

Dear Parents and Families,

It is hard to believe we are in February already. This term is going to be a busy one with lots of events to cover: Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, World Book Day and Chinese New Year! A big welcome to all the new children who have started with us.

Warm Regards

The Highwood Team



Tuesday 9th April - Parents Evening - Please see your child's key person to book an appointment to discuss your child's development. We would also be most grateful for your input on what your child can do at home and in reviewing and evaluating your child's next steps.



4th March - 8th March - Storytelling week.

This is linked to World Book Day on the **7th March** where the children are invited to dress up as their favourite story characters. Each room will be focusing on their favourite stories, making props, puppets and displays. If any parents or family members would like to come in and read to our children, please let your child's key person know.



Monday April 1st 2019 - "Mother's Day Tea Party" Pre- School / Ladybirds, Mummy's/ Carers are invited to join us for a celebratory tea party. Please see your child's key person if you are able to join us.



Thursday 18th April - We will be holding an Easter hat parade, which children of all ages can enter, so get your creative thinking HATS on!

Half Term

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February

No Nursery Education 3-4 year old or Think 2 funding

Easter Holidays

Friday 19th April 2019- Good Friday Nursery is closed

Monday 22nd April 2019 -Easter Monday Nursery is closed

Monday 15th April - Friday 28th April 2019 Easter holidays, No Nursery Education 3-4 year old or Think 2 funding

Monday 15th-Friday 28th April 2019- Easter Holiday Club

Monday 29th April Nursery Education Funded children return to nursery.



Polite but important request to all parents:

Please can we remind you all to ensure that when your child is in attendance with us at Nursery that you are contactable at all times. We have recently been having a few difficulties with contacting parents when their child has been poorly etc. It is so important that we are able to get hold of you when your little one is poorly but also this is imperative in the case of an emergency. If your contact details change please can you let us know so that we can update our records accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

Mobile Phones:

Please can we remind you all of the importance of not using mobile phones whilst in the setting. This is for the safety of both your child and other children in our care. We would politely ask that you don't make phone calls or answer incoming calls whilst in the building; these must be done outside either before you come in or when leaving. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Parent partnership ~ CAN YOU HELP?

Are you a nurse, postman, vet, fire fighter, policeman or a shop assistant etc. with some spare time to come into the nursery and tell our children about your role in the community? If so please speak with Aimee or Vicki.

Breakfast

A polite reminder to all parents/carers that breakfast time finishes at 8.00 a.m for children age 1 and above. We can only offer your child cereals at snack time which is at 9.15-9.30 if your child has not had breakfast.

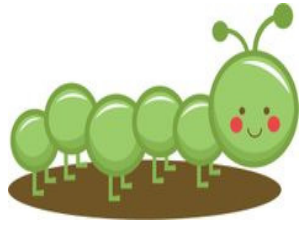
Fee Increase

Highwood Day Nursery had its annual fee increase in January 2019. Please take extra care when looking at your invoices and note the change in price. If you have any questions regarding this please don't hesitate to speak to us.

Contact

If you would like to pass any messages on to the nursery you can contact us by the land line or email. The land line number is: 01283 565069. Our email address is: info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk

Caterpillars



May we take this opportunity to welcome you all back and wish you a very happy 2019! Firstly, we would like to give a big warm welcome to our new children and parents/carers that have joined us over the last couple of months in the Caterpillar room. We will be helping them to settle right in with lots of fun activities. Please remember members of staff are always happy to discuss any concerns or requirements you may have.

As always please ensure your child brings a warm coat, as we try to go outside and explore the play area and gardens whatever the weather! We have a 'Winter treasure basket' and children were able to relate to and recognise the hat and gloves and where they go as they love to wrap themselves up and wear them.

Over the past few months all the babies have been taking part in lots of activities and messy play as the children love to explore using their senses. They have helped create pieces of work for our displays which can be seen in the Caterpillar room and on the displays leading down the stairs. Our main focus has been the Winter display over the past month or so, which can be seen in the Caterpillar room, and we will soon be starting to prepare for our Spring display that will look great in the baby room when it is coming up to Easter.

We have a family board in the Caterpillar room and it would be much appreciated if any of the new parents could bring in some family pictures for this, the children love to look at the pictures on there and spot familiar faces.

The caterpillars love songs and rhymes and one of the current favourites is 'Walking through the jungle' which will be the next focus for our hallway display. Opportunities to explore a range of crafts and mark making will be available for the children to create different jungle animals to add to the display. Look out for your photographs of your little one dressed up in jungle animal costumes.

Please find the words of "Walking Through The Jungle" to sing along with your little one below.

*Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle
What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)*

*What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a tiger (roar, roar)
I think it was a tiger (roar, roar)
Think it was a tiger (roar)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.*



*Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle
What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)
What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a snake (hiss, hiss)
I think it was a snake (hiss, hiss)
Think it was a snake (hiss)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.*



*Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle
What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)
What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a monkey (monkey sound)
I think it was a monkey (monkey sound)
Think it was a monkey (monkey sound)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.
I hope it isn't me!*



Here are some of the events we have going on within the next few months in the Caterpillar room.....

Valentine's Day - We will be celebrating Valentine's day on the 14th February by making some Valentine's day cards and little gifts for the babies to give to their parents/carers, we won't give away too much as these gifts will be a lovely surprise.

(Physical Development: 16-26 Months- Makes connections between their movements and the marks they make)

Chinese New Year - Tuesday 5th February we will be doing Chinese themed crafts, where we will encourage the children to paint colourful pictures and guide them to glue and stick some Chinese new year related pictures and will also be able to sample some delicious yummy Chinese foods.

(Expressive Arts and Design: 8-20/16-26 Months- Notices and is interested in the effects of making movements which leave marks.) (Physical Development: 16-26 Months- Willing to try new foods and textures)

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake day is on Tuesday the 5th March this year and we will be celebrating this by doing some pancake tasting in the baby room.(Physical Development: 16-26 Months- Willing to try new foods and textures)

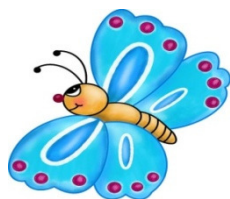
Mother's day We will be showing our Mummy's just how much we love and care for them by supporting the children in making Mother's day cards and gifts.

(Physical Development: 16-26 Months- Makes connections between their movements and the marks they make)

Easter - We will be doing Easter themed activities, including an Easter egg hunt and we will be encouraging the children to decorate Easter eggs with bright coloured paint and materials.

(Expressive Arts and Design: 8-20/16-26 Months- Notices and is interested in the effects of making movements which leave marks.)

Butterflies



We are going to be learning about Chinese New Year with the upcoming holiday on Tuesday 5th February.

This year is the year of the pig and the children will be creating some pig collages. We will be tasting a variety of Chinese foods and discussing our likes and dislikes

P.D- Health and self care (16-26) " develops own likes and dislikes in food and drink"

The children will explore Chinese sensory play using different coloured noodles and chopsticks to handle them. They will have the opportunity to get creative and make some Chinese fans to take home.

E.A.D-exploring media and materials(22-36) " explores with blocks, colours and marks".

February

Colour of the month: **Pink**

The children will be feeling the love this Valentine's Day as they will be involved in all things red and pink. We are going to get creative to make a special gift for our loved ones. We will be linking this to special people in our lives and would kindly ask parents and carers to bring in some family photos for our family wall and also to create mini photo books for the children.

Understanding the world: People and communities(16-26) " enjoys picture and stories about themselves, their families and other people"

March

Colour of the month: **Green**

To celebrate St. Davids day we are going to be creating pretty daffodils which will be added to our spring display.

The children will have the opportunity to taste pancakes with a variety of toppings on Shrove Tuesday.

They will explore pancake ingredients and watch how they mix combine together in messy play

P.D: Health and selfcare (16-26) " willing to try new food textures and tastes"

7th March is World book day so we will be asking the children about their favourite stories. We would like to invite parents and carers to come to nursery and read stories to the children.

Literacy: reading (22-36)" has some favourite stories, rhymes, songs, poems and jingles"

Feeling lucky this St.Patrick's day, the children will be making shamrock collages and some sweet treats to take home. We will have everything green so feel free to wear green clothing too.

Understanding the world: the world (22-36) "notices detailed features of objects in the environment"

We are going to be updating our seasonal display board to Spring, the children will get creative and make some lovely artwork which will then be displayed.

At circle times we will discuss with the children what is happening in the environment such as weather changes, and what suitable clothing we need to wear.

The free flow will be turned into a lovely little garden centre where the children can explore soil play and have a go at planting their very own flower which they can take home.

To celebrate Mothers day we are going to get creative to send something home for those we love.

April

Colour of the month [Blue](#)

Throughout April we will talk about Spring and create lots of spring artwork. We will be talking about Easter with the children they will be making some yummy Easter nests, tasting hot cross buns, and going on an egg hunt around the garden. Don't forget to make your Easter bonnet for the Easter bonnet parade around the garden.

E.A.D: exploring media and materials (22-36) " Experiments with blocks, colour and marks"

To celebrate St.Georges day we are going to be making some paper plate dragons and England flags

P.D: Moving and handling (22-36) "shows control in holding and using jugs to pour, hammers, books and mark making tools."

We are updating our book corner display into Old Macdonald had a farm, the children enjoy choosing to sing this song at circle time, they name animals that live on the farm and create sounds representing the noises animals make. For our display we will be using a variety of materials to create the animals and talking about different textures being used and how they feel.

Expressive arts and design: exploring and using media and materials (30-50)-" beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things"

Ladybird Room



Welcome to our spring edition in the ladybird room we are going to be enjoying learning about special events and celebrations.

Beginning of February we will be learning about Chinese New Year which this year is the year of the pig. We will be converting our role play area into a Chinese restaurant , looking at visual aids to label Chinese food as well as food tasting and enjoying a Chinese banquet with our friends.

The children will be listening to Chinese music incorporating dragon dancing in a group developing gross motor movement in creating movement to sound.

Understanding the world: the world: 30-50-comments and asks questions about aspects of familiar world such as they place /world where they live

We will be developing our fine motor movement to use chopsticks to attempt to pick up the noodles during malleable play. This activity shall be extended for the older group by adding letters and numbers into a bowl of noodles and use chopsticks to get them out showing recognition through play.

P.D-moving and handling-30-50-using one handed tools and equipment.

We will use pink paint/resources and materials to create our own pigs and listen to the Chinese zodiac story.

Literacy-reading-30-50 listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.

On February 14th the children will be celebrating Valentine's Day by talking and discussing about special people in their lives, who they love and extend language by talking about why they are special to us.

We will be holding a red/pink themed day, your child is more than welcome to come to nursery dressed in these colours if they wish. We will be using the red confetti hearts and linking them to number, younger group 1-10 and the older group counting beyond 10 matching quantity to the correct number of love hearts.

Maths-30-50-begins to represent numbers using fingers and marks.

Throughout this term your child may have the opportunity to bring ' Polly Parrot' home to encourage them to think about sounds that they hear in the environment, linking to letters and sounds programme for preschool children. Please feel free to take lots of photographs when it's your child's turn, we love to discuss and look at what Polly has been up to in circle time before she begins her new adventure.

In March the children will be having a pancake race as part of Pancake Day and having a try of one with various toppings. The children will be developing the use of one handed tools as they use the pan in one hand and one hand behind their backs to balance their pancake in the pan.

P.D-40-60- Handles tools, objects ,construction, malleable safely with increasing control.

We will have bowls/spoons and jugs available to have a try at mixing their own pancake mixture together-older group extending their maths language: more/less and younger group developing and using imagination by pretending.

E.A.D-30-50- Beginning to make believe by pretending

Maths-40-60-use more/less to compare.

The children will be learning about St.Patricks Day decorating shamrocks, and enjoying a green themed day as well as going on a hunt to find the leprechaun.

E.A.D-40-60- manipulates materials to achieve planned effect.

We will be inviting our special Mummy's for a tea party, to come and enjoy teatime with us to sample some of Sue's, our cook, yummy cakes! Delicious! Please let a member of staff know if you can attend. Any further questions please speak to Vicki or Aimee.

The children will be using yellow, orange and green paints to create their own picture of a daffodil to celebrate St.David's Day.

The children will be making patterns using powder paints to show interest in the Hindu Celebration - Holi on Wednesday 20th March.

Now springtime is here the children will be learning about new life and lifecycles. We will be looking at our small world lifecycles that include chicken, caterpillar, a plant and a frog.

Using scissor skills we will cut out pictures of the frog lifecycle putting them in the correct order.

Encouraging the children to develop listening and attention using the the story " The very hungry caterpillar" developing understanding of healthy eating which foods are healthy/ unhealthy we will be using the food snap cards to discuss food groups.

Our role play area will be ' Home' to initiate role play based on first hand experiences. Understanding the world: the world: develop an understanding of growth, decay, changes over time

E.A.D-30-50-engages in imaginative role play based first hand experiences.

The children will be looking closely at the changes during spring, encouraging the children to have a try at painting trees and print with bubble wrap to create blossom effect

E.A.D-explore media and material-understands that different media can be combined to create new effects.

April

The children will be learning about dragons and knights as we learn about St.George and using relevant colours to paint the patriot flag.

It's nearly Easter time already! We can't wait to see the children's creations in form of their own Easter hats as we all take part in our Easter bonnet parade.

We will be going on an Easter egg hunt noticing patterns and matching pairs together, to receive our own chocolate to bring home.

Maths-uses shapes appropriately for tasks-40-60

We will be making our own chocolate nests, mixing melted chocolate with shredded wheat to make our own yummy treats, how eggs-citing!!

E.A.D-Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things-30-50