

Dear Parents and Families,

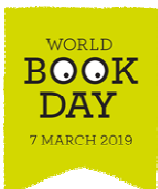
We have all had a very busy start to the New Year! It has been great getting to know all our new families and seeing children who have moved rooms settle in so well! We have lots of exciting plans coming up for this year which we look forward to sharing with you ☺

Warm Regards,

The Highwood Team



Tuesday March 3rd - 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.



2nd March - 6th March - Storytelling week.

This is linked to World Book Day on the **5th March** where the children are invited to dress up as their favourite story character. 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 23rd March 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 9th 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 17th - Friday 23rd February

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

Easter Holidays

Friday 10th April 2020- Good Friday Nursery is closed

Monday 13th April 2020 -Easter Monday Nursery is closed

Monday 6th April - Friday 19th April 2020 Easter holidays, No Nursery Education 3-4 year old or Think 2 funding

Monday 6th-Friday 19th April 2020- Easter Holiday Club

Monday 20th 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.

Also could you please let us know in advance if you would like somebody else to collect your child from nursery following our safe door policy.

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, a postman a vet a fire fighter, a policeman a shop assistant etc. do you have 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 2020. 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.

30 hours funded childcare for all eligible families

All 3 and 4-year-olds in England currently receive 15 hours a week government funded early education. If their parents are living and working in England, 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare, which is up to 1,140 hours per year in total! If eligible you will be entitled to access the 30 funded hours from the beginning

of the term following your child's 3rd birthday. At Highwood, we want to make sure that families of all attendance types can utilise this funding to its full potential. To apply or reconfirm your child's 30 hour code please ensure this is done well in advance of 31st March 2020 using the Provider communication toolkit:
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/communications-toolkit/>

Please be aware that it is YOUR responsibility to reconfirm your details every 3 months in order for the funding to continue.

The Benefits of Preschool

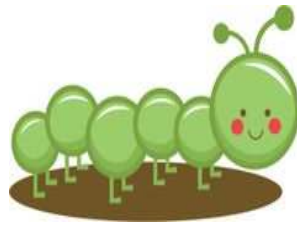
Many families increase their child's attendance at nursery as they move into the preschool class. An increase in the number of days children attend can help prepare them for the transition to 'big school'. Three and four year olds are especially keen to develop their social skills and a preschool environment can support this development especially well. Children also benefit from the expansive learning through play opportunities that our professional early years practitioners can provide, ensuring they leave for school well prepared socially, academically and emotionally.

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

Caterpillars



May we take this opportunity to welcome you all back and wish you a very happy 2020! 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 to explore our fantastic 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.

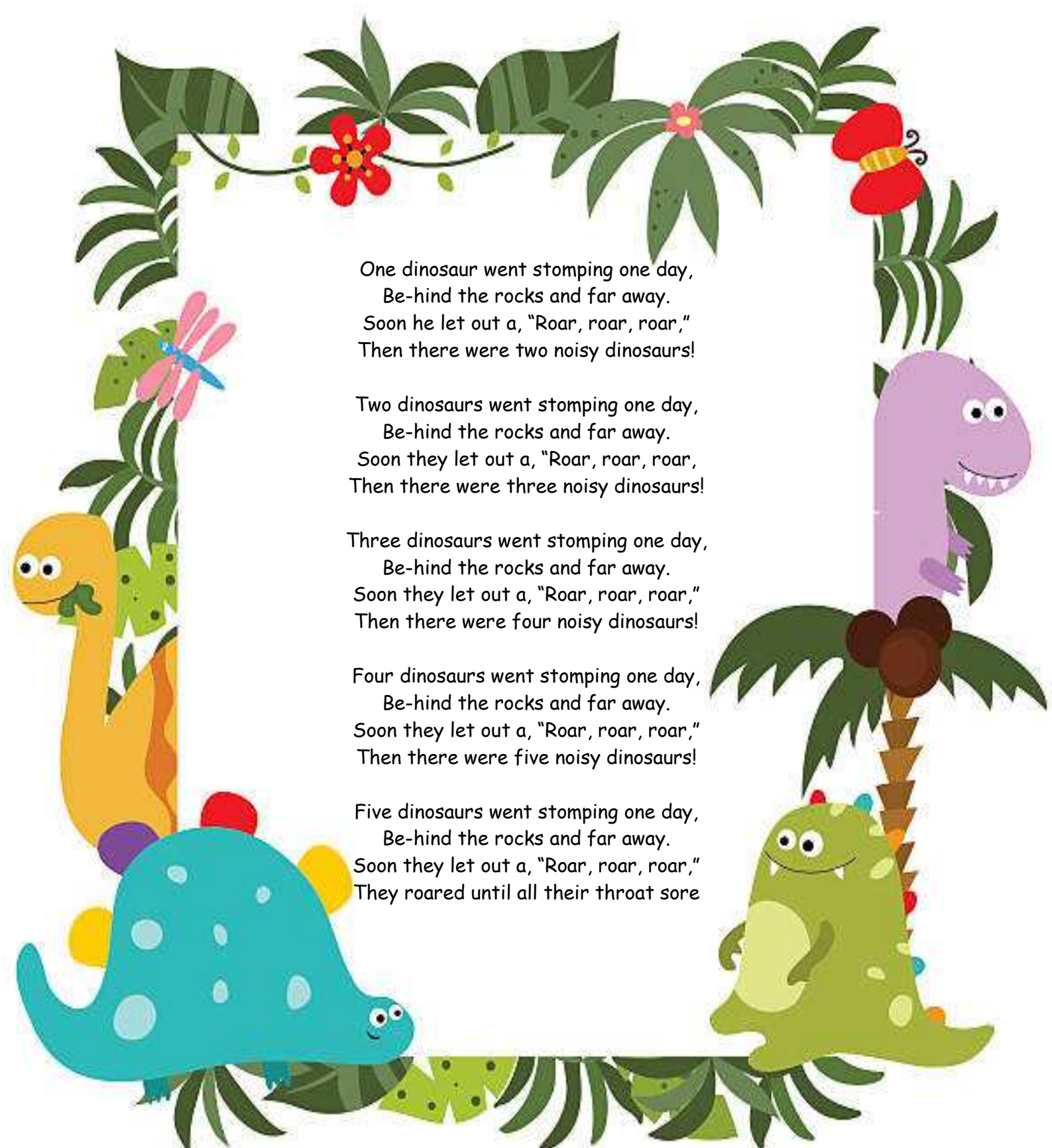
Over the past few months all the babies have been taking part in lots of activities and messy play as the children love to explore using their senses. They have helped create pieces of work for our displays these can be seen in the Caterpillar room and the displays leading down the stairs. Our main focus 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.

Thank-you for your lovely family photographs for our 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.

The caterpillars love songs and stories so we have been creating a story sack to incorporate learning through their interest of Dinosaurs. This will be the next focus for our hallway with lots of lovely photographs of your children having fun creating their master pieces for display. Opportunities to explore a range of crafts and mark making will be available for the children to create different dinosaurs to add to the display.

Can you count the dinosaur foot prints coming up the stairs with your child and help them to name the different coloured dinosaurs?

Here are the words to sing the Dinosaur song with your little one at home ☺
(the tune of Five little ducks)



One dinosaur went stomping one day,
Be-hind the rocks and far away.
Soon he let out a, "Roar, roar, roar,"
Then there were two noisy dinosaurs!

Two dinosaurs went stomping one day,
Be-hind the rocks and far away.
Soon they let out a, "Roar, roar, roar,"
Then there were three noisy dinosaurs!

Three dinosaurs went stomping one day,
Be-hind the rocks and far away.
Soon they let out a, "Roar, roar, roar,"
Then there were four noisy dinosaurs!

Four dinosaurs went stomping one day,
Be-hind the rocks and far away.
Soon they let out a, "Roar, roar, roar,"
Then there were five noisy dinosaurs!

Five dinosaurs went stomping one day,
Be-hind the rocks and far away.
Soon they let out a, "Roar, roar, roar,"
They roared until all their throat sore

Watch out for our Twinkle Little Star display changing to a song the "Down By The River Where The Green Grass Grows" this is a song that the children are very familiar with so to enhance their language skills we will create a Story and song basket linked to the song.

Down by the river where the green grass grows,
There sits Rhianne washing her clothes.
She sings, she sings, she sings so sweetly.
She calls to her friends up and down the street.
Aleigha Aleigha won't you come to tea,
Come next Saturday at half past three.
Tea cakes, Chocolate cakes, all for you and me
Oh won't we have a jolly time at half past three.

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)

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake day is Tuesday 25th 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)

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



A warm welcome to all the children and their parents in the Butterfly room.

February

Colour of the month: **Pink**

Valentine's Day will soon be here and the children will be busy with lots of crafts and stories and circle time conversations about loving and caring for each other.

Valentines sensory messy play will be exploring pink gloop creating their own marks and having lots of fun!

We will also be making delicious treats to share at home with you to show you how much they care for you.

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

Throughout February you will see our fruit shop role play will be changing into a pet shop in this area the children we will be able to care of the animals. This will encourage the children to play alongside with each other making relationships with others.

P.S.E.D: Numbers(22-36) "Interested in others play and starting to join in"

For pancake day the children will have the opportunity to explore water and flour and see how the pancake mix feels in our hands. We are going to have tasting opportunities for the children to try pancakes with different toppings.

Physical (16-26) Health and self care -" Develops own likes and dislikes in food and drink"

March

Colour of the month: **Green**

To celebrate St. David's day we are going to be creating dragon masks and lovely daffodil artwork using variety of textured materials.

Expressive arts and design: Exploring and using media and materials (22-36)"
Experiments with block, colour and marks "

7th March it is World book day, we are 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. Patricks day, the children will be using peppers to print we are to look at the colours of a rainbow and make some rainbow cupcakes, this will develop the children's gross motor skills to mix the ingredients and use language to name them.

Expressing, Art and design-(30-50) Exploring and using media and materials " Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things"

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

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

Understanding the world :People and communities (16-26) " is curious about people and shows interest in stories about themselves and their families"

April

Colour of the month **Yellow**

Throughout April we will talk about spring and create lots of spring artwork and planting their own sunflower the children will have the opportunity to water their flower and water their flower and watch it begin to grow, they will be able to take it home to continue its growth.

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

Understanding the world: The world (22-36) " Notices detailed feature of objects in their environment"

We will be talking about Easter with the children they will be making some yummy Easter nests, tasting hot cross buns, and going on a 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"

We are going to be changing our bear hunt display to the five speckled frogs as this links to our spring theme and the children enjoy singing this song at circle time and using the frog puppets to help them sing the song

E.A.D : Exploring and using media an materials (22-36) " Joins in singing favourite songs"

To celebrate St.Georges day we are going to be making some paper plate dragons and England flags decorating them ourselves with tissue paper, paint and glitter.

P.D: Moving and handling (22-36) " Imitates drawing simple shapes such as circles and lines"

Ladybird Room



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

In February we will be introducing the children to a new story to develop the children's literacy "The tiger who came to tea". We will be making orange scented play dough measuring out ingredients to make and manipulate to make our own tigers and use paper plates to concentrate in making stripes using rollers, paintbrushes and other tools.

Maths- shape, space and measure-40-60-Orders two items by weight or capacity.

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

On February 14th the children will be celebrating Valentine's day we will be talking and discussing about special people in our lives who we 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 love heart developing their hand eye co-ordination using tweezers picking up the love hearts in the strawberry whip play. We will be making heart shaped shortbread biscuits and special cards for those people that we love.

During this term onwards 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.

On 25th February we will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday enjoying pancake tasting at snack time with various toppings..... delicious , which one is your favourite?

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

On 2nd March we will be celebrating St. David's day by creating hand printed daffodils and continuing our understanding by bringing a daffodil bulb to bring home and grow and look after.

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

The children will be making patterns using powder paints to show interest in the Hindu Celebration Holi on Wednesday 9th March using powder paints to create spontaneous patterns and arrangements observing different colours.

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 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.

The children will have food tasting opportunities to try the different fruits from the story and developing their maths by joining in making a chart to count how many

The children will be learning about St. Patrick's day decorating shamrocks, and enjoying a green themed day as well as going on a hunt to find the leprechaun developing our prepositional language. We will be developing our hand eye co-ordination to cut out a

shamrock representing "luck", as well as using the correct colours to paint the Irish flag.

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

World Book Day we will be inviting children to come to nursery dressed up as their favourite storybook character as well as inviting adults to come and read one of their favourite stories to us. During the week we will be linking our planning to a story book each day acknowledging children's interests and enhancing their learning.

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

Our role play area will be 'Home' to initiate role play based on first hand experiences.

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 and using our imagination with the wooden castle play set and listening the story George and the dragon.

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 a pair together that are the same, 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

We will be beginning to talk about 'growing' and exploring the process. We will be beginning to start to plant our own sunflowers. The children will be using rulers and a tape measure to measure whose sunflower is the tallest? We will also be planting vegetables to put into our boxes outdoors the children will be looking after these by watering and creating labels attempting to format labels to put onto lollipop sticks to put into the ground.