

Highwood News - November, December & January

Welcome to the winter edition of our newsletter. As we are fast approaching a very busy but exciting time of the year let us start by giving you some very important dates for your diary.....



Children in Need Friday 13th November

We will be dressing up to raise monies for children in need. Please send your child dressed as their favourite Super Hero or in a Pudsey Tee Shirt. We are asking for a small donation of £2.00 if possible from each child which will be donated to this charity. Thank-You

Fancy Dress Day:- Wednesday 11th November.



We are hoping to make our very popular Chocolate and gift tombola a huge success , so would be very grateful if bring your child dressed in their favourite costume on this day along with a donation of chocolate or gift for the stall.

Christmas Fayre:- 12.30~ 2.30 Saturday November 28th



Please join us for our annual Christmas Fayre. There will be a variety of stalls, Tombola, Bouncy Castle, Refreshments, Face painting, Raffle, Winter Wonderland leading to Santa's Grotto and lots more.

Christmas Nativity and Carol Concert: - Tuesday 8th December.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, especially when you are surrounded by children. Our nativity is a special event where staff and our pre-school children work together to celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

The children always look forward to learning the words to new songs and practicing their part ready for the day when we invite parents along to share our nativity performance.

Due to health and safety we have to limit the amount guest to 2 adults per pre-school child, sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.





Christmas Party Day:- Thursday 17th December

We are expecting a special visitor to the Christmas Party and have been reliably informed that we are booked for an afternoon visit from this very special guest!?!)



Christmas Lunch: - Monday 21st December

Christmas lunch is being served for all the children attending on this day. Our Nursery Cook, Sue will be making roast turkey with all the trimmings.



Christmas Jumper Day Friday 18th December.

This year it's all about doing your bit in a Christmas knit and supporting [Macmillan Cancer Support](#), [Save the Children UK](#) and [Make-A-Wish UK](#)

So dig out your Christmas jumpers and please donate for these very worthy charities.



Christmas Opening Times:

Friday 18th December

All Nursery Grant Funding Finishes.

Thursday 24th December

Nursery Closes for Christmas.

Monday 4th January 2016

Nursery re opens, Nursery grant funding recommences for the Spring term.

All the staff would like to wish all the parents and children a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

General Info.....

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

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.

Clothing:

The children spend a lot of their time in the outside areas where they have a wonderful time learning through active play. On cold or rainy days they will still be offered the choice to be outside for part of the session. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for all weather situations and has a warm, waterproof coat. Please also ensure that your child's clothing is clearly named to avoid mix-ups. A spare set of clothes (including socks) should be provided in a separate bag to hang on their pegs should your child have a little accident! We have a small number of spares for the occasional extra accidents and appreciate these being brought back in promptly.

Children's birthdays:

We like to acknowledge each child's birthday. As part of the celebrating, some parents like to bring in treats for all of the children. This is a lovely gesture which we welcome. Unfortunately we have lots of children with allergies and other dietary needs, so it is best that these are not home baked so that parents can check ingredients labels for their child.

Parking

We ask that all parents and visitors using our car park, park their vehicles with consideration to others. Please keep your own children safe whilst in the car park by ensuring that they walk holding an adults hand.

Please do not park at the side of the nursery as this is staff parking only.

Crackerjacks Children's Trust

A big thank-you to all the children and staff who came to nursery in their PJ's and raised £112 for the charity Crackerjacks.

Nappies and Toilet Training

Please can we remind parents with children requiring nappies to ensure there is a sufficient amount brought in for your child. We would kindly ask that if your child is toilet training then you provide plenty of changes of underwear, socks and joggers or leggings. Thank-you

Room News



Caterpillar room

We welcome all of our new babies into the room - Thomas, Daniel, Hayden-Lee & Arissa who have all settled in brilliantly. Over the next few months we will be saying goodbye to some of our older caterpillars who will be moving into the Butterfly room. We wish them lots of luck but know they will have so much fun!!

The caterpillars have been very busy over the recent weeks creating lots of different craft and displays in and around the baby room. We have explored autumn and collected leaves to create autumn collages. The older caterpillars have also created a lovely autumn display with lots of paint and leaves. The Caterpillars loved their very messy hand printing to create a little hedgehog family!

The younger caterpillars have loved getting messy to create the 'Our Bodies' display. They particularly enjoyed using their hands to make marks on the paper. We also used their body parts to create the face, hands and feet. Come and have a look to see if you can spot your child! This links to our current topic of body parts, playing simple naming games and singing songs such as 'Head, shoulders, knees & toes'. The children love exploring their own reflection in the mirror as their carers point to their body and name each part. We would be very grateful if you could continue to encourage this at home to enhance your child's development in this area.

We have also been working very hard on animal sounds recently and the children love singing 'Old Macdonald' had a farm. This song has become part of the children's daily routine at nursery and you may have noticed we have created a display based on the rhyme. Again, we would be very grateful if you get the time to sing the rhyme to your child/ren at home. We love hearing them making lots of different sounds!

Bonfire night is fast approaching and the caterpillars will be painting some bold colourful pictures and using glitter to make their own fireworks! This is closely followed by Remembrance Day where the babies will be using their handprints to create their very own unique poppy!

And before we know it....it will be Christmas! The caterpillars will be creating new displays for over the festive period and will be very busy creating some little surprises for their lovely mummies and daddys.

Finally, we will be saying our goodbyes to Clarissa who leaves us in November to start her maternity leave. We wish her lots of luck and will keep you all updated on the exciting arrival! Clarissa's key worker children will be passed onto another familiar staff member of the baby room but please don't hesitate to discuss this with Becci or Vicki.



We would like to give a very warm welcome to our new butterflies who have joined us over the last few weeks. We hope you have lots of fun during your time in the Butterfly room.

In the Butterfly room we have been singing our favourite nursery rhymes and action songs. The children's favourite song is the "wheels on the bus", so we are extending their interest in this by being very creative and turning an old cardboard box into a lovely shiny red bus with wheels. The children will have lots of opportunities to play in the bus and travel to a variety of places using their imagination.

All of the children in the Butterfly room have been learning about the season Autumn. They have had lots of fun exploring the outdoor area, collecting natural resources and crunching through the fallen leaves on the ground. The children have created a lovely Autumn display using the resources they collected. Not only were we able to use this experience to explore colour but we also looked at textures when making spiky hand print hedgehogs.

In November we will be using our creative skills to create our own unique pictures using a variety of resources to update our mark making area.

We will be having lots of fun making bright sparkly bonfire pictures and talking to the children, at their level of understanding, about fire safety and stay staying safe at bonfire events.

In December we will be very busy learning lots of Christmas songs if you would like to sing along with your child at home but are unfamiliar with songs please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff for the a copy of the words. The Butterflies will also be getting messy and creative producing a variety of crafts linked to Christmas, this will include making something for the very special people in our lives.



Ladybird Room.

A big friendly welcome to Sasha, Ellena, Freddie, Leo, George and Macie-Anne, we hope that you are enjoying ladybird life.

Toothbrushes

Please can all parents/carers supply your child with a toothbrush and toothpaste for use at nursery. This will enable them to brush their teeth after mealtimes encouraging them to learn about healthy practices . Please bring toothpaste and tooth brushes in ASAP or if you prefer please speak to a member of staff and we can provide your child with a toothbrush for a very small fee.

Environmental Pictures Sign's and Logo's.

We are encouraging your child to read by creating an Environmental display. As a Parent you know your child better than anyone, please could you take a little time to make a list of the logos or bring in packaging your child recognises. This could simple be pointing to the MacDonalds sign, recognising familiar food packaging for example noticing the weetabix box for breakfast in the morning.

Bonfire Night

During November we will be discussing fire safety especially when using sparklers and observing firework displays and creating a fabulous Bonfire display.

We will be developing our hand /eye co ordination when making our Catherine wheels out of paper plates and rockets and brightly coloured firework pictures. If you attend

a local firework bonfire event please send us your pictures we would love to see them. One way which you can do this is via our email at info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk . The children will also be encouraged to listen to the sounds they hear related to fireworks to create the captions for the display this is linked letters and sounds document -Phase 1.

Diwali is the Festival of Light, celebrated by Hindus in India and all around the world. It is a very exciting and colourful celebration. Homes are cleaned to welcome the New Year and windows are opened so that the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, can enter. It is believed that she cannot enter a house which is not lit up, so every household burns special Diwali clay lamps (diyas) to light the way for the goddess, which is why the holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights.

We will very busy engaging in activities linked to **Diwali**- The children will be making cards, Diwali lamps and lanterns and creating Diwali henna patterns on their own hand prints.

Also on November 11th the children will be making a lovely red Poppy for Remembrance Day.

These activities are linked to the "British Values" that we promote in the nursery. For more information on Fundamental British Values please visit www.foundationyears.org.uk

December

Wow, where has this year gone!!! We will start to use our sock Advent calendar for the countdown to Christmas Day. This will help the children with sharing, by taking turns to have a yummy treat out of a sock, as well as develop number and name recognition.

It is a tradition in Pre School to re tell the story of the First Christmas and our Carol service this will be held on Tuesday 8th December. We will inform parents/carers of your child's role and give you a slip with any items your child will need to bring for rehearsal or words they need to learn.

For Christmas the children will be making a delicious mix to bring home with them. As well as being fun it also provides an opportunity to extend their numeracy learning through quantities and recognising numbers around them. Unfortunately the final product is top secret!?!

The children will also be getting very creative, in true British spirit, making a variety of Christmas goodies to bring home at this festive time. This will include Christmas decorations, traditional Christmas cards and calendars.

January 2016

Happy New Year

Welcome back hope you all had a lovely Christmas and Santa delivered everything on your list..... Now for the New year and Spring Term.

This term we will learning all about the season Winter, looking at the changes in the weather and the clothing we wear.

Our story linked to Winter is the very popular "Frozen" your child may be familiar with the characters and help us to retell the story. This will help promote imagination skills and develop confidence through stories and role play.

The children will also have other frozen linked activities, they will be using their hand eye co ordination and fine motor skills to unlock padlocks with keys to rescue their favourite characters from the story. This activity is one of many that the children will take part in as part of their daily exercise of "Finger Gym".

What is Finger Gym?

Finger gym prepares children's hands for learning to write long before they have to pick up writing tools.

Finger Gym is a comprehensive programme of developmental games, stories, rhymes and activities to improve fine motor skills, language and handwriting.

It helps to develop strong, flexible fingers, hands and arms. It promotes better hand-eye co-ordinations, differentiated movement and physical skills.

Finally if there is anything, as a parent/carer that you would like us to work on with your child(ren) have a word with your child's their key worker and this can then be incorporated into the weekly planning. Also if your child does something new at home - fill in a parent/carer observation (can be found in the hallway) or pass the news on to your child's key worker! This information can then be included in your child's learning journey.

