



Highwood Day Nursery Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to Nursery. We hope that you had a lovely Christmas. It is lovely hearing the children talk about what a wonderful time they have had with friends and family over the Christmas period.

Thank you also for all your kind Christmas gifts of chocolates, nibbles, and wine. You really are very generous and thoughtful.

The next couple of months are going to be busy with lots of events to cover, Pancake Day, World Book Day and Chinese New Year!

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. We are available to talk to and share your thoughts via telephone 01283 565069 or email us on info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk

Warm Regards

The Highwood Team x

Dates for your Diary



Celebrating Chinese New Year - Year of the Dragon ~ 10th February

We will be learning about this special festival in many ways, including creating lanterns and using sparkly sequins to decorate them. On this day the children can dress as the animal of the year they were born, learning about Chinese New Year traditions and how we celebrate and enjoy festivities.

February Half Term – W/C 12th February

No Nursery Grants

Valentines Week – w/c 12th February



The children will be celebrating 'St. Valentine's Day' by creating their own cards, hearts, cookies and paintings for the special people in their lives. These experiences support the children's creative and mark making skills and help them to develop their feelings and emotions.

Wednesday 14th February children can come dressed up as someone they love. This could be just like Daddy, Mummy, a favourite character or red/pink items of clothing.



Pancake Day – Shrove Tuesday ~ 13th February

We will develop and practice our maths skills by pouring and measuring the correct quantities. We will talk about what different foods we would like to have on top of our pancakes and we will try many new and exciting fruits. Our children will be learning about traditions during this celebration.



St David's Day ~ 1st March

Our children will be learning about St David's Day. This will include creating their own beautiful handprint daffodils, creating Welsh flags and enjoying small world role play with dragons as well as exploring cultural traditions and songs.

World Book Week ~ w/c 4th March

Throughout this week all children are invited to dress up as their favourite book characters and are welcome to bring in special books from home to share with their peers during story times. We will have the opportunity to learn new and exciting ways to present stories, and role play different characters from books.

This celebration will enhance our children's learning and development in mark making, reading, storytelling and role play experiences.

Mothers/Special Person Day ~ 10th March

Throughout this week the children will be talking about the special people in their lives and what makes them special. They will be making gifts for these special people in their lives as well as having the opportunity to explore mark making and writing.



St Patrick's Day ~ 17th March

Children and practitioners are going to celebrate Saint Patricks Day by taking part in Irish dancing, learning songs and creating Irish flags. This will help the children gain a great understanding of the lifestyle/culture in Ireland.



Easter Break -Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April

Children who are term time only will not attend during this period.



Holi Festival -25th March

Our children will be taking part in various craft activities exploring colours and how they can be changed. They will have the opportunity to make beautiful rainbow pictures and create colourful images, giving meaning to their marks. Throughout the week we will also be looking at different cultures and traditions where this festival is celebrated.



Caterpillar Room

The soft play area is a popular favourite with all our babies. In this area they have had lots of opportunities to strengthen their fine and gross motor skills through climbing up steps and sliding down the slide. Our babies have developed their imagination and practised their ball skills whilst enjoying the fun of the ball pit. The babies pick up valuable social and communication skills during this activity too. Soft play is the perfect way for them to get their wiggles out while also developing important skills like balance, coordination, and problem-solving. We have watched as the babies have new found confidence and learnt how to be sociable when taking turns with their friends.



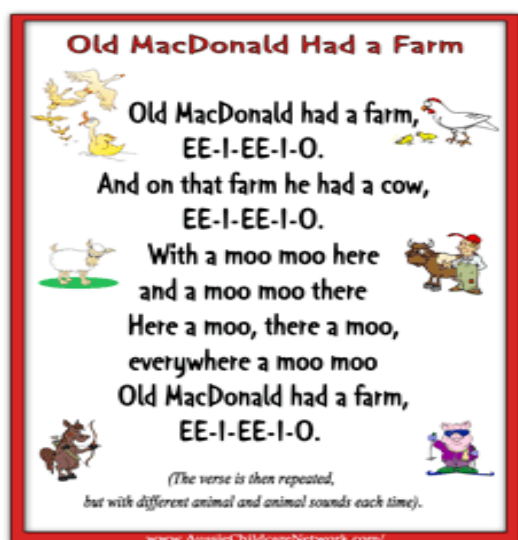
Over the past few months all the babies have been taking part in lots of activities and messy play. The children love to explore using their senses, using tools alongside malleable play to make individual marks. We extended our mark making outdoors using chalks to draw on the elephant blackboards.



The Caterpillars have enjoyed participating in action songs during Kimbles this has helped the babies and toddlers to develop their fine and gross motor control skills as well as balance, coordination and the skills needed to follow simple instructions when using a variety of instruments. Sharing nursery rhymes provides a safe and secure bond between practitioners and babies



Following the babies interests



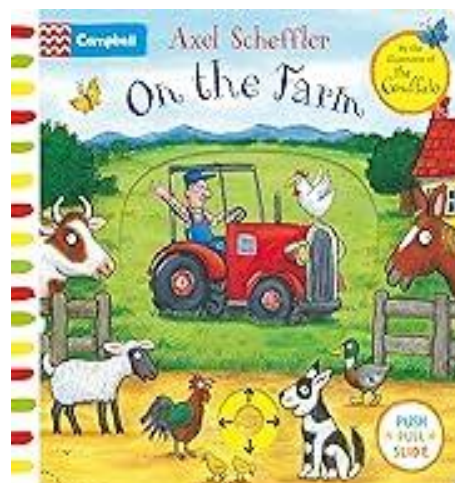
Rhyme Time

It is fun, interactive and noisy! Nursery rhymes are great for language development, they have a lot of rhythm which catch baby's attention, and repetition, which is good for speech development. We will be using our finger puppets to encourage our babies to participate in the song "Old MacDonald"

We hope you have lots of fun singing it at home 😊

Story Time

The more stories you read aloud, the more words your baby will hear and the better they'll be able to talk. Hearing words helps to build a rich network of words in a baby's brain. Children whose parents talk and read to them often know more words by age 2 than children who have not been read to. We will continue to promote this at nursery by reading the book "On the Farm"



Farm Discovery Baskets

sparks curiosity! They are also fantastic for encouraging independence, offering your baby the experience of making choices and they are great for little ones to practice their sitting.

THE BUTTERFLY ROOM

The children have had a wonderful time over the last few weeks learning and exploring all things Christmas. The children were extra busy creating lovely crafts and gifts for their loved ones and were also given the opportunity to explore a variety of Christmas sensory trays. The children enjoyed the different trays and talking to their peers and carers about Santa and what they would like for Christmas, they were then able to take part in gluing and sticking activities to show what toys they would like.

To follow on from this on the return to nursery we have been discussing with the children what they had over the festive holiday and a lot of them have been very excited to tell us what they got and that Santa has gone for now.



Following on from our Busy Autumn term and Fun in December getting ready Christmas.....

We are going to be exploring the winter season over the next few months using different sensory trays/activities and then we are going to be creating winter themed art work pieces. We will be learning about winter colours, what we might see in winter for example snow and also learning about keeping warm outside and what we need to wear when it's cold.



Our busy role play area will be transforming into a Vets Surgery. This follows on from the children's continued interest in animals. We would love to see pictures of your family pets or favourite pets on our wall so please send them in via blossom or the nursery's email. At our vets in the butterfly room the children will have the opportunity to role play with their peers to make the animals better whilst also exploring a range of medical tools and costumes. We will be reading stories about the vets and what they do to help animals and learning about different animals that might go to the vets.

This year's Chinese New Year is all about the year of the dragon and here in the butterfly room we are going to be exploring messy sensory trays to learn all about it. As well as trying some Chinese foods which we can talk to children about if they like or dislike it.

For pancake day the children will using their senses to explore the very sticky mixture of flour and water, we are going to be singing the song five crispy pancakes and then later in the day tasting some pancakes.

As valentines approaches the children will be getting creative to give their loved ones something special and we will be talking about those close to us.

A big interest within the butterfly room is with the construction toys, the children enjoy exploring the different types of construction that we have and love to dress up as builders and use the construction bench with the tools. To reflect this interest within the room we will be creating a new construction display to do this the children are going to be getting creative to make art work using different paints, painting techniques and crafts to make our new display.

The children will be getting creative to make their loved ones something special for Mother's Day and we are going to be learning about families using the little people and house and talking about who lives in our homes. We will be updating our family board in the room so please send in family photos for us to put on there.

It's world book day the 7th March therefore if you would like to send in your child's favourite story, we would love the opportunity to read it during our circle time. We are going to have lots of different activities set up in the room using the children's favourite stories at nursery. We are going to be putting all of our favourite stories onto our book corner display for the children to see what everyone likes.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year we are going to be exploring colours of the rainbow with the children, singing the rainbow song and using activities to enhance the children's colour knowledge. We will be exploring different size shamrocks and organising them into big and little and focusing on the colour green in our sensory trays.

We are going to be introducing Spring to the children, talking about the weather changes and what clothes we need to wear outside. We will be changing the seasonal display to Spring which will show the children's arts and crafts they make relating to the season.

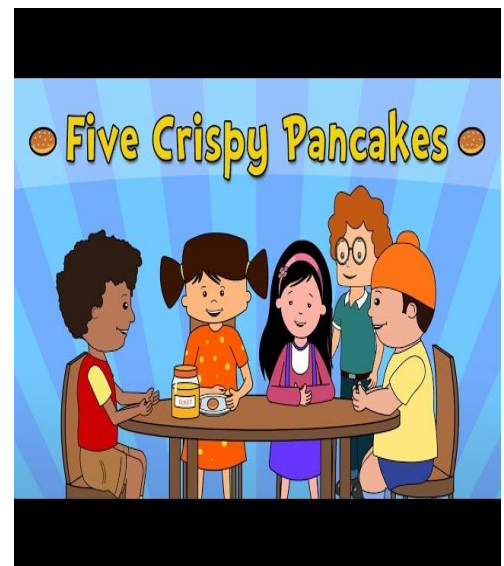
Nursery rhymes we will be singing

Five Crispy Pancakes (Sing to the tune of 'Five Currant Buns')

Five crispy pancakes in a frying pan,
Flip them in the air and catch them if you can.
Along came (child's name) with a penny one day,
Bought a crispy pancake and took it away.

Peter Rabbit

- Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose, Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose
- Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose, and he flipped it and he flopped it and the fly flew away
- Floppy ears and curly whiskers, floppy ears and curly whiskers, floppy ears and curly whiskers
- And he flipped it and he flopped it and the fly flew away



Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks went swimming one day

Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

And only four little ducks came back!



Four little ducks went swimming one day

Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

And only three little ducks came back!



Three little ducks went swimming one day

Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

And only two little ducks came back!



Two little ducks went swimming one day

Over the hill and far away.
Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

And only one little duck came back!



One little duck went swimming one day

Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack quack quack quack"

And all her five little ducks came back!





Welcome to a new term in preschool during this term we will be focusing on the season “Winter” We will be developing our imagination well to explore the winter wonderland tray exploring different materials and new vocabulary to describe the cold/ snowy weather. During last term the children enjoyed measuring out ingredients to make their own playdough promoting maths skills. We will be measuring ingredients to create snowflake biscuits and working together in a group to combine ingredients to create a dough and use a rolling pin to flatten the dough and observe the processes of their biscuits being baked in the oven.



We have previously enjoyed exploring natural resources and used these materials to enhance our counting skills. The children have also developed their hand eye coordination by using one handed tools to sort these materials into same and different groups. Following on from this we continued to use natural objects such as pine cones and explored one that was dry and one that was in water- observing and describing any changes to the cones.





We have enjoyed having a little visitor to the nursery garden who has been paying us a visit and the pre school children have been keeping a look out for him – through their interest this has followed onto us learning about “Hibernation” - We will be learning new facts, what is hibernation? Which animals hibernate and why?



The children are going to be introduced to the “Winter clothes shop” where they will have opportunities to use real money, recognise price tags/ numbers and develop social skills through shopping with their friends.

The children have enjoyed using technology to successfully operate the robot. This activity helped promote new language skills. Following on from this interest the children are being introduced to new prepositions using simple instructions for them to follow and implement



We will be changing our role play into a Chinese restaurant linking this to Chinese New Year.

This year is the year of the dragon. We will be using our senses to taste Chinese food. We will also be making red envelopes with golden coins to represent Good Luck. The children will have opportunities to copy symbols to represent numbers 0-5 using fine paintbrushes and black paint, decorate their own Chinese lanterns and develop scissor control to cut out a Chinese dragon. We will use the IPADS to look at Chinese dragon dancing and develop our physical skills by copying the moves!



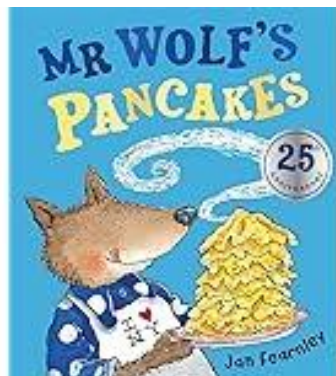
Songs we are going to be focusing on:

5 Currant buns in a Baker's shop

5 Little Men in a flying saucer

10 Fat sausages sizzling in a pan

Stories We will enjoy listening to -



Parents of children that will be attending school this September 2024 will be informed of your child's school in April 2024.

Please let us know which school your child will be continuing their learning at so that we can support their transition to BIG School. This is supported through activities linked to school readiness and will be tailored for the individual child.

