

Welcome to Spring Term 2018

Diary Dates

Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February 2017 Half term- No Funded children

Monday 19th February 2017 - Friday 23rd February 2017 Half term -Holiday Club



26th February - 2nd March Storytelling week this is linked to World Book Day on the **1st 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 the children please let your child's key person know.



Tuesday 6th February - 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.



Friday 10th March 2017 "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.



Monday 19th March - Friday 23rd March We are hoping to raise lots of money for Sports Relief by dressing up please bring your child/ren dressed in sports clothes this week with a £2 donation. The difference you make when you fundraise for Sport Relief, you support those living with mental health issues and provide lifesaving maternal healthcare for mothers and babies. You also help those at risk of trafficking or domestic violence and join the global fight to end malaria. You do all this, and so much more,

because Comic Relief uses the money you raise to support projects on the ground, here in the UK and across the world.

To find out more about the difference you make and the projects we fund, visit comicrelief.com.



Thursday 29th March - We will be holding an Easter hat parade, which children of all ages can enter, so get your creative thinking HATS on!

Easter Holidays

Friday 30th March 2017- Good Friday Nursery is closed

Monday 2nd April 2017 -Easter Monday Nursery is closed

Friday 30th March- Monday 16th April 2018 Easter holidays, No Think 2 Funding or Nursery Education 3-4 year old funding

Tuesday 3rd -Friday 13th April 2018- Easter Holiday Club

Monday 16th April Nursery Education Funded children return to nursery.



General information.....

A reminder about your child's bag

We would like to ask that you are careful when packing children's bags for nursery. As parents it is understandable that everything other than the kitchen sink usually goes into your child's day bag as when you are out and about it is good to be prepared for all eventualities, however not all these items are safe in the hands of children. We have found an array of items in children's bags that could be harmful to children for various reasons. Within some of the nursery rooms bags are accessible to the children so we would like to urge you not to put anything in your child's bag that could be potentially dangerous. Bottles, spare clothes, comforters and nappies are all we need. Any other items such as medications or creams should be given to a member of staff please.

Children in Need 2017 and Christmas Jumper Day 2017

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to our fundraising days. The children (and staff alike!) had so much fun coming into nursery dressed up and joining in with all the fun activities for such good causes. There was lots of fun to be had with making and decorating biscuits, sticking and painting pictures, play dough and much more!

Clothing

What does my child need to wear?

Children need to wear clothes that are suitable for playing in. They need to be comfortable. Aprons are worn for messy activities but children may still get paint or glue on themselves. It's a good idea to keep best clothes for home.

They need shoes that can be worn for outdoor activities like running and climbing.

It is worth thinking about whether children can get their own clothes on and off. Can they manage their clothing when they go to the toilet? Not too many zips and buttons help young children in dressing and undressing for themselves.

We go outside every day including wet days, unless it is raining heavily. Coats will always be needed in colder weather. Hoods and hats are a good idea as well.

Please label your child's clothing to avoid items being lost or taken in error.

Toilet Training

Highwood works extremely hard to work in partnership with parents and strive to keep strategies consistent here, which support those provided at home. In order for us to provide consistent intimate care for those potty training, children must arrive to every session with an adequate amount of clothes for the individual child. Nursery have a very small amount of spare clothes and children in the early days of potty training can have numerous amounts of accidents whilst adjusting to life in pants at nursery, due to many

distractions. It is normal for children to take longer to grasp the concept at nursery than at home and it can also normal for some children to take several weeks, so we ask for your patience during this time. Highwood staff regret having to call parents but in some extreme cases this has been needed as we physically cannot provide them with something to wear due to shortages. In order to avoid this, parents can ensure they have more than enough to see them through each day. Staff will communicate with parents as to whether a child needs more or less items. If your child is potty training please ensure all soiled clothes are taken daily to be washed.

Useful links for potty training are as follows.

We actively encourage children to be as independent as possible when toileting. Unfortunately, some children are struggling to go to the toilet due to inappropriate clothing. Elasticated waist joggers or similar clothing are perfect for nursery and offer the children a sense of pride and achievement when they can pull their clothes up and down independently.

- www.eric.org.uk
- www.pampers.co.uk
- www.pottytraining.co.uk/8_signs
- www.nhs.uk/Conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/pages/potty-training-tips.aspx

Children's belongings

Can we ask that you take all your child's belongings home with you at the end of each session. This will help prevent any belongings being misplaced or lost.

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 2018. 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

The email address is: info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk

Caterpillar room



May we take this opportunity to welcome you all back and wish you a very happy 2018!

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.

In addition, we have had to say goodbye to some of our older caterpillars who have moved/are in the process to moving into the Butterfly room. We will miss them very much and wish them lots of luck but know they will have so much fun!

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 throughout the nursery, these can be seen in the Caterpillar room and 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. Also, the caterpillars love songs and rhymes and the current favourite is 'Walking through the jungle' which will be the next focus of one of our wall displays where the children will decorate different jungle animals to add to the display.

We also 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 the familiar faces.

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

Shrove Tuesday- Pancake day is Tuesday the 13th February this year and we will be celebrating this by doing some pancake tasting in the baby room and having pancakes for our snack to let all the children try some.

(Physical Development: 16-26 Months- Willing to try new foods and textures)

Valentines day- We will be celebrating Valentines day on the 14th February by making some valentines 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- is on Friday 16th February where we will be doing a few different 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.) and (Physical Development: 16-26 Months- Willing to try new foods and textures)

St Patrick's day- We ask that you bring your children to nursery dressed in Green clothes for St Patrick's day, we will also be doing lots of crafts such as decorating shamrocks, and doing some green themed messy play and painting.

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

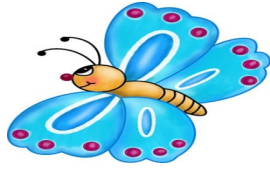
Mothers day- We will be showing our Mummies just how much we love and care for them by supporting the children in making mothers day cards and gifts.

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

Easter- Easter is on Sunday 1st of April this year. We will be doing Easter themed activities the week leading up to Easter, including an Easter egg hunt and we will be encouraging the children to decorate plastic 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



Firstly we would like to give a warm welcome to all of the children that have joined us since the new year, we hope you enjoy your time in the butterfly room and we wish all of those that have turned into ladybirds good luck in their learning journey.

In February we will be celebrating Pancake day by enjoying pancakes with a variety of delicious toppings discovering likes and dislikes. The children will have the opportunity to discover different textures as they use their senses exploring the pancake ingredients.

Physical : health and self care(16-26)- " develop own likes and dislikes in food and drink"

To celebrate Valentines day we will be having all of our activities the colour red and pink, feel free to come dressed up in your red and pink clothes for nursery. We will be getting creative making cards for our loved ones, and talking about them at nursery so that we can update our family board with new pictures. Can we ask for parents to bring in photographs of the family to go up on our board.

Understanding the world- people and communities (22-36) " has a sense of own immediate family and relations"

We will be looking into other cultures and celebrations starting with Chinese new year. For this we will be tasting some Chinese foods such as spring rolls, prawn crackers, noodles and rice this will allow the children to discover new tastes and textures. The children will be creating some lovely Chinese art work for everybody to see which will enable the children to explore new textures they are using for their pictures.

Expressive arts and design: exploring and using media and materials(22-36)" experiments with colours, blocks and marks"

This year for Mothers day we will be talking with the children about our families. The home corner will be transformed into a home corner where the children can use their imagination from firsthand experience. We will also be very busy creating some lovely gifts for our lovely mummies.

Expressive arts and design- being imaginative-(22-36) " beginning to make believe by pretending"

We shall be celebrating St.Patrick's day by having a green themed day. We will enjoy exploring creative and messy themed activities!!

As spring approaches the children will be learning about the season changes such as a change in weather, what we might wear outside and what we may see in the environment.

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

We are going to be changing the free flow area into a garden centre where we will be growing flowers from seeds and learning how to care for them properly. Inside we will be turning our winter display into a bright and colourful spring display which will show off all of our artwork.

We are going to be busy celebrating Easter by having an Easter egg hunt, making chocolate nest cakes and joining in with a variety of crafts. We are going to be talking to the children about different celebrations and reading stories about them.

Understanding the world-people and communities(22-36) " learn that they have similarities and differences that connect them to distinguish them from others"

To celebrate St.George's day we are going to be making flag pictures, we will also be collecting boxes and yogurt pots for junk modelling so that we can stick them together to make a big dragon and paint it. This will allow the children to use their imagination and fine motor movements.

Expressive arts and design-being imaginative(22-36) " beginning to use representation to communicate"

We will be listening to stories about " New life " and creating a seasonal display creating our own chicks , baby lambs and bunnies using different techniques.

Literacy-reading (22-36) Has some favourite stories, rhymes, songs, poems or jingles.

Repeats words or phrases from familiar stories.

Expressive arts and design (30-50)- exploring media and materials- Experiments with blocks, colours and marks.

Ladybird room



A big warm welcome to Beatrix, Alex, Anya and Erin who transition in February..... Dylan and Tobias in March and Adam in April. We hope you enjoy continuing your learning journey in the ladybird room.

Tuesday 13th February is shrove Tuesday/ pancake day. The children will have the opportunity to taste pancakes, explore different toppings and even attempt to taste blind folded!!

Wednesday 14th February is Valentines, We will be having a red themed day, as well as decorating cards for those special people that we love!. The children will be using the tweezers develop their hand eye co-ordination to pick up the love heart shapes. They will then group them into colours and extend their learning using number names spontaneously in play.

30-50 maths- number-Uses some number names and number language spontaneously.

30-50 expressive arts and design-media and materials-Realises tools can be used for a purpose.

Friday 16th February: We will be celebrating Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the dog.

We will be converting the role play area into a Chinese restaurant, developing use of using chop sticks, making delicious meals for our friends and Chinese food tasting.... delicious.

The children will be making red envelopes. The red colour of the envelope symbolizes good luck.

They will be attempting to write basic chinese numbers using black paint and thin brushes.

30-50- understanding the world- people and communities- Shows interest in different occupations and ways of life. Knows some of the things that make them unique, and can talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family.

30-50- expressive arts and design- being imaginative-role play based on first hand experiences.

March 1st is St Davids day where the children will be busy creating daffodil pictures using their handprints and relevant springtime colours. We will be collaging daffodils as well as painting using different techniques.

March 2nd is Holi a festival celebrated by Hindus in the spring of every year. We will be using powder paint to drop onto paper creating the effect and watching their powder paint spread. The children will be listening to stories relevant to their age and stage.

*30-50- expressive arts and design-exploring media and materials- Manipulates materials to achieve a planned effect
Understands that different media can be combined to create new effects.*

As part of world book day - this week we will be inviting parents to come and read a story to the children, please speak to a member of the ladybird team to arrange a convenient time.

Our lovely Mummy's will be invited for a afternoon tea party on Friday 9th March 3.30pm-4.30pm, please let a member of staff know if you can attend. The children will be busy making gifts and cards to present to their Mummy's for this day.

Sports relief 17th-23rd March- we will be getting involved in sports activities this week developing ball control, use of a bat, running races, obstacles courses and negotiating space outdoors amongst others. Please feel free to wear leisure/sportswear this week and lets help raise money for a good cause.

30-50- physical development-moving and handling- Moves freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping.

40-60- Shows increasing control over an object in pushing, patting, throwing, catching or kicking it.

March 17th - St Patrick's day

We will be making shamrocks and having green themed messy/malleable play. We will be developing use of positional language when hiding the leprechaun..... using directional clues also for the older children.

Our new topic is going to be lifecycles. The children will be busy learning about changes: Tadpole to frog, caterpillar to butterfly. This will be linked to our story "The very hungry caterpillar". The children will be using the story sack to re-tell the story themselves with the puppets and pictures. The children will be tasting the fruits from the story, we will be making a chart to see "which is the favourite fruit?"

30-50- Understanding the world-the world-Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

Shows care and concern for living things and the environment

We will be using the small world understanding the world sets to look into detail about happenings and how things happen.

Week commencing 26th March-The children will be making some lovely crafts to take home as well. The children will be going out on an Easter egg hunt matching together patterned eggs. We will be combining ingredients to make some Easter nests using the delicious chocolate and shredded wheat and topping with mini eggs yummy!!

April 23rd St Georges day- The children will be listening to the story ' George and the dragon' , they will be making patriotic flags as well as developing their imagination throughout using the knights and castles in pretend role play.

30-50-Expressive arts and design - being imaginative- Engages in imaginative role-play based on own first-hand experiences.

Uses available resources to create props to support role-play.