapidly become part of our Shepherd's Hut team and developed a good rapport with the children, staff and parents alike.

We are also pleased to inform you that Kim has successfully completed her course at Manchester University and is now a Therapeutic Forest School Practitioner...well done Kim!

