



January 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a cold and frosty January! The children have settled back quickly into the nursery routine and are ready and keen to learn. A very warm welcome to the children who have joined us. They are settling well too and building relationships with their key person and the team in the nursery. Our team of Lead Practitioners take it in turns to open the door each day:

- Monday: Michelle Holmes
- Tuesday: Jane Wardner
- Wednesday: Karen Hooper
- Thursday: Debra Redpath
- Friday: Sue Evans

### Parents Evening

Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March between 4.00pm and 7.45pm.

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Fox, Hedgehog, Rabbit, Owl, Dragonfly\*
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March: Squirrel, Bumble Bee, Frog, Ladybird, Snail, Mouse\*

### What's happening in The Hive?

Each week a summary is produced of the learning opportunities that will be available for the children that week. It is placed on the board near our Family Room and is also on our website (see quick links section on the "home page"). It will also be sent to you via email. If you are not receiving information from us please ask at the office. A text will be sent out to let you know an email has been sent. A hard copy is kept on the front desk. Please check this page every week as it will keep you up to date on what the children are learning!

Our midterm planning is linked to the rhythm of the year including seasons and celebrations. The learning in the nursery is all about winter. Presently the children are learning about birds and the importance of feeding them. They are making fat balls for them to eat and bird feeders from recycled containers. They are researching winter vegetables and cooking with them. The majority of our learning is taken from the children's interests and the children are already sharing their interests with us. These include a strong interest in mermaids and bats. We are busily researching with the children and learning lots of new facts ourselves.

### Forest School

All children in the Hive have a session in the forest every fortnight. Forest School is led by our qualified Forest School leaders Sue Evans and Dawn White. Take time to look at the photographs on the board to see what the children are learning. Please send your child in appropriate forest clothes. Our wet suits are waterproof but due to the changeable weather we have been having, the children do still sometimes get wet. We would be grateful if you could send some spare trousers and socks to nursery with your child. Thank you to everyone who has sent a £2 contribution towards boots which are worn daily and soon wear out. We are grateful for your contributions. Children are provided with hats, gloves and wet suits in the forest.

### **Outdoor Clothing**

Please send your child with warm clothing in the cold weather. We do not have enough hats and gloves for all the children and would be grateful if you could provide your child with these items in the cold weather.

### **Letters and Sounds**

Letters and Sounds is a programme which aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children. There are six overlapping phases which start in nursery and reception and continue until Year 2 and beyond. Phase 1 activities are divided up into seven aspects which include environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, oral blending and segmenting. The children have already started to participate in this programme and it will continue this term.

### **Library**

The children are enjoying spending time in the library with Elaine our Literacy Co-ordinator. Your child should be bringing home a book bag regularly. If not please speak to Elaine or your child's key person. We focus on a different author each month. Author of the month for January is Nick Sharratt. All family groups have an opportunity to visit Bridgemary Library on a Tuesday morning. You will be given a letter when it is your child's turn. The ratio for these trips is 2:1 and we would be grateful if you could help on these visits. Your child's key person will let you know when it is your turn.

**World Book Day:** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. More details to follow.

### **Living Things Area in the Chestnut Room**

We now have two guinea pigs; Lello and Lola. We also have Alan the snail and one stick insect and some fish. Each family group takes responsibility for the pets for a week. The children have built a bird hide in the garden so they can observe the birds and count how many different birds we have in our garden and forest.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Christmas fundraising events. We are pleased to inform you that we raised the following:

Carols in the Car Park - £57.15

Santa Walk - £174.70

### **Snack Money**

**Just a reminder that snack/fruit money this term is £1 per week or £7 for the half term.** This money is essential for providing a wide range of ingredients for cooking (including forest school cooking) for the children and allows for many cookery ingredients to be paid for. Please give your donations to your child's key person or the office. Fruit is very expensive and we rely on your donations to provide the children with a healthy snack.

### **Snacks in Nursery**

Some children are bringing their own snacks to nursery. We do provide children with a healthy choice of snack and would appreciate it if children do not bring snacks to nursery as we have a large number of children with allergies. We are a healthy eating nursery and ask that you do not send chocolate or sweets in your child's lunch box.

## Coats

We apologise if we have mislaid any coats, hats, gloves or scarves. We do have systems in place to help the children put their belongings back safely and will support the children with this. Please could you label your child's coat, hat, scarves and gloves with their names as we do have lots of 'George' coats! Could you ensure that you send spare clothes with your child? We do provide spare clothes but are frequently running out of pants, socks and trousers as they are not always returned.

## Medicine

If you bring medicine for your child to nursery please ensure it is clearly labelled and given to your child's key person not left in your child's bag. If your child has medicine administered at nursery you are responsible for signing the medication form in the office each day. Thank you for your co – operation.

## Tapestry

If you are still not live with your Tapestry account please ask a member of the office for a Tapestry permission slip. We hope you enjoy reading about your child's time in nursery. Please do add any comments to your child's observation or learning story. We love reading your responses.

## Dates for Diary

- **Half term** - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February
- **Parents evening** - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March (4pm – 7.45pm)
- **Living Eggs Project** - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- **World Book Day** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017
- **End of Term** – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Summer Term starts Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April
- **Inset day** (staff training) Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February Whole Centre closed
- **Centre closed for Easter** – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- **Dates for your diary** - Spring Celebration in the Forest – dates to follow

Thank you for your continuing support

Best wishes

*Karen Hooper*

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