



Highwood News - January, February & March

Wishing all our readers a Happy and prosperous 2015!!

Here's hoping you all had a fun and relaxing Christmas and New Year and that Santa was kind to all the Highwood children!?!)

General News

- We welcome Heather to our Highwood team. Heather is a well qualified practitioner who will be working with the children in the Caterpillar Room.
- Zhane left the setting at the end of December as her family are relocating - we wish her all the very best.
- Many, many thanks to all of you who supported our Christmas Fayre - it really was a super afternoon. All money raised will be divided between the 3 rooms so that the staff can purchase resources/equipment to enhance the provision for the children.
- Many thanks for the lovely cards and gifts that the staff received for Christmas.
- It is that time of year again when we ask our lovely parents/carers to complete a questionnaire. It is your opportunity to tell us what you like about our nursery plus a time to let us know how we could improve things further. Questionnaires can be found in the hall way. If these could be completed by Monday 19th January 2015 and handed to Vicki or Debbie we would be extremely grateful.

- With the cold weather upon us please can you ensure that all children come to nursery with water proof coats, jumpers, scarf, hat & gloves so that they can access the outdoors.
- Parents' Forum/evening will be held at the end of January - a date will be confirmed nearer the time. The format for the next forum will change slightly in that you will be able to book a time slot with your child's key worker. Hopefully, this will reduce your 'waiting time'.
- Please can ALL parents/carers ensure that they sign their child in and out of nursery so that we have accurate attendance records - thank you for your support with this.
- A reminder that holiday club will run throughout the half term & Easter holidays. Please see Vicki or Debbie for further information or to book a space.
- 15hours of FREE nursery education is now available for some 2year olds. If you think yourself, a friend or a family member may be eligible for this funding please look on the following website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/think2 or phone 0300 111 8007. If you are entitled give us a call and we will arrange your child care for you.

Dates For Your Diary

- January 1st - New Years Day
- February 14th - Valentines Day
- February 17th - Shrove Tuesday
- February 19th - Chinese New Year
- March 2nd - St Davids Day
- March 15th - Mother's Day
- St Patrick's Day - 17th March



Caterpillar Room

We hope that all of our Caterpillars had a lovely Christmas and Santa bought them everything they wished for. If you have any family photos from over the festive period you are welcome to bring them in so that we can show them to your child's friends.

Firstly we would like to welcome all our new babies to our Caterpillar Room - it is lovely to see so many new faces! We will continue to work hard throughout January to ensure that all our new Caterpillars are settled and enjoying 'nursery life'. Sadly we have to say goodbye to a couple of Caterpillars who are moving to the Butterfly Room. We will miss you lots but know you will have lots of fun in the Butterfly Room!

The Caterpillars will be having lots of fun getting messy to create a new pet/animal display. The children love playing with the farm set and singing about the noises the animals make. To enhance this display if you have any photos/pictures of your pets or visits to a zoo we would be very grateful if you could bring these in or email them to us - info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk - Thank you.

In February we will be celebrating St Valentine's day by dressing up in red, creating cards, and taking part in some rather messy red fun activities.

February 17th is Shrove Tuesday so the Caterpillars will be having fun tasting pancakes with various toppings, as well as creating their very own pancakes during craft time, this could get very messy but will definitely be lots of fun and very tasty!

Chinese New Year also falls in February so on the 19th - we will be celebrating the Year of the Sheep by making our very own sheep with cotton wool and lots of messy glue. Look out for our 'sheep creations'!

March also includes some dates to celebrate such as St David's day on 2nd. For this the children will spend time decorating their very own Welsh dragon and Welsh flag.

March the 15th is Mother's Day so mums look out for some special treats coming your way on that day.

Last but not least 17th March is St Patrick's day, activities for this will include making green play dough, decorating cards and bookmarks to bring home.

As we move in to Spring the children will explore paint with their hands to create handprints which will then be used to create their own unique flowers.

It seems that life in the Caterpillar Room is going to be quite messy for the next 3 months so please can you ensure that your child(ren) come to nursery with spare clothes in their bag. Also if you could return any 'spare clothes' from nursery we would be very grateful as our supplies are running quite low.

So as you can see there is a lot to look forward to over the coming months. However, if you have any ideas or would like to contribute to any activities or planning please come and see us, maybe you could even join us for some craft sessions? It would be lovely to have more mums, dads and grandparents drop in for a play.



Butterfly Room

Firstly a very big welcome to our new Butterfly - Robert who I'm sure will settle quickly into 'Butterfly life' and make lots of new friends. We wish Mackinlay, Scarlett, Will, Austin, Ella, Violet & Grace all the best as they move on to the next phase of their 'nursery journey' - the Ladybird Room. We will miss you lots but know that you will enjoy pre school life and make lots of new friends.

In January the Butterflies will be talking about changes in the seasons and talking about winter. They will be going on a winter hunt to find items that we can display on our winter table. If you have any items that you think would enhance our winter table & display - photos etc - please pass them on to Sam or Kayleigh.

February kick starts a year full of celebrations. February the 14th is St Valentine's Day, this falls on a Saturday so we will be celebrating on Friday 13th instead (unlucky for some!). For this day we will all be dressing in red, making some lovely cards to take home and getting involved in some very messy red activities.

February 17th is Shrove Tuesday so it would be considered rude if we didn't at least get to sample a few pancakes with some delicious toppings. We will also be having a go at some pancake races and see who can toss the pancake the highest.

Chinese New Year falls on February the 19th, this year it is the year of the sheep, so some woolly fun shall be had.

On March 2nd we will be celebrating St David's day by making flags and daffodils and colouring in pictures of the Welsh dragon.

Mother's day falls on Sunday March 15th so look out for some special treats making their way home for this.

On March 17th we will be celebrating St Patrick's day, activities for this include some Irish dancing, food tasting and flag decorating.

We will continue to send home the 'Me, myself and I' box. This is for the children to put special items in from home to share and talk about with their friends in nursery.



Ladybird Room

Happy New Year to you all, hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and Santa was kind to our Ladybirds!?!

The Ladybird children would like to welcome some new friends to their room: Will, Grace, Violet, Ella, Mackinlay, Scarlett, Austin, Mylie & Alfie who have joined us from the Butterfly Room. We hope that all the children settle quickly into 'Ladybird life'.

We would like to say a HUGE Thank you for all of your support and involvement with the 'Polly Parrot' home activity. Not only is the book looking fantastic with your lovely photos but the children's description of sounds is improving dramatically which is fantastic news as this is one area of the E.Y.F.S (Communication & Literacy - recognising and responding to familiar sounds) that we have to cover. We look forward to Polly's next adventure!

At nursery we encourage safe and healthy practice and one of the things that we do to help achieve this is ask the children to brush their teeth after lunch. If all parents/carers, therefore could ensure that their child(ren) have a toothbrush and toothpaste at nursery that would help us greatly.

Now Winter has arrived the Ladybirds will be engaging in activities linked around the movie Frozen, which I'm sure many of your little ones are familiar with. If your child has any 'Frozen items' please feel free to bring them into nursery to share with their friends during group/circle time. A fantastic way to develop the children's language & literacy skills I'm sure you'll agree? The children will also be painting pictures for our 'Frozen' display. To continue the 'frozen' theme the children will be exploring different frozen items such as jelly, ice cream, strawberry whip, ice cubes as part of malleable play. They will be timing how long

things take to melt to enhance their numeracy skills and observing the changes as part of understanding the world area of the curriculum.

Staying on the Winter theme the children will be learning about Winter and the changes that happen at this time. They will use different shaped potatoes to create some winter collages. The Ladybirds will also be using their fine motor & hand/eye coordination skills to cut out their very own snowflakes. Please look out for our Winter display. If you have any 'winter themed items' at home please bring them in so that we can create a Winter themed table - thank you.

February starts off our year of celebrations, beginning with St Valentine's day which we will celebrate on Friday 13th February. For this we will all be dressing in red so please send your child in to nursery wearing something red on this day. The children will have the opportunity to make love heart biscuits and cards and will be involved in lots of red messy play!

Shrove Tuesday is on 17th February so it's only right that we spend time eating some yummy pancakes with various toppings. The children will be busy decorating pancake pictures and developing their gross motor skills with a 'toss the pancake race'!!.

On Thursday 19th February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year (Kung Hei Fat Choy), Year of the Sheep. We will be playing with chopsticks, and spend time tasting some Chinese foods during snack time. The role play area will be turned in to a Chinese restaurant to extend their learning and imagination.

At the beginning of March the Ladybirds will focus on a new topic - 'homes'. The children will be looking at different types of houses and how each one is different. The role play area will be changed in to a 'home' which will allow the children to use their imaginations to imitate roles they see around their homes. Linked to this theme we will be reading the story - Three Little Pigs - and get creative designing their own stick, brick and straw houses. Keep your eyes peeled for the new 'Highwood

Estate' which we will display in the art room!!! The children will also go on a walk in the local area to explore different types of houses and look at the different shapes of windows.

Also in March we will be celebrating St David's Day, making some daffodils and decorating our own Welsh flags.

Mother's day falls on Sunday 15th March so look out for some special treats coming home that week - but that's all we can say at the moment!

Finally please can you check at home to see if you have any spare nursery clothes as our supply is running very low - thank you.