



## Welcome to Spring Term 2016

### Diary Dates

- **15th February 2016** Half term No Funded children
- **15th February 2016** February half term Holiday Club

- **Tuesday 23rd February ~ Parents Evening ~**

Please see your child's key person to book an appointment to discuss your child's development. They will also be asking for your input in reviewing and evaluating their next steps.

- **29<sup>th</sup> February ~ 4<sup>th</sup> March ~ Storytelling week**

This is linked to World Book Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March where the children are invited to dress up as their favourite story characters. Each room will be focussing 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.

- **7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 "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.

- **18<sup>th</sup> March ~ Sports Relief**

- **24<sup>th</sup> March ~ Easter Bonnet Parade**

- **Easter Holidays**

- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March ~ Good Friday Nursery is closed**

- **Monday 28th March 2016 ~ Easter Monday Nursery is closed**

- **Friday 25th March ~ Monday 11th April 2016** Easter holidays. No Funded children /No stretched funded children in week commencing 28th
- Easter Holiday Club  
**Monday 11th April 2016** Funded children return to nursery.
- **April 21st ~ Queens Birthday** - Afternoon tea party in honour of the Queen's birthday.

- **Starting times**

Can we kindly ask that all children are dropped off and picked up on time so that we can maintain strict Government ratio guidelines at all times. We have a number of Ladybird and Butterfly room children who arrive very early, unfortunately we cannot let you leave your child, unless they are full day care. Parents will be asked to wait until their child's session time officially starts due to strict ratio's guidelines that we have to adhere to. Children booked in for these sessions must also be picked up on time. We appreciate your cooperation with this issue.

- **Lost Property**

Please ensure that all children's belongings are named.

- **Developing Independence**

We actively encourage children to be as independent as possible getting their coats and shoes on. Unfortunately some children are struggling to put their shoes back on due to 'laces'. Velcro shoes are perfect for nursery and offer the children a sense of pride and achievement once they are on.

- **Outdoor Clothing**

As the weather is still a little unpredictable can you ensure that your child(ren) come to nursery with coats, hat and gloves so that they are prepared for any weather and can still enjoy the outdoors as we do go outside every day. Please can we also remind parents and carers to clearly label these with your child's name to avoid any mix ups.

For guidance on your child's development linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), please take a look at the fantastic information from the Department of Education at [www.4children.org.uk](http://www.4children.org.uk)

The purpose of this booklet is to help you as a parent/carer find out more about how your child is learning and developing during their first five years, in relation to the EYFS. Children develop more rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time. This booklet has been written to help you as a parent know what to expect during these vitally important years by focusing on the seven areas of learning and development which are covered in the EYFS.



### **Caterpillar Room News**

Welcome to the New Year and Spring Term....

The children have settled back into routine well and are getting fully involved in lots of different activities.

We welcome Freddie to the Caterpillar room and wish our older Caterpillars Max, J-J, Ruby-Meg, Leo, Hayden - Lee, Ruben, Oliver, Farrah and Theia lots of luck as they move on to their new venture in the Butterfly room.

The children have been very busy exploring different winter activities and getting messy. Frozen shaving foam has been a particular favourite as children love to explore using their senses. They have also created a lovely snowman display using lots of cotton wool and glitter. The children were able to relate to and recognise the hat and scarf on the snowman as they wrap themselves up warm to play outside. We have also linked this to our "Winter Treasure Basket" following the heuristic approach to learning where the children discover everyday winter clothes and items relating to winter.

(**Heuristic play** was a term coined by a child psychologist Elinor Goldschmeid in the early 1980's. **Heuristic play** describes the activity of babies and children as they **play** with and explore the properties of 'objects'. These 'objects' are things from the real world.)

The caterpillars love songs and rhymes and the current favourite is 'Wheels on the bus'. They are able to join in with the actions or dance along to the song. To extend on this we will be creating a 'Wheels on the bus' display down the stairs, doing lots of messy play and getting very creative. Please feel free to bring in any photos of your child on the bus or tickets to use as part of this.

Our family tree is also in need of an update too so we welcome any family photos you may want to share with us. These can be given to a member of staff or emailed across to us at [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk).

As we move into February we will have lots to celebrate. We start with Chinese New Year where the children will be able to sample some delicious yummy Chinese foods. We will also be creating some colourful lanterns for the children to bring home and share with you. Following this is Pancake Day where the children will get to taste some delicious treats!

For Valentines Day the caterpillars will be very busy...but leave that with us as the rest is a secret!

As we approach March the older caterpillars will be creating a lovely colourful spring meadow display. This will involve looking at baby animals and beautiful daffodils and flowers to tie in with St. David's Day.

For St. Patrick's Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March we will be having a 'Green Day'. The children will be involved in lots of different green activities such as painting, colouring & messy play. We ask that you bring your child in something green (if possible) to celebrate.

Holi day on 23<sup>rd</sup> March will be celebrated with lots of bright colours. We will explore using powder paint and water to create our very own Holi pictures.

Over Easter the children will be involved in some delicious baking activities with lots of chocolate and treats to bring home.

And for all you special Mummies out there we haven't forgotten about you on 6<sup>th</sup> March!

Finally could we please ask that your child is provided with a suitable thick coat for the outdoors and a spare pair of clothes in case of any accidents. Thank you.



## Butterfly Room News

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.

The Children in the Butterfly room have been learning all about the Winter Season, they have created a wonderful snowman using paint and glitter to make him look icy cold. We would love to have the opportunity to enhance our winter display with family photographs of you wrapped up in your winter clothes. These can be given to a member of staff or emailed across to us at [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk).

February kick starts a year full of celebrations.

February the 14th is St Valentine's Day, this falls on a Sunday so we will be celebrating on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> instead. 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 9th 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.

We will be having lots of fun learning all about "Chinese New Year" this will be achieved by introducing the children to variety of Chinese objects in a treasure basket and talking to the children about the baskets contents asking open ended questions to extend their knowledge and understanding. Messy play will include noodles, rice with bowls and chopsticks to develop mathematics skills through counting and looking at quantities

March 18<sup>th</sup> we will be raising money for Sports Relief by getting "Shimmy with Timmy the sheep" having our own "sheeplechase" and taking part in lots of fun physical activities.

When Easter and Spring arrive we are hoping to get 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.



## Ladybird Room News

We would like to welcome Robert and Tyler into the ladybird room. We hope they settle well into Ladybird life.

This month "Forest School" will recommence. Forest school is for all children to have hands on experiences in a natural outdoor environment to help them develop confidence and self esteem. Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing and footwear to enable them to take part in this fantastic opportunity.

The 9<sup>th</sup> of February is "Pancake Day" the children will be making yummy pancakes, they will be measuring flour and milk , cracking eggs and giving the ingredients a good mix together. Sue our cook will then cook them for us and the children will have lots of fun trying to toss them and catch them again. (Luckily we will be able to practice in the home corner with play dough and play pans.) Once the pancakes are cooked the children will have a choice of delicious ingredients to put on their own pancake. A tally chart will then be made to see what the was the most popular topping . Mmmm..... What is Your all time favourite topping???

For Valentines Day we will be talking to the children about Special people in their life and have lots of opportunities to be creative making special gifts just for you.

The Children will be learning all about the world around us when celebrating "Chinese New Year". We will be learning all about the Chinese festival/traditions and the story of the Zodiac calendar, 2016 being the year of the monkey. Taste buds will be tantalised by tasting a variety of Chinese foods when we will be having a Chinese banquet for lunch and eating it with traditional chop sticks. The area of learning Expressive Arts and design will be covered when the children will be able to dine in their own role play "Chinese Restaurant" (If you have any Chinese items that you could donate to enhance this area we would be most grateful).

Exploring a range of materials the children will also create a dragon that will be used when they imitate and copy movements in the traditional art of a dragon dance.

March 1<sup>st</sup> is Saint David's Day the patron saint of Wales, we will be having a fun day celebrating all things welsh, looking at the map of united kingdom to see where Wales is and colouring the Welsh flag in the correct colours, At tea we will be eating traditional welsh cuisine, Welsh Cawl/soup and Welsh cakes.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March we will be inviting our Mummies or special carers to come a join us for a special tea to celebrate Mother's Day, this will begin a 3:30pm. If you require any further information about our tea party please ask a member of staff.

St Patrick's Day is on the 17<sup>th</sup> March and to celebrate this we will be having a 'green' themed day. We will be decorating four leaf clovers, dancing to Irish music and going on a Leprechaun hunt!

We will be raising lots of money in aid of Sports Relief on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March! The children will be getting active outside, competing in races and working together to take part in lots of fun, physical themed activities.

Spring will officially begin on March 19<sup>th</sup> and on March 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be learning about the Hindu festival of colour, 'Holi'. We will have so much fun exploring colour through powder paints, creating both individual and group designs. We will be using colourful chalks to create works of art and creating movements to traditional music.

The Christian celebration of Easter is on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March this year and we will be completing lots of fun, learning activities which are Easter themed. The children will be invited to join in our 'decorate your own Easter egg' competition and prizes will be given to the most creative designs! Please note grown ups, the winner will be strictly children's work only!

Grown ups will be able to get creative when helping their child create an Easter bonnet for our parade, we can't wait to see your super designs.

Over Easter we be linking activities to the Development Matters, Just some of the activities that the children will be taking part in are:~

Matching Eggs~ Patterns /**Mathematics**

Easter shape threading ~ **Physical** fine motor skills/hand eye co ordination.

Making Easter nest cakes ~ **Maths** measuring quantities, counting **Numbers** recognising packaging for ingredients **Literacy /Reading**

Mixing ingredients ~ **Physical development** and **Understanding the World** /noticing changes **Expressive Arts and Designs** using tools for a purpose.

Easter Egg Hunt ~ **Communication Skills**

**If there is a specific area of development that you would like us to focus on with your child please talk to your child's key worker who will be more than happy to help.**

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.

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.

