



# Highwood Day Nursery Autumn Term News

A warm welcome back to all our parents, carers and children, we hope that you are all refreshed and ready to start the Autumn term at Highwood.

We would also like to welcome all our new families and we hope you are happy with your child's settling in arrangements. To the parents of the new children starting; this will be a big step for them and we would like to assure you that here at Highwood, we will work hard to make sure each child's needs and requirements are met. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.



**September 5<sup>th</sup>** - Autumn Term begins - Nursery Education Funding

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** - Cracker Jacks Charity Teddy Bears Picnic

**October 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>** - Autumn Half Term - No Nursery Education Funding

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** - Paolo Loras Photography visit nursery

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** - Children in Need Charity fund raiser



## **Parent/Carer Information**

Please ensure that all your contact information is correct and that any changes are notified to ensure that key information on your Blossom App is correct. Please message Vicki or Aimee and we will update the information for you. Many Thanks

**Gentle reminder.** Please label all your children's clothing, bottles and drinking cups, so if any items are misplaced, we can return them to their rightful owner.

**Dropping off / collecting your child** If a different adult is collecting your child, please inform your child's room or the person collecting your child from the front door on the day of drop off. The adult collecting your child **MUST** have your child's password.

**Please drive slowly** when using Highwood's car park for the safety of pedestrians and park with consideration for others. The car park is for use children attending the setting and NOT for use for Violet Way.

**Absences** If your child is unable to attend nursery for any reason, for example, if your child is unwell or simply staying home for the day, please can you ensure that you call us on 01283 565069 or email at: [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk) or send a message via the Blossom App by 9am. If your child is not in nursery and we have not been informed we will call you to find out why to ensure that we are following our Safeguarding procedure of absences in the setting. Thank you

**Teddy Bears Picnic** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September - today your child can bring in their favourite Teddy to join in with our picnic to help raise money for "CRACKERJACKS CHILDREN'S TRUST"

### **A message from Crackerjacks Children's Trust**

*We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone taking part and joining in with the fun to help raise vital funds for Crackerjacks disabled children. Please use Crackerjacks Sponsor Forms that are available or a small donation from each person taking part of around £2, if possible, this will help Crackerjacks to be able to supply vital specialist disabled equipment such as wheelchairs, wet rooms, Eyegaze systems, sensory toys or a much-needed respite break at our holiday home (Ray's Sunshine Holiday Home) for a disabled child and their family to spend quality time together. We solely rely on the kind generosity of organisations, the public, Schools and nurseries to*

*raise vital funds to support our cause and ask that you can kindly involve family, friends, work colleagues and local business to sponsor the event using our attached sponsor form, should you require extra sponsor forms they can be download from our web site: [www.crackerjacks.org.uk/downloads](http://www.crackerjacks.org.uk/downloads) Please do not forget to tick the Gift Aid box as this boosts you donation by 25% from the UK government if you are a UK tax payer or PAYE. Crackerjacks strongly believes that every child, whatever their needs, has the right to participate fully in their community and to have the same choices, opportunities and experiences as other children; to make local friends, and to access, play, leisure and recreational Facilities, Crackerjacks was established to help relieve the stress and strains in life that coping with a disability can cause. For more information, visit our website [www.crackerjacks.org.uk](http://www.crackerjacks.org.uk) or email [info@crackerjacks.org.uk](mailto:info@crackerjacks.org.uk). A BIG THANK YOU for your kind generosity, help and support.*

## **Photo Day - October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Paolo Lorasio Photography will be visiting on the 25<sup>th</sup> October to take individual photographs of all the children. If your child does not usually attend nursery on a Thursday you are still welcome to bring them in but can you please contact us to book an appointment. Bookings are usually at the beginning of the session from 9.30 to 10.30am

**Children in Need - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** - We will be dressing up to raise money for children in need. Please send your child dressed in their pyjamas or in a Pudsey T- Shirt. We are asking for a small donation of £2.00 from each child which will be donated to this charity. Thank-You

## **In The Moment Planning - Recap**

In light of the revised EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and OFSTED framework, the way we conduct our teaching and assessment is changing. This includes the promise of LESS paperwork and MORE child interaction. Therefore, we are moving towards a 'Planning in the Moment' approach, meaning that we challenge and extend children's learning through their interests and a play-based approach. Now, this isn't new to us here at Highwood Day Nursery, our children are always put at the centre of everything we do and we understand the importance of play! But this new approach also benefits our practitioners greatly, as they are more able to give children their full attention in the moment to scaffold children's learning to the best of our ability. Our wonderful practitioners have been working hard behind the scenes, enhancing their environments

to include conversation stations, loose parts and 'real world' materials. Part of our approach means that you will have more regular parent meetings with your child's key person (scheduled once per term but not limited to) to discuss their learning and development.

We feel this will allow us to make a real difference to the children's learning by seizing the moments when children first show interest and curiosity and immediately supporting their next steps. Planning in the moment is nothing new, it is exactly what a responsive parent does every day with their child, it is also exactly what a skilful practitioner has always done. Every time an adult look and listen to a child they are assessing and planning how to respond. The adult will be considering whether they can add anything in the moment to benefit the child (teachable moment). If so, they will respond and interact accordingly.

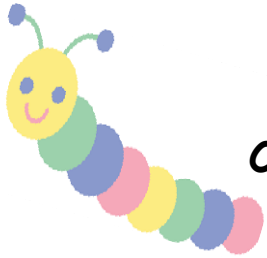
### **How is it achieved?**

The nursery setting is organised so that each child can decide where to go, inside or outside, which resources to use, whether to be alone or with others and for how long they want to pursue an activity. By doing this they become deeply involved in their task and progress is happening constantly. However, their level of involvement may drop for a variety of reasons: they may not know what to do or how to do something, or how to use a piece of equipment, another child may be disrupting their play or they may need something adding. When this happens, the child will seek help either from another child or an adult. This is when a skilful practitioner would step in and assess what is needed for the child to carry on. This is what we would call a teachable moment. Teachable moments are recorded on our own record sheet so that practitioners can learn from each other's interactions and develop a deeper understanding of all children.

Each key worker will choose a child to be in 'focus' each week where they will observe closely and write up their termly assessments by the end of this observational time. At the end of the week, you will receive an assessment proforma with comments from your child's key worker. You will have the opportunity to book a parent meeting with your child's key person where you are able to discuss their development. This meeting is totally optional and you do not have to arrange if you are happy with communications received. If your child is working towards a particular area of development, they will most likely have an 'Individual Learning Plan' in place, outlining strategies to support both in nursery and at home. If this is the case, you will be required to attend the parent meeting so that we can provide the best support possible for your child.

If it is not your child's focus week then please be reassured that lots of learning is still taking place as the environment will be carefully planned according to their needs and interests. You will still receive 'Golden Moments' on Blossom when we have something extra special to celebrate! We would encourage parents to do the same and continue to.

## **News from the rooms....**



### **Caterpillar Room**

#### **What we have been doing...**

The babies have really enjoyed open ended activities and opportunities to help them understand "All about Summer".

Our exciting enabling environment provided lots of opportunities to make independent choices. We explored sensory trays with items from the seaside ~ sand, shells, sun cream.

Dressing up with sunglasses and sunhats was achieved independently as they explored the "Summer Treasure Basket"

So much fun was had, splashing in the paddling pool, filling and emptying buckets and transporting water freely around the garden.

Not forgetting our yummy ice cream treat that we got to taste when the ice cream van came to visit.

We love to sit and sing using our wooden nursery rhyme spoons. These have helped our babies to communicate which of their favourite songs/rhymes they would like to choose to sing with their peers. This also provided opportunities for the babies to learn new words and have fun creating sounds with the musical instruments.

The babies took great delight when we discovered hidden everyday objects in boxes with lids for the babies to investigate and reinforce language skills by labelling what they had found. The objects are changed so that they are relevant to the age stage of the child participating in play.

#### **What we will be doing?**

As the season changes our babies will be exploring all about Autumn

We're going on a leaf hunt we're going to find a big one "CRUNCH -CRUNCH - CRUUNCH" exploring the Autumnal changes in our forest school.

The awe and wonder of looking for Incy Wincy Spider as he spins his webs to create his home in our garden

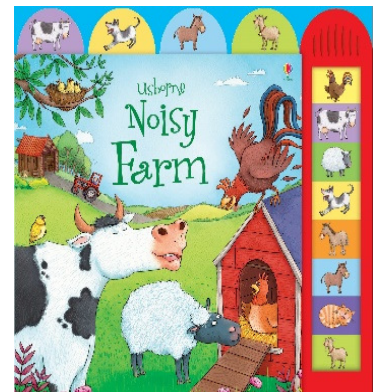
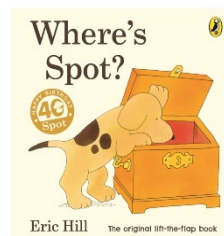
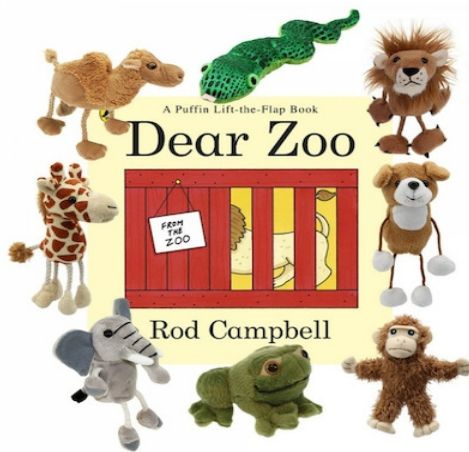
## Following the Children's interests and next steps we will be~

Looking at story sacks and promoting the love of books linking the story and bringing it to life through our activity trays.

We will be using a variety of media to be creative and mark make.

Autumn Term rhymes and favourite books. - Creating new story and rhyme treasure boxes to explore.

## Favourite books that we will be revisiting are



## Loose Parts

We will be introducing safe loose parts play for the babies to explore. Loose parts play is a fantastic form of open-ended learning. These will include fir cones, natural leaves, wooden pegs and wooden cotton reels. Loose parts play is when children use objects that have no fixed purpose so rather than playing with toys that have a clear intention, such as toy food in a pan, they are rather using objects that have no definite purpose so have to use their imagination.

For example, in play a pine cone could be whatever the child wants it to be. It also doesn't necessarily need to represent anything at all, and can just be experimented with. The child might like to see how it rolls, or can stack with other objects, or hide it somewhere.

**Loose parts play supports many skills in early learning including:**

**Independence** - It supports children developing their own ideas, and having a sense of autonomy over their learning



**Imagination** - Children develop ideas, narratives, stories and more

**Total engagement** - They can often be found in a state of pure involvement which is a brilliant state of learning to be in.

When babies experiment with objects and the world around them, they begin to make sense of the world

**We will be Providing lots of items to develop hand eye coordination:**

Scarves and ribbons

Sensory balls

Soft hand mitts

Wooden curtain rings

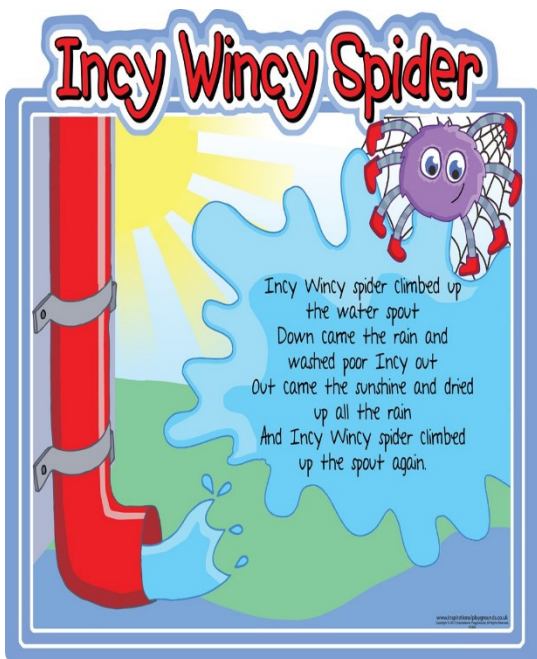
Homemade sensory bottles

Textured materials

Large mirror books

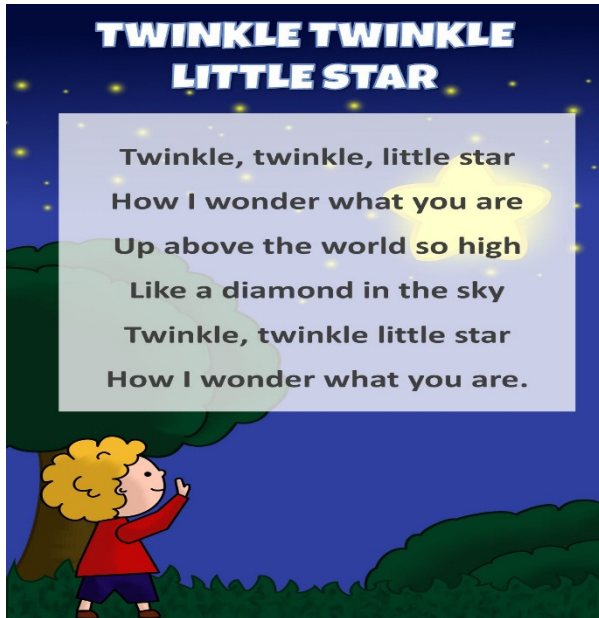
If you have any of these items that you would like to donate for loose parts, we would be most grateful.

**Nursery Rhymes for the Autumn Term ~ sing along at home....**



**September** - "Incy Wincy Spider" finding spider webs and singing the song using our fine motor movements to control our fingers climbing up the water spout.

October - "I'm a Dingle Dangle Scarecrow- Harvest time we will be exploring farms and tractors and investigating fruit and vegetable treasure basket's when learning this new song.



As the season changes the early morning and evening sky becomes dark. We will be looking out for the magical stars in the sky and singing the song Twinkle Twinkle.

## Dingle Dangle Scarecrow

When all the cows were sleeping  
And the sun had gone to bed  
Up jumped the scarecrow  
And this is what he said...



"I'm a dingle dangle scarecrow  
With a floppy floppy hat.  
I can shake my hands like this  
And shake my feet like that."



When all the hens were roosting  
And the moon behind a cloud  
Up jumped the scarecrow  
And shouted very loud...



When the dogs were in the kennel  
And the doves were in the loft  
Up jumped the scarecrow and  
Whispered very soft...



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November- "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" -

We hope you enjoy looking at the photographs of "our busy days" on the Blossom APP.





## Butterfly Room

Over the last few months in the butterfly room, we have been very busy planting a selection of flowers, herbs and vegetables in our garden. The children have developed their gross and fine motor skills when using the tools, planting the seeds and watering them. Together we have enjoyed looking after them and watching our produce grow.

We have had the opportunity of tasting the fresh tomatoes, spring onions, radishes, strawberries and lettuce leaves as well as the chance to explore the herbs using our senses to feel and smell.

We have been learning about the summer season and exploring the children's interest of the beach talking about holidays and learning about sun safety. We have enjoyed having the opportunity to explore the ice cream cart and pretend to serve ice cream to our peers.

Majority of our children share an interest of exploring mark making and creative activities therefore we have been exploring different ways to make marks such as crayons, felt tips, flour and lolly sticks, lentils, rice and gloop.

### What we will be doing...

In the coming months we look forward to planting some flowers for the winter months exploring pumpkins from our pumpkin patch. We will be using the pumpkins in our cooking activities and explore the new textures.

We will be talking about the Autumnal season and the changes that happen and the different colours we see.

We will be using children's interest of the Gruffalo to create our own Gruffalo café.

The children have shown an interest in 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, so we will be painting artwork and creating a display on this.

To further extend this we are going to explore gluing and sticking and different painting methods.

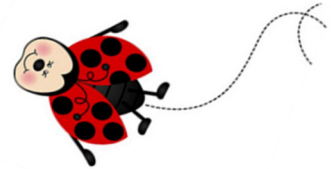


## **Following the children's interests and next steps we will be...**

Using Transport to make marks in different malleable play.

Exploring story sacks relevant to children's interests such as Dear Zoo and The Gruffalo.

Creating a dinosaur sensory tray, using vocabulary to explore size.



## **Ladybird Room**

### **What we have been doing...**

Throughout the summer the Ladybird children have enjoyed a variety of themed weeks following their interests.

We had lots of fun participating in science experiments creating our own Dino-eggs using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to enable the dinosaurs to hatch and observe the happenings - introducing and using language to give meaning to what they see. The children extended their learning by using the same formula to create apple volcanos and used coloured dye to create the eruption.

The children developed their knowledge and understanding of sun safety through our Conversation Station. Opportunities were provided through prompt cards and props to promote discussion about the importance of wearing sun cream, hats, glasses, staying in the shade and keeping hydrated by drinking water. We Designed our own summer t-shirts making them unique by creating their own patterns and pictures.

At Forest School the children developed their fine motor muscles to create "Homemade Lemonade" - demonstrating excellent listening and attention skills by following instructions measuring and following the method - working together as a team to achieve an end result! This proved to be a big hit with the children and the majority couldn't wait to give it a little taste and found it refreshing! (And a little sour)

The children enjoyed their delicious summer treat of having a special visit from the local Mr. Whippy Ice Cream van with added sprinkles.

We enjoyed getting our creative heads on and designed our own doughnuts and chose our own delicious toppings that we wanted to put on top demonstrating high levels of involvement and focus by talking about likes and dislikes using the yummy treats available to make arrangements.

Following on from the excitement with the ice cream van, we changed our role play area into an ice cream parlour so the children could rein act this experience. The children took orders, exchanged money with their peers and used the magnetic scoop to serve a variety of flavoured ice and favourite toppings.

This activity was then extended through mixing their own ice cream on the malleable tray using raspberry scented conditioner and cornflour and the choice of toppings spooned carefully into cones.

### Our Investigation Station...



### Apple Science Investigation



In our Investigation cube we have been busy observing the changes of an apple overtime and labelling different parts of the apple.

Due to it being that time of year, the apples at the top of our garden are falling off the tree and this has become an interest. The children have collected the apples and used the scales in Forest school to weigh them. They have had lots of fun rolling their apples down the hill and extended their leaning by controlling where the apples roll by using the guttering pipes. Maths skills were developed when they counted and subitised using the apples. The children have enjoyed sorting out the apples into sizes and colours. The understanding and use of spatial of positional language was enhanced through words

during play with the fruit.

## What we will be doing...

### Investigation Station

Following the interests of children looking for bugs we will be creating our very own "Wormery" - learning all about wiggly worms, developing our understanding of the world.

Reading Non-Fiction and Fiction books all about worms to extend their knowledge of the world.

### Conversation Station-

**New faces** - using conversations to talk about themselves and develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.

**Autumn** - Look and observe seasonal changes - developing language to enhancing vocabulary - We will be visiting our local environment "Going on a nature hunt" to collect signs of Autumn for our conversation station.

**Role play** area will be a **Dentist Surgery** next door to a **Greengrocers** to promote Oral Hygiene alongside Healthy Eating to enable the children to make healthy choices.

We are very lucky to have a special visitor from a Dentist, who will talk to children about keeping their teeth clean and healthy and oral hygiene. This will enable them to use their imagination from first hand experiences.

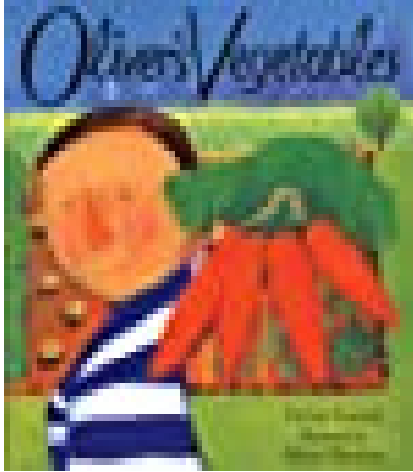


**Greengrocers** - We will be visiting the local shop to buy healthy treats.

### Favourite books that we will be revisiting are

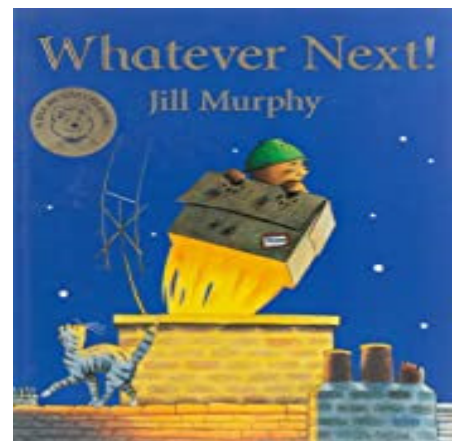
"We're going on a bear hunt" - Rein acting the story using props and story sacks.



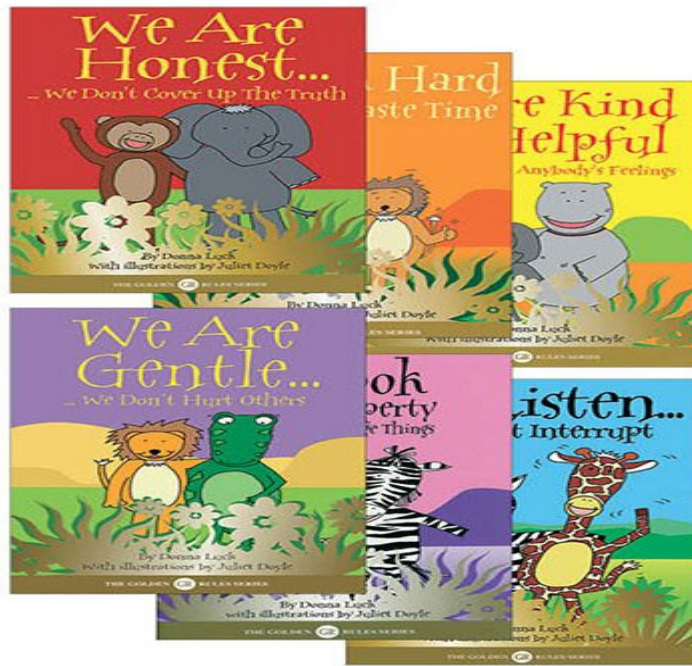


**Oliver Vegetables** - Linking this book with our Greengrocers shop and Healthy eating.

**Whatever Next-** Re telling the story and acting out our favourite parts through role play and junk modelling.



We will be looking at our "**Golden Rules**" using story books and puppets. The children who are transitioning will share these with a buddy to voice the rules and gain a greater understanding of boundaries in the setting.



## Rhymes

The children will be developing their confidence having lots of fun while performing songs in front of their peers - singing counting and number rhymes. Developing friendships being chosen by their peers.

We will use props to help develop recognition of number 1-5.

The number songs that we will singing are -

**5 Currant Buns in a Bakers Shop**

**5 Little Men in A flying saucer**

**5 Little Speckled Frogs**

**5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed**

**1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive (5 to 10 enhancement)**

If you would like any of the words for these number rhyme's please let us know 😊



## **Following the children's interests and next steps we will be...**

Creating self-portraits-using mirrors and correct colours for a purpose, noticing differences between self and others

Developing interest in talking about families and homelife

In loose part play experiences, the children will make birthday cakes decorating them with materials that are available- We will be using conversation to talk about special celebrations and show interest in when their birthday is.