



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

February is well underway and we are enjoying the mix of winter and spring weather to keep us on our toes whilst we are exploring the garden.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our annual questionnaire. We received 16 responses which have been detailed in our feedback which you will find on the signing-in desk. Our feedback is based on your comments and we will take this into account when creating action plans for our setting. We are always looking for ways to improve our provision so any comments or recommendations you have are always gratefully received. We would very much like to receive more feedback from parents, if possible, so please feel free to add anything on our suggestion slips in reception throughout the year as your feedback is invaluable in allowing us to continue striving forward in the future.

We have begun our maintenance plan for 2018. Both baby rooms floors have been redone, which has lifted the rooms and looks great for our littlest ones to explore and also our kitchen cupboards have had a revamp. Our windows are to be repaired once the weather improves, hopefully, around March time and we have received several quotes for the much needed repair of the car park - this date is to be confirmed.

We are delighted to announce that Hayley (Starfish) has had a healthy baby boy, named William David, weighing 7lb 11oz on Friday 9th February. Both mummy and William are doing really well and we are very excited to meet him. Sharon has now begun her maternity leave (14th February) to have a well-earned rest before her little man arrives.

We would like to welcome Nicola and Emily who are joining the team at the end of February and support the nursery. We will ensure both Nicola and Emily are introduced to you as soon as possible.

Kitchen

Just a reminder, if your child has a birthday coming up and you would like to request a cake, please ask a member of the team with at least one week's notice. These cost £5; please pay in cash when you order. All dietary requirements are catered for. Thank you, Susan.



Tiddlers and Seahorse

Both the Tiddler and Seahorse rooms welcome all of our new friends who have recently started with us and are looking forward to welcoming some more children this month. We are sure our babies that have moved up into the goldfish room will continue to have lots of fun on the rest of their journey throughout the nursery.

As the babies loved the snow so much we have been exploring ice play. We had fun investigating ice in our tactile tray so we could touch, feel and see the ice melt. We used our frozen paints to create collages too.

In Tiddlers and Seahorses we love our tactile activities so are planning on lots of sensory messy play, from baked beans to messy foam. Please could we ask parents for a few pairs of spare clothes for the days it gets very messy.

Along with our activities planned, we will be focussing on our physical development. Our soft play apparatus, walkers and pull along toys will be being used to encourage our babies to use their gross motor skills.

We have been enjoying lots of time exploring the outdoors and had great fun playing in the puddles with our wetsuits and wellies on. The children have shown lots of interest in the music wall outside, using the instruments to make lots of different sounds.

For Valentine's Day we had a sensory and tactile activity to explore, this included water beads with various tools, sensory cubes and art and crafts which will help support our understanding, expressive arts and design and communication and language.



It's the year of the dogs for our Chinese new year. We will be investigating coloured rice, lanterns and chop sticks in our tactile tray to mark this event. As well as practicing our animal sounds we will be looking at stories based on animals. We plan to take every opportunity to enjoy walks around our village to see some animals in their natural habitats

Goldfish

We would like to welcome Edie, Mylo and Owen into the goldfish room and hope they have lots of fun and enjoy their time with us. During January we continued with our winter theme, exploring with pens, paint and various collage materials to create winter pictures. We also did some ice painting and explored the ice in our tactile trays. We extended our knowledge and understanding of the world by celebrating both Australia Day and Burns night. To mark Burns night, we talked about the various foods eaten and explored some of these in our tactile tray and used them to paint with and create a variety of Scottish related pictures.



This month in Goldfish we will be focusing on different animal groups and incorporating them into our art and tactile activities, using various resources such as paint, collage materials, spaghetti and angel delight.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year by playing with rice in our tactile tray and making dog masks to mark the year of the dog.

We will be marking Valentine's Day with a lovely treat for our mummies and daddies, and will finally be enjoying pancakes for snack on Shrove Tuesday.

We would also like to remind our parents to bring in some family photos for us to make into books for the children to enjoy looking through and talking about whilst at nursery. This will help encourage and develop their communication and language skills. As the weather is still cold and wet we would just like to remind parents to bring in winter hats, suitable coats and wellies to ensure your child stays warm whilst exploring the outdoors.



Seashells

Firstly, we would like to welcome Leon, Xyla and Noah to nursery and are pleased to say they are settling in very well.

This month the seashell children enjoyed Valentine's Day playing with tactile trays filled with different red and pink things for them to explore. These tactile trays will encourage their fine motor skills, their understanding of the world, their expressive arts and design along with their math skills.



To mark Chinese New Year, we are going to have tactile trays filled with red rice for the children to explore and practice their fine motor skills, as well as some noodle play where they can practice their cutting using scissors. These activities will develop the children's fine motor skills and their understanding of the world.

The children have also showed a big interest in the kitchen role play area and we are, therefore, going to be doing some baking to further this interest. We will be exploring dry ingredients in a tactile tray to allow the children to make whatever they wish as they explore. These activities will develop their personal social and emotional skills, communication skills, fine and gross motor skills, their expressive arts and design development and their understanding of the world.



Just a little reminder for parents and carers, please can you ensure your child has suitable indoor shoes or slippers for them to wear while indoors. It is vital these fit your child securely and are suitable for walking up and down the stairs and in the case of a fire drill.

Starfish

Winter is here and the Starfish children have already noticed changes in the environment. Last



month we talked about the different seasons, the Children have gained knowledge and understanding and as the winter months have set in they have gained awareness of the effects it has on the environment as well as different clothing they need to wear. They have enjoyed joining in with group discussions during circle time, talking about these changes and effects. In addition to the introduction of loose parts, the Starfish children have been enjoying our transient art activities, this has enabled children that otherwise perhaps wouldn't participate in activities that meant hands getting dirty, to now enjoying creating their ideas. It has promoted and supported imaginative play, allowing them to develop their own ideas and explore the world, encouraging open ended learning.

We've been learning about things beginning with the letter M. The children have enjoyed exploring mini beasts in both tactile and transient form. Using magnifying glasses to identify the insects looking at their features and how they differ. They have used their creativity and imaginative skills with transient art, making mini beasts and creating monsters. They have also explored their senses with mint scented moon sand which I think you will agree they had great fun with! Please feel free to come and have a look at our displays where you can see the children's work including photos of them making their fantastic creations.

Letter of the month

Our letter of the month for February is 'Nn' we would like to remind parents about our display table situated in the upstairs hallway, to further the children's knowledge could we ask you to encourage your children to look for things beginning with our letter where we can display and talk about their finds at circle time.

To link in with our letter the Children will be exploring a range of sensory activities such as 'Noodle play'. Incorporating 'Chinese new year' using chop sticks this will develop their knowledge and understanding of the world, imaginary and exploratory skills as well as their physical and fine motor skills.

Colour of the month

The colour of the month is pink. The children will be looking at various shades of pink. We will be experimenting with red and white and talking about the changes that take effect when mixed together.

Book of the month

To further the children's communication and listening skills our book of the month will be 'Were Going on a Bear Hunt' we will extend their learning with a wonderful tactile activity, together with using their expressive and imaginary skills in acting out the book.



Shape of the month Our shape for February is a Heart. Our shape treasure box continues to be a success with the starfish children; they approach it with enthusiasm each day and can't wait for their turn to open the box. The introduction of the box has aided with the development of the children's Maths and communication skills. Looking for shapes around the home and environment could also further their development.

Role play

Last month's construction has proved a great success with all our children, building some wonderful creations. The children have used their imagination as well as their physical skills with the use of hammers, wood and sandpaper. We will keep part of this and incorporate this into our loose parts. February we change our role play to a Chinese restaurant to celebrate 'Chinese new year' we hope the Children enjoy this with as much enthusiasm.

Just a little reminder:

Each week, we ask that you write down your child's interest, this is situated on our information board just outside the dining room, along with our letter, colour, book and shape of the Month. This helps us significantly with your child's development and their important journey of learning.

Achievement

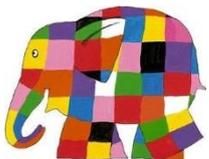
We will be giving all our new starters a 'Wow' for parents to fill in any achievements for your child. This enables your child to talk about their achievement at circle time giving them a sense of self-worth and develops their communication skills. It will then be displayed on our Achievement board along with a photo of your Child.

As the weather is beginning to get colder could we ask that the children are provided with named woolly hats, gloves, all in ones and wellies please.

We would also like to welcome Bella, Eric, Eloise Isla, Karly and Matilda to Starfish, they have already begun to settle well and we hope they continue to enjoy their time with us.

Pre School

Firstly we would like to welcome Reenie, Ethan and Betty into Pre-school. They have settled very well and already making great progress in their development. We hope they continue to develop and enjoy the rest of their time with us.



During January our book of the month was Elmer, which the children thoroughly enjoy.

We have looked closely at colour sequencing and sizes of objects which has helped support the children's mathematical language. The children noticed Elmer was patchwork and said he was like a rainbow. We also had lots of fun experimenting with

colours and learning how we could change them. This was done with an experiment using skittles, watching as the colours ran into each other and creating new colours. We also used a coloured water experiment where the children mixed primary colours together using pipets to squeeze up the water. The children spoke about the colours they were using and anticipated what colours they thought it would make. They were pleasantly surprised when they began to make various colours. Some were able to remember these and use them appropriately when it came to creating their Elmer collages and masks. Thank you to everyone who brought in various items and books from home which helped us along the way with the topic.

Home Learning

This month we have re-introduced home learning slips. They will give you an insight on one key element we are working on in preschool and examples of how you can help support your child with this at home. This month we are continuing to focus on self-care and independence. We are supporting the children to put on their all in ones, coats and fasten poppers, buttons and zip up zippers. We will be

encouraging the children to help with changing when they require clean socks, trousers or tops. We appreciate all the help and support with this area of your child's learning.

We will be marking Chinese New Year with a variety of activities and turning our home corner into a Chinese restaurant and making Chinese banners to decorate it with. This will extend the children's understanding of different cultures as we look at the different types of food eaten. To mark Pancake Day we will be making play dough to use as pancakes. The children will be developing their maths skills as they weigh out the ingredients.



Achievement board

Please continue to bring in your child's achievements from home. This is a key element in helping your child develop their confidence and self-esteem as they are able to share it with their peers at circle time. Our wow stars are situated in a wallet on the main pre-school door, please help yourself. We love to hear all the children's achievements not matter how big or small.

Colour and shape of the month



This month we will be focusing on the colours pink and red. This links in well with Valentine's Day as we have lots of exciting activities based around these colours. We will be exploring textures in our tactile tray with various resources. This will help develop the children's expressive arts and design and communication and language skills. We will also be baking some sweet treats in the shape of hearts which I'm sure you will enjoy. We will be using the scales to weigh out the ingredients which will help extend our maths skills. In addition to this, we will be focusing on the heart shape as it links in with various activities this month. Lastly, we will be carrying out a heart hunt in the garden with different sized hearts.

Letter of the week

To begin with we will be starting off the month with the letter F followed by G, H and then I. During our circle times we will be encouraging the children to think of items/objects beginning with this letter. We also provide handwriting sheets each week which allows the children to copy over and attempt to write the letter of the week. This helps to develop their fine motor skills and recognition of letters. Any items you have at home beginning with these letters each week are gratefully received and used on our letter of the week table.

Book of the month

Our book of the month is *The Smartest Giant in Town*. We will be talking about feelings which have been a key focus over the last month or so. We have recently been discussing the structure of books and talking about the authors, illustrators and the blurb.

Thank you to all the parents / carers who attended our recent parents evening, we hope you found it beneficial and have more of an insight of your child's development. We appreciate the time you have taken to fill out the questionnaires given and thank you for all your support.

Reminders

As we are very limited for space in our cloakroom please can we ask your child has ONE of the following items: coat, wetsuit/water proof trousers, wellies, indoor shoes and a bag with a change of clothes.

Where possible, please can you ensure your child's items are named; as you can appreciate some children do have the same items. Please can we remind parents/carer's to call and inform us if your child is going to be absent from nursery for any reason.

That's all for this month ☺