



Newsletter February 2016

Signing in am/ pm

Please can we stress the importance of this as we use the additional registration for management in accordance with the individual room registers completed by the practitioners? This also links to the need of indoor shoes/slippers when walking to the garden during a drill.

Thank you to all the parents who have returned their updated registration forms. If you still have not returned your registration form can you please return it ASAP. As soon as all the forms are entered onto the new database we can begin the transition to the electronic learning journeys with FirstSteps. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Many thanks, Keeley and Faye.

Tiddlers and Seahorses



We would like to welcome all our new friends to the Tiddler and Seahorse rooms - we are very excited for them to join us in lots of nursery fun!

This month we will be doing lots of exploring with our senses, which will involve different materials in our tactile tray. This will include getting messy with pancake ingredients on Shrove Tuesday! We will also be exploring sensory

lights and creating lanterns for the Chinese New Year and the lantern festival. This will provide us with the opportunity to extend our mark making and creative skills, as well as developing an interest in awareness of colour. We will use these creative skills to make cards and pictures for Valentines Day. We will be



talking about the ones we love and looking at family photos - please could we take this opportunity to ask you all to bring in photos for our family tree display.

Finally, as the weather is becoming nicer, we will be spending more time outside in the garden so may we ask you to bring in coats, wellies, hats and gloves so we can make the most of the outdoor environment which will help extend our Understanding of the World.

Seashells

Seashells are going to be very busy this month as we mark Chinese New Year alongside Valentine's Day and World Thinking day.



To mark the Chinese New Year of the Monkey, we will be making monkey masks so we can all monkey around the room together. This will be developing our physical and social skills plus our Understanding of the World.

For Valentine's Day we will be making some special cards along with a 'sweet treat' for all of our Mummies and Daddies. This will help develop our fine motor and Maths skills.





Later in the month is World Thinking Day and we will be marking it with a display of all our handprints, and also, with a little help from you! a photo of each seashell child so we can all see each other and discuss how we are friends. This will help our social skills along with our Understanding of the World.

Starfish

This month we would like to say hello to our new friends Logan, Jack and Lincoln. Hope you enjoy the starfish room; we know you will make lots of friends.



This February we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year. Our role play area will be a Chinese takeaway, which will enhance our PSED, fine motor and Understanding of the World skills. We are going to use our creative skills to make a friendly Chinese dragon and some lucky red envelopes.

We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes and having pancake races in the garden!

After our busy activities, we will be sitting down to make Valentines cards for our loved ones. We will also be making big and small hearts then baking heart shaped cookies followed by messy play with red jelly! This enhances our EAD skills, along with Colour of the Month, which is blue; so we will be looking at all things that are this colour.



Finally this month we are concentrating on recognising and writing the letters in our name in preparation for progress to pre-school. Can we also ask parents to encourage their child's independence in putting on their own shoes and coats which will additionally help with their progression. Thank you!

Preschool

Last month we welcomed back Carlota to the pre-school room. Carlota previously joined our pre-school as room leader and has just returned from maternity leave - we are looking forward to the additional aspects of learning she will bring to the room.

Topics

Our topic this month is 'Save the Earth'. We will be broadening our Understanding of the World by learning about re-cycling, saving water and good practices that help the environment such as using paper on both sides (as many of you know, we get through a LOT of paper in pre-school!). We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year of the monkey with a



variety of creative activities such as Chinese lanterns, money pockets, Chinese dragons and monkey masks as well as decorative wall hangings. This will enable self-selection of a variety of media and materials to enhance

effective learning and encourage EAD skills and PD skills as they manipulate different tools as well as Understanding of the World as they learn about a different culture. We will be looking forward to eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and



making pancakes from playdough. Valentine's Day sees us making dough hearts and cards for our chosen loved ones, and having a



'Heart Hunt' in the garden looking for different sized hearts in the



salt

colours of our keygroups!

Role play area



We will be transforming our much loved three bears cottage into a Chinese restaurant, in line with the Chinese New Year. This will enable a wide spectrum of effective learning as they make links across all of the seven areas of prime and specific learning. This will include Communication and Language as they use their PSED skills and their EAD skills to role play together, Maths skills as they count plates and chopsticks, Literacy as they write down food orders and read menus and Understanding of the World as they encounter different foods as they practice their PD skills picking up noodles and rice with the chopsticks!



Letter of the Week



Letter of the week, which forms a strong part of our Literacy development, commences Monday 1st February with E, followed by F, G and H the following weeks. As always, any items you have at home beginning with these letters each week are gratefully received and used on our theme table. This greatly encourages confidence and sense of self-worth when the children have something to show and tell at circle time. Please ensure they are named, and small enough to fit in your child's drawer when we have finished sharing them. Thank you.

Last month we re-introduced the Oxford reading tree books, which are used on entry to school. If you feel your child has a love of books and would like to extend their letter and word recognition, please do let your child's keyworker know, as we are happy to provide simple reading books and a reading record for you to read and complete at home with your child.



Book of the Month



This month our Book of the Month is from the popular Charlie and Lola series and is entitled 'We are Extremely VERY Good Recyclers' by Lauren Child. This links into this month's topic and has proved a favourite choice with our pre-schoolers!

Interests and achievements board,

Each week, we ask that you write down your child's interest or achievement on the interest board situated to the right of the whiteboard on the wall. This helps us in providing for your child's stimulation, aids our planning of the seven areas of learning and also enables us to celebrate your child's achievement which furthers



their PSED skills.

Reminders

- Please ensure your child has a named **WARM** coat, hat and gloves in nursery plus a change of clothes every day.
- Please do remember to check your pouches as you enter and leave pre-school each day. These contain any invoices, letters or information about forthcoming events. Each month you will receive a "Next Steps" slip of paper, which informs you what topic and areas of learning we are covering each month and how you can further aid his or her learning to complement what we are doing at nursery. As well as the newsletters and pouches, please check the Parent Information Board, located just outside the pre-school.
- Please can we remind parents to call and inform us if your child is going to be absent for nursery for any reason. Thank you.
- May we also remind parents to remember to sign both IN and OUT of nursery as the registers are used in the unlikely event of a fire. Thank you.

Acknowledgements

- Thank you so much to all of you who regularly bring books into nursery instead of toys or teddies. The books have been a great success and are read regularly throughout the day as the children can't wait to take them out of their drawers and have them chosen by each other to read. This really broadens their knowledge, enhances their listening skills and fosters a love of books, which we consistently aim to encourage.
- A Big Thank You to several parents who have very kindly donated paper, coloured and textured card for the nursery to use. We use copious amounts during our daily activities (as those in pre-school will know when you empty their trays!) and it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support as always.

Carlota, Sarah, Emma, Kim, Debbie and Tracey

Dates for your diaries



World Book Day Thursday 3th March - come to nursery dressed as your favourite book character and bring a book in for us to share!

That's all for this month!! 😊