



Newsletter December 2016

With Christmas around the corner the children will be enjoying a traditional Christmas lunch on Tuesday 20th December. The menu is on the board in the hallway, we are looking forward to Susan's yearly feast, wearing Christmas hats, and singing Christmas songs.



shutterstock - 104855466

Dates for your diaries: Pre-school walk to church for the Christmas service:

We are walking to the church for our annual Christmas service this month - date to be confirmed as of writing but likely to be on **Tuesday 6, 13 or 20th December**. We will be leaving nursery at 10.00am and aim to be back for 11.00am. As always, parent helpers are very welcome - please see a member of staff if you are able to help walk us there and back. Thank you. If you don't attend nursery on this day, you are welcome to join us there at 10.15 am but may we remind you that you remain responsible for your child.

Pre-school Christmas concert

Please be reminded of our Christmas concert on **Thursday 15th December at 3.30 - 5.00** at the Millennium Hall. As well as previous letters in your pouches, the notice board and the newsletters, please check the front door for further information about this exciting afternoon!

Reminders and requests

- **URGENT REQUEST:** Please may we have any empty tubes and boxes so the children have items to wrap in our Santa's workshop! Also any spare wrapping paper, gift tags and cards would be gratefully received. Thank you in anticipation.
- Please can we remind parents to call and inform us if your child is going to be absent from nursery for any reason. Thank you.
- Please ensure you sign your child both IN and OUT of nursery each day. We need to account for all children at nursery to ensure the safety of your child in the unlikely event we have to evacuate the building for any reason.
- Please can you ensure your child has a NAMED coat, waterproof trousers and wellie boots in nursery as well as a change of clothes

Tiddlers and Seahorses

This December we are looking forward to using our creative skills to make lots of Christmas artwork. We will be developing our fine motor skills by painting and collaging with lots of different coloured glitter. We will be extending this through our tactile exploration of different materials such as tinsel and ribbon. We will further our understanding of the natural world by exploring the garden and watching the weather change with the seasons. As it gets colder we will be looking at ice and bringing it inside to explore in our tactile tray. As the weather is becoming so much colder, please could we ask all parents to bring in suitable outdoor clothing, hats, boots, coats etc.



As we approach Christmas we will be making lots of different treats to take home. We are looking forward to exploring the different textured materials in reindeer food before sprinkling it on our lawn on Christmas Eve. We will also be baking a special treat for Santa! As the theme of Christmas continues we will be extending our

physical development by dancing to festive music; this will also support the continued development of our listening and attention.

Thank you for all of your lovely photos for our family tree display. Please continue to add any new achievements to our flowers as we approach the end of the year. We hope that 2017 brings lots of exciting new milestones too. Merry Christmas from everyone in the baby rooms!

Goldfish

December sees the Goldfish children prepare for Christmas and we will be getting in the festive spirit. We will also be talking about the cold weather and foods we will eat.

The children will work alongside each other using various paint and glitter to create the background for our winter wonderland display. They will then be building their own snowmen and penguins using glue and various shapes of paper. This will link into our maths development as we discuss the shapes we will be using.

The children will be using their senses to explore a range of Christmas textures and smells such as tinsel, pine cones, Brussel sprouts and cinnamon sticks in our tactile area.

Outside, the children will be making bird feed which will link to understanding of the world and helping the birds stay safe and warm throughout the winter months. The children will also be taking part in a Christmas hunt around the garden which will develop their matching skills.

Throughout December we will also be creating many different Christmas surprises. The children will be using their imaginations and can make their own choices of what they would like to do and how to do it. Look out for many Christmas masterpieces in your children's trays.

Seashells



Our three latest arrivals from the goldfish room have settled in very well. Oisin, Digby and Lucy are making new friends and enjoying the independence they now have upstairs and are enjoying making a mess in the art room! This month, seashells will be doing lots of things to mark Christmas. They will be making some special snowman cards and calendars, practising wrapping presents in Santa's grotto, doing some Christmas threading and much more. These activities will be used to develop their fine motor skills, social and communication skills as well as help with colour recognition and understanding of the world. The seashell children have been very busy with art work and their drawers are full so please take a few minutes to check and retrieve their special pictures!



As the weather is turning cold, the children have enjoyed playing with and collecting ice and watching it melt throughout the day. Please can you ensure your child has a hat, coat and gloves along with waterproof suits and wellie boots.

Merry Christmas Seashells!
Kirsty, Hayley and Angel

Starfish

As the nights are getting colder in starfish room we have been looking at the changing season and talking about the winter and the changes that happen at this time of year frost on the ground, birds and animals that hibernate we will be encouraging the children to draw their own hedgehogs. We will be making our own bird feeders to feed the birds in the nursery garden over the winter.

Our book area will be transformed this month into stick man - did anyone guess from the clue in the November newsletter?? Stick man is a lovely story that we're sure the children will enjoy and of course it has a special visitor on Christmas Eve (Santa) it also has a poignant story about finding your way home, we will be making our own stickmen out of twigs and pipe cleaners, size ordering sticks into different sizes, and painting stickmen.



Which leads us into Christmas; our favourite time of the year! The children get very excited at this time of year and are trying their hardest to be good, so Santa will bring them lots of presents. We will be doing lots of arty things this Christmas, making snowmen, Christmas tree printing and counting, and learning some new Christmas songs and making Christmas cards.

Our letter of the month will be letter L and J and the colour of the month is green so hunt out those items of letter sound or colour and bring them in for circle time to share.

A plea from starfish if anyone has any grown out clothing from their children can we please have them ,we are in dire need of spare clothing in case of accidents; all ages of clothing accepted.

And finally everyone in starfish room would like to wish all the parents and children a wonderful Christmas and new year 2017.



Preschool

This December we will all be getting very excited about Christmas! We will be using our EAD skills to get creative by making Christmas cards and exploring the Characteristics of Effective Learning by choosing ways to do things with a variety of media and materials, having our own ideas and making links between different activities relating to Christmas. We will be making calendars and presents by using scissors, glue, glitter, sequins and card and decorating our own baubles and Christmas decorations. We will be expanding our Understanding of the World by comparing Santa in different countries such as 'Pere Noel' in France and 'Dun Che Lao Ren' in China. We will be exploring our Maths skills by experimenting with ice, melting and water experiments and engaging our tactile and sensory senses with shaving foam play.

Role play area

Our role play area always covers all seven areas of the EYFS and this month is no exception. We are going to turn the bike workshop into Santa's workshop! This links in with the month of December and the children's understanding of the World, as well as encourages their PSED and Communication and Language skills as they roleplay with friends. We will introduce Maths skills as they problem solve, count presents and cards, and their Literacy, EAD and PD skills as they write down lists and write Christmas cards and gift tags as well as test their fine motor manipulation as they wrap presents!



Letter of the Week

Letter of the week commences Monday 28th November with V followed by X, Y and Z 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.

Colour of the week The children themselves choose a different colour each week and really enjoy collecting objects of that colour in and around nursery. This encourages their colour recognition and the characteristics of effective learning in making links. Please encourage your child to look for the colour of the week at home, and again, any items from home are welcome for our theme table situated in the first room.



Book of the Month

This month we are continuing our Julia Donaldson theme and have chosen "Stick Man", which links in nicely as the children have been greatly enjoying acting out the story during our Drama beans classes. This will help with their communication and language skills as well as their literacy skills as they read the book and write their own versions of the story. We will be making our own version of the stick family and the stick family tree in the garden!

Interests and achievements board: parent partnerships- We encourage you to 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 and sense of self and links in to the Characteristics of Effective Learning by showing enjoyment at their achievements.

