



# NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

Firstly we would like to say goodbye to all our school leavers and we wish them well as they start their new adventures in reception. Thank you so much to all the parents and carers for your kind words and gifts, it's very much appreciated.

## 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 are at an additional cost of £5 payable by cash. All dietary requirements are catered for. Thank you, Susan.

## Babies

Tiddlers and seahorse would like to welcome our new babies that have started their journey at nursery. We hope you have a wonderful time playing and exploring.

During the month of September, we will be enjoying exploring and learning about harvest. In the tactile tray we will be investigating a mixture of raw and cooked fruit and vegetables, along with scented rice.

Babies have been very excited by our new area in the baby garden which includes a sand, construction and herb tyre. These will help with exploring their senses and their understanding.

Please could we remind parents and carers to provide suitable clothing and an all in one for the garden as the children love spending time outside.

## Goldfish

We would like to welcome Conor, Ethan B, Ethan M, Freya, Henry B, Henry R, Lottie, Mia, Noah, Rosie and Sienna into the Goldfish room and hope they enjoy their time with us. Goldfish is a short transition room where we try to encourage the children to become a little more independent ready for their move to Seashells. The children will move from a bowl to a plate at mealtimes and will be encouraged to feed themselves, we also try to encourage them to help with dressing by beginning to help take off and put on slippers and shoes, coats etc. There will be either a craft or tactile activity available, as well as access to sand and water, every day. We also enjoy going outside twice a day where the children will have a chance to explore the full garden so ask that the children have appropriate clothing for the various weather conditions. This month in Goldfish we are going to be looking at different types of transport, incorporating them into our daily activities. We will be using various resources to create our own ideas of transport, using cars to create marks by rolling them through paint and exploring with them in our tactile tray with lots of different messy play such as shaving foam, gelli baffle and lots more. In Goldfish we like to create family books for the children to enjoy looking through and talking about their

different family members, so we would like to ask parents if they wouldn't mind bringing in a few different family pictures for us to create these for them.

### Seashells

Firstly, we would like to welcome Sophia, Archie, Alfie, Rohan, Mason, Ruben, Toby, Mylo, Savina and Willow into the room and we have had lots of fun getting to know them. If you are unsure of who your child's new key worker is then please speak to either Katie or Kirsty who will be happy to help. Over September we will be doing lots of exciting things as our new ones settle in. We will be practicing pouring our own drinks at snack times to help the children develop their gross motor skills along-side their personal social and emotional skills. We will also be using cups with no lids at snack time and at lunch and tea so please be patient if the children come home with a few extra changes of clothes.

We are also building dens to develop our social skills as well as our communication skills and understanding of the world. We will be doing this outside as well as inside all dependant on the weather. If you have any spare material at home such as old scarfs or old pillow cases please feel free to donate them to seashells to help us build bigger and more exciting dens.

Another activity we will be doing is making our own sensory bottles. These will be done at nursery and we will also be providing chances to take an empty bottle home to fill up with exiting things of your choice to bring back in so we can explore them at nursery. These sensory bottles will help the children to develop their social skills, communication skills, understanding of the world, maths skills and their art and design.

If your child has a special interest then please let either Kirsty or Katie know so we can develop this further at nursery through their next steps and other exciting activities. This can be anything from wanting to sit on the potty, beginning to count to 5, climbing the stairs unaided or going to bed in a big girl/boy bed.



### Starfish

First of all we would like to welcome all of the new parents & children into starfish, I'm sure over the next couple of weeks you will get to know the practitioners who will be looking after your children, as with any transition it can have its ups and downs some tears and some tantrums from the children, some children do take longer to settle into their new surrounding and some are fine.

In starfish we try to encourage independence ready for school so please can we ask for parents to provide shoes that their child can put on themselves and of course named please.

### What's new ?



We will be starting our wow board this month as we call it for your child's achievements big and small.

We are introducing a weekend bear which the children will have turns taking him home at weekends and documenting his escapades with his adopted family and then bringing back to share at circle time. We will be making a list shortly to document which parents would be interested in taking him home and asking for suggestions on his name.



children  
bringing  
asking

An additional new thing for this month will be the introduction of named groups for key working instead of colour groups used in previous years.

The names that we have in mind are?

### **Jellyfish, Shark, Turtle, Dolphin**

We believe by changing to this new system it will be easier for ourselves to monitor and guide the children during activities, as well as a little bit of fun for the children. You will be informed shortly which group and key worker you have been allocated.

We have quite a lot of new children who are very quiet and don't communicate as freely as others, therefore, as of September we will be introducing **Timothy the talking teddy** at circle time, this will hopefully help the children who have difficulty talking in a group giving them the confidence they need.

### What's happening ?



As autumn fast approaches and we get to the end of our Indian summer we will be making our role play area into a farm shop, including real fruit and vegetables for the children to buy, touch and smell, this links in with the harvest festival, we will also be including a pea pod sensory and lots of other exciting ideas.

Each month in starfish we have a new letter of the month in which we encourage the children to bring something in to display on our letter table and to show their friends what they have brought in at circle time, so we ask for parents help to make it a success, our letter this month is **Aa** we also have a shape of the month which is **Square** and a book of the month which is **Are you an Ant** we also include our colour of the month which is Green.

We will be starting our home learning activities this month again this will be something that you can do as a family to help you feel involved in your child's learning.

### **Other important stuff**

Please look on the board at the top of the stairs for any messages/information relating to starfish.

**A warm welcome to starfish from Joanne, Wendy & Abbie**

Welcome to Pre-School!



Firstly, we would like to welcome all of the new children and their families joining us in Pre-school! We hope you are enjoying what pre-school has to offer so far - it can be daunting with the transition but please be reassured that over the next couple of weeks we place great emphasis on settling in. We will do this by getting to know each other through a range of activities like self-portraits crafts, friendship games and talking about our golden rules and we will be implementing group time with our key groups so all children are familiar with their key worker and their key group. If you haven't received a "welcome to pre-school" information leaflet, please ask a member of staff for one.

### **What's New?**

We have an updated "**Reach for the Stars board**" in the middle room where we encourage any WOW moments that your child has achieved, no matter how big or small. The stars are available in a basket attached to the display to help you self to noting down your child's achievements! We will then share them at group time.

Starting on the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> of September we start our '**Letter Of The Week**' activities - we make our way through the alphabet each week providing activities and books available for children to take part in, if they want to, based on that letter to develop their awareness of letter and sounds. The week before each letter, we will send out "Home Learning" sheets to encourage you and your child to find objects, take pictures or make objects based on that letter to then discuss in group time. These sheets will be placed in your child's new folders that are available near the door.

We have a new '**finger gym**' table top activity available, allowing the children to practice their fine motor skills by engaging in fun activities based on their interest! This helps develop their fine motor skills which impacts their pencil grip.

Our creative room is ready and raring to get messy! In our creative room we have sand and water trays, a creative station packed with all things crafty. We also have a play-dough station and a free painting area where we will introduce the children to make and mix their own paint! As Picasso says "Every Child Is an Artist"

We have recently implemented a group time around 2pm to sing "good afternoon" to each other and allow the children to express anything they wish to discuss. In preschool, we are currently working on a toolbox toolkit to use during their group time to encourage the

children who need a little extra support in self-confidence and language - bear with us as we implement this into our practice.

### What's next?

As mentioned above, during September we will place great emphasis on settling in and getting to know everyone in preschool. We will be discussing our likes, interests and dislikes and carrying out a self portrait. We will also talk about our golden rules and friendship, using an apple as a technique - mmm interesting! Lastly, we will plan for specific group time activities for your children to become familiar with their key worker and key group. We will also be looking at the letters and sounds of **A, B, C** through a range of books, group time discussions and adult led activities. Please keep your eyes peeled for the home learning sheets to get involved!

### That's it for now!

A warm welcome to Pre-school from Sophie, Kim, Emma, Alicia and Jordan! We're excited to share the next stage of your child's journey in a fun and stimulating environment! If you have any queries, please speak to a member of staff who will be able to help you 😊

Thank you for your support  
Sophie, Kim, Elicia & Jordan