



# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to our February Newsletter

Unlike December, the first month in the year has been very relaxed as we eased back into our daily routine.

In the first days back we had some of the coldest weather we have had in a long time. We even had a few flurries of snow which resulted in all children trying to get outside before it stopped. The older children got their coats and shoes on in record time!

We do like to take the children outside every day and have noticed that some of our children do not have the appropriate clothing for the weather. The children enjoy the garden and the activities we do outside and run around so much, they do not feel the cold. If you have a hat and gloves for your child, we will encourage the children to wear them. We feel there is no such thing as inappropriate weather, only inappropriate clothing! However, please could we ensure that ALL clothing is labeled!

## Swimming lessons for Pre School.

The new term has started and our swimming lessons for pre school children have begun. The children walk down to the Magnet Centre where they split into two groups for their lessons. Our swimming instructors, Gail and Karen take a group each with help from the staff, Rachel, Rachael and Denise.

Apart from learning to swim, the children learn to be aware of dangers when crossing the road, they become independent when undressing and dressing and also become more confident.

If you would like your child to attend the lessons

and have not already signed up please speak to Janet, Rachel or Kim.

## Sensory Zone

As well as swimming at the Magnet Centre, we also hire out the Sensory Zone room once a week where we take a group of 6 babies to use the sensory equipment. There are lights, music, mirrors, bubble tubes and mats that the children can explore. The babies love their visits and always come back exhausted!

## Themes

Throughout the year, the rooms have themes which are reflected in the activities they do within their rooms. They can last as long as the children want them to. During the year we also introduce activities to celebrate different cultures and religions. We are approaching Chinese New Year, the Year of the Ox, and you will no doubt have art work and gifts depicting this colourful and happy celebration to take home with you!



Happy Chinese New Year

## Security

It is extremely important that parents and carers do not let anybody into the Nursery. We ask that you ensure the door shuts behind you as you enter the Nursery even if there is somebody following you in. All parents are given the code and can let themselves in and so please do not think of it as being rude. Likewise, please do not pass the number on to anyone else who is collecting your child. After informing the Nursery that somebody else will be collecting your child, we ask that they ring the door and a member of staff will answer it and ask the password.

## Babies

Welcome to Ben who is new to the Nursery. This month in babies we have used our senses while we have been cooking. Over the month we have made chocolate crispy cakes and sponge cakes which the children took home. The children love the experience of different textures and using the wooden spoon to mix the cake mixture. We often use different substances to touch, feel and taste, one of the favorite being jelly. We usually end up in a very sticky mess! The babies love to explore buttons and knobs to push and turn. We have a technology box which includes old mobile phones, old telephones and toys that light up when buttons are pushed. The babies love to walk around the room babbling on the phone.



Poppy letting mummy know she is having a lovely day!

We have a range of musical instruments for the children to use and they enjoy shaking the bells, blowing the trumpets, banging the drums and playing the xylophone. They will share the toys and laugh at the sounds they make.



Ryan making sounds with the trumpet.

After our busy morning and before lunch we like to settle the children with a story and songs. The children will sit in a line and look at the pictures in a book with staff or take part in action songs and rhymes.

## Older babies

Welcome to Adi who joined the Nursery this month.

In the Older baby room we have focused this month on our friendships and special people. We have been learning how to share and take turns. The children love to use the dressing up clothes and the dolls with blankets. They often lay the dolls on the floor and cover them over with the blankets. They then pat the dolls backs while putting them to sleep. They walk around the room cuddling them and put them in and out of the cot. This role play reinforces the care we promote when teaching the children about special people and friendship.

We encourage the children to be independent at meal times and feed them selves and when they are in the older baby room we give them a spoon and fork to help gain control of the cutlery. They cope extremely well and really enjoy the meals we provide.



Patrick enjoying his roast dinner!

We are now preparing for Valentines Day by creating some lovely gifts and cards. We like to let the children create their own pictures when painting and offer a choice of colours and utensils to paint with. They freely do their own marks and love to see the end results.



Mia creating her own painting

## Toddlers

Welcome to Jayden, Charlotte and Ethan who have joined us from older babies.

We have had lots of fun this month playing with shredded paper, dressing up, trying on a variety of hats, making props for our songs and spending time in the garden using the equipment and playing together.



Ashlyn, Grace and Eva sharing the see saw

We tipped out all the shredded paper in the room and danced around while throwing it in the air and watching it land on our heads. We kicked it about and rolled around on the floor. It took some time to clear it all up though!!

The children are able to choose their own activities and sometimes we have quite a collection of toys out on the floor. When it is time to tidy up for lunch we play our 'Tidy up song' on the CD player and the children now know it is time to put things away.

Our creative experiences have been focused on Chinese New Year. The children made Chinese lanterns which they painted and made small red envelopes in which they put gold coins. These are given to ward off evil and wish good health and wealth for the coming years.

We have started our future theme of families where we have made a display of a family tree. The children have used their hand prints to create the tree and are asking parents to send in pictures of the children's families.



Indianna painting her hand for a hand print.

We have continued singing and reading stories at special times during the day and the children often choose the story they would like to hear. If your child likes a particular story at home or song, please let us know as it is good for the children to hear the same story in the Nursery.

## Pre School

Welcome to Ruby and Roan who joined us from toddlers.

We have had enjoyable month in Pre School this month.

We began by studying the story of 'Handa's Surprise' and enjoyed exploring and tasting lots of different fruits including mangos, pomegranates, passion fruits and kiwi's. The children liked some but were not so keen on others. We tried all the fruits and came to our own conclusion on some of them. .



Joseph is not too keen on this fruit!

We talked about foods that were healthy and others that are not so healthy. 'Fruit and vegetables are really good for you' was the conclusion the children made but chocolate, which is not so healthy, tasted nicer!

We have planted some seeds in the garden and some more seeds of herbs in some old Wellington boots. We will be watching them grow while we care for them and maybe even eat them when they have grown. Our chives and coriander are doing extremely well already.



Planting our seeds in the garden.

We made lanterns for Chinese New Year and fortune envelopes which the children had. We talked about the Year of the Ox and made a very large banner. Elias said it looked like lots of pictures!

One of our notice boards in the Pre School has photographs of activities that we do during the day. They show our daily routine which includes meals, outdoor play, cleaning our teeth, putting on our coats to go outside and outdoor play. Please take a look as it shows how busy our days are!



Zara and Joshua cleaning their teeth after lunch!

Please can we remind parents that pre school uniform is compulsory and should be worn every day. With the messy activities we do, it also helps save spoiling our best clothes.

### Parents evening

The dates for our parents evening are:

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September

These evenings give you the opportunity to talk to your child's key carer as to how your child is developing and how much they enjoy Nursery. It is also a time that parents can express any concerns they have such as behavior issues or toilet training. We would like to remind you however that staff are always available to

discuss any concerns you may have at any time and that you do not have to wait until parent's evening.

### Pyjama day- February 19th

We always have fun in the Nursery and sometimes we raise money for various charities whilst doing so. The first event this year will be a pyjama day. We are asking that children come to Nursery in their pyjamas to raise money for Rehab UK, which is a brain injury centre. During the day we will be having lots of activities to make the day a special one. We ask that you make a donation for the privilege of not having to get your child dressed in the morning!

### Slippers

We encourage the children to wear slippers in Nursery as soon as they start walking. In the baby room it helps prevent children standing on toes with shoes on. Could you please provide your child with a pair of slippers, clearly marked with your child's name. It is also compulsory for staff to wear indoor shoes.

We also request that parents remove their shoes when entering the baby rooms in the morning and evening or to wear the overshoes provided.

### New arrivals



Congratulations to Ellie Bridge and her family on the safe arrival of her baby sister and to Alice Holden and her family on the safe arrival of her baby sister.

### January birthdays



Amelia McShane 1 year on 21<sup>st</sup>

James Warner 1 year on 29<sup>th</sup>

Jayden Taylor 2 years on 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ethan Osbourn 2 years on 30<sup>th</sup>

Yasmine Oubuih 2 years on 31<sup>st</sup>

Roan Lennard 3 years on 12<sup>th</sup>

Ruby Sanderson 3 years on 21<sup>st</sup>

Kind regards

Janet and team