



Highwood News - April, May, June & July

Where is 2015 going - Easter gone already!!

General News

- The parents/carer questionnaires that have been in the hallway for the past month have had very few takers!!! PLEASE could our lovely parents/carers complete one and pass on to Vicki. Many thanks.
- We welcome Katie, a Level 3 practitioner, who is working with the Caterpillars at the moment. We also welcome Abby and Tayla who are completing their apprenticeships with us.
- Well what can we say about the weather - very changeable at the moment. Therefore, please can you ensure that children come to nursery with water proof coats, hat, scarf and gloves and sun cream so that they are prepared for any weather and can still enjoy the outdoors. Please can we also remind parents and carers to clearly label these with your child's name to avoid any mix ups. On warmer days if you can apply all day sun cream to your child(ren) then we can access the outdoors a lot faster.
- A reminder that holiday club will run through the Easter holidays, May half term and throughout the summer hols. Please see Vicki or Aimee for further information or to book a space.
- Due to the increased numbers of children at nursery we are in the process of appointing 2 experienced nursery nurses. They will spend time in both the Caterpillar and Butterfly rooms getting to know the children and we are sure you will make them feel very welcome.
- The Government have introduced additional funding for some 3 - 4yr olds (Early Years Pupil Premium). If you are given a letter could you please fill it in and return it to Vicki as soon as possible so that the nursery can claim this extra funding which will be used to improve Pre school provision here at Highwood.

- No nursery grant funding during:

Easter holidays - 6th April - 17th April
May half term - 26th May - 29th May
Summer Holidays - 17th July - end of August

Dates For Your diary

1. **Easter Bank holidays.** Please note that nursery will be closed on:

- Friday 3rd April
- Monday 6th April

2. **May Bank holidays.** Nursery will be closed on:

- Monday 4th May
- Monday 25th May

3. **Parent's Evening** - Tuesday 7th July.

This will take place from 6.30pm - 8.30 pm. We will be sending out reply slips so that you may book a time slot to see your child's key worker. This will be an ideal time for you to view your child's learning journey and discuss your child's progress in the nursery.

4. **Pre school Prom/Graduation** - Friday 17th July.

This will take place at nursery between 6.30 - 7.30pm for all of the Ladybirds going to school. The theme for this year's prom is ' Princess and Pirates'.

**Yan and I wish all the Ladybirds going to school in September all the best -
-but we will miss you VERY much.**

Room News



Caterpillar Room

Caterpillars would like to say a big warm welcome to their new friends - Sienna, Thea, Brooke, Esme and Winter. We hope you settle in quickly and have lots of fun exploring the Caterpillar room.

Easter will see the Caterpillars having lots of fun going on an Easter egg hunt, sampling Easter produce(!?!) and making little Easter surprises to bring home!?!

Over the next few months we plan on spending as much time as possible outdoors enabling the Caterpillars to engage in lots of fun activities including water play, ball pit and sand play. Continuing with the theme of summer we will be creating a summer display so if you go on holiday could you please send us a post card and bring in a couple of your holiday snaps. Thank you.

The Caterpillars love the nursery rhymes 'Twinkle, twinkle little star' and 'Humpty Dumpty' so we will be getting messy creating some new displays. Not only will the Caterpillars get very messy but they will be developing their fine and gross motor skills as well. We would love it if you could reinforce these nursery rhymes at home with your child. Keep your eyes peeled for our new displays!

June sees Fathers Day so we will be getting creative and messy making things for our special daddies/people in our lives. As June sets off the holiday season we shall be looking at different types of transport that take us on holiday and creating our own holiday transport display. So if you do go on holiday please can you send us a picture of your child in the mode of transport that you went in.

We would like to thank parents for the family and pet photos sent in for our display. The children love looking at photos of themselves. If you still have pictures to bring in - it's not too late!!

If you have any activity ideas that you think your child would like or benefit from please feel free to pass these on to your child's key worker. Lastly some of our Children - Alexa, Archie, Alana, George and Rohan will be moving on to new adventures and graduating to the Butterfly room. We hope they have a lovely time and make lots of new friends but we will miss them in the Caterpillar Room.



Butterfly Room

Firstly a very big warm welcome to our new Butterflies -we hope you have lots of fun during your stay with us. Also good luck to the Butterflies who have recently moved into the Ladybird Room.

In the Butterfly room we have been focusing on learning our colours and shapes and counting up to 10/15. The children are all learning at a great rate and showing their newly acquired knowledge in their play. Keep up the good work!

It's almost Easter and I think Spring is finally starting to arrive so we will be getting outside lots, exploring the changes of the season and tailoring our art work to these themes. We will also be doing lots of craft projects for Easter including decorating bonnets and eggs, Easter egg hunt and there may even be a visit from the Easter Bunny!!!!

At this time of the year we will be planting sunflower seeds at nursery and watching and measuring how much they grow. We will also send home a pot with your child's sunflower in so that they can water and care for it at home. All we ask is that you send in a picture of your child and their 'developed sunflower' please.

In May we will be doing a topic on 'our families' where we will be looking at who is in our family and describing family members. If you could send in some family photos that we can use on our family tree display we'd be really grateful.

June is Fathers Day so we will be getting very creative and messy producing something special for our daddies/special people in our lives - that is all we can say at the moment!

If you observe your child(ren) doing something at home that is new please fill a parent/carer observation form, which can be found in the hall way, and pass on to your child's key worker. This can then be included in your child's learning journey.

Finally can we remind parents/carers to bring a bag with lots change of clothes in please as accidents do happen. Thank you.



Ladybird Room

We would like to welcome some new faces to the ladybird room - Ebonie, Niamh Anneliese, Ella and Maddison. We hope that you all settle in well and make new friends.

In April we will be busy celebrating Easter, decorating Easter eggs, going on an Easter egg hunt and making Easter bonnets at home. Tuesday 21st is the Queen's birthday which we will celebrate by making crowns. We will also be celebrating St George's day on the 23rd April. I'm sure there will be lots of flag making together with looking at the story of George & The Dragon.

With the onset of Spring the ladybirds will be busy planting and tending to new plants, flowers and vegetables. We will be talking to the children about changes, growth and decay at this time of the year. We will be exploring the end result by having a little taste of our produce!!!!

One of our focus points for Ladybirds this term is 'Life cycles' where we will be looking at the life cycle of frogs and butterflies using a variety of media. The life cycles will be drawn on a piece of paper and the Ladybirds will practice their cutting skills and then put the pictures in the correct order. In terms of 'literacy' - we will be looking at the ' Hungry Caterpillar' story. We will be painting the food items from the story as well as linking it to quantities. The children will also have the opportunity to explore and taste different fruits. If you would like some more information on our literacy work please do not hesitate to ask Aimee who will be only too happy to provide information so this work can also be carried out at home. Many of our Ladybirds are off to school this September so at some point this term we will welcome teachers from our feeder schools to come and visit us at our setting. Dates and times of these visits will be confirmed as soon as these have been arranged.

In May we will be researching and learning about 'People who help us'. If any parents/carers know of any willing policemen, firemen etc that would come into our setting and talk to the children I'm sure that the children (& staff!) would be very grateful.

In June, following on from 'People who help us' we will be discussing transportation and ways of travel. The children will have the opportunity to create, both large and small, junk model transport. So if you have empty boxes, cereal boxes, toilet roll holders please pass on to Aimee or Lily. At circle time we will focus on developing our numeracy skills - how many of us walk to nursery, how many come by car etc. If you have any bus, train or plane tickets please bring them in for the children to have a look at and use to role play. Thank you.

June sees Fathers Day where we will be making some special things for our special daddies/people in our lives. But that's all we can say at the moment!!

In July our topic will be Summer holidays. Our role play area will be changed into a travel agents - so if you have any unwanted items that you think would enhance this area please pass on to Aimee eg brochures. Linked with Summer holidays we will have a fun filled 'Beach Day' - date to be confirmed.

Friday 17th July from 6.30 - 7.30pm is our annual leavers prom/graduation for all our Ladybirds going to school in September. The theme this year is ' Pirates and Princesses' so please come dressed up!!!.