

# NEWSLETTER - SPRING 1



Firstly, we must say "welcome" to our new parent/carers and reassure you how well the children have settled. It's been wonderful to see new little faces in the baby barn and getting to know them. All the children who left the baby barn are coping well with new routines and it's lovely to see the older children looking after them when they're moving around the site.

The children have been so busy since they've been back. We had heavy frosts some mornings and turned this into a valuable learning opportunity. The children were able to mark-make in the frost, which encourages pre-writing skills. Christmas trees were donated to us, the children used scissors to cut the smaller twigs and loppers to cut the bigger branches. The branches were used for den building and camouflaging our hedgehog house. These activities use and develop children's fine and gross motor skills, creativity and working cooperatively. Using tools in this way also helps children to understand risk management and the importance of following simple instructions.

With the cold weather, the children learnt about the different ways we can look after our wildlife during the winter months. They made several designs of bird feeders and dotted them around the site. There was a lot of excitement when the birds started to feed from them. We spotted long-tailed tits, blue-tits and a couple of robins. We also have a cheeky squirrel who loves to eat the food from the feeder by the fire circle.

Chinese New Year was celebrated by the children. They learnt how to use chopsticks, ate Chinese food and even tried green tea and Jasmine tea, which went down a storm. We shared books about Chinese New Year, stories, songs and even tried some writing.

By using different types of mirrors, we have been thinking about our emotions. By labelling our feelings, children can understand that it is OK to have emotions. It's what we do with those feelings that matter, for example, it's normal to feel angry at times, but this does not allow us to hit or lash out at others. We used clay to make faces depicting different emotions and read stories to go along with the theme.

We have lots to explore in the next few weeks, which will include the following:

\*Random act of kindness\*

\*Pancake Day\*

\*Signs of Spring\*

\*Recycling\*

\*Poetry\*

\*Water Day\*

### ***Nursery News***

- Please remember to label all items of clothing, water bottles etc.
- If your child sleeps during the day, please provide them with a blanket which will be returned at the end of the day. (This is an important part of our COVID policy).
- The days are being a little kinder to us, however it is still chilly and layering your child's clothes is the best way to keep them warm. Suitable winter socks are a must. Slippers are to be provided for indoor use and need to be checked regularly for size, it's amazing how fast children grow.
- Please also remember we are a NUT FREE setting. Just today, two children had products containing nuts in their lunch boxes. These items are always returned home unopened as we do not offer them to the children.

### ***Goodbye & Hello...***

We are sad to say goodbye to Amber and Ellen, but welcome three new members of staff. You may already have met Fiona and Abigale. Lauren will be starting with us in March. All have years of experience and are fully qualified. Key persons will be allocated shortly, but please do not worry as we all care for each individual child and pass on any information between staff as necessary. We will also welcome Katie in April. Katie is a student teacher and will be on placement with us until the end of May.

### ***Easter Holiday Club***

You should have had an email regarding the holiday club bookings system. Children currently attending the nursery take priority. However, after the deadline date the booking system goes live to the public and it is very popular. **DON'T MISS OUT ON A SPACE.**

#### **Easter Holiday Dates:**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

***Please note we are closed for Bank Holidays and staff training.***