

Highwood Spring Term News

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

It's hard to believe we are in February already! This month is going to be a busy one 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

Valentines Week -



Our 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 development in learning in mark making skills and expressing their feelings and emotions.

Friday 12th Children can come dressed up as someone they love. This could be just like Daddy, Mummy, a favourite character in red or pink items of clothing.

Celebrating Chinese New Year - Year of the Ox ~ 12th February



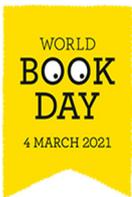
Our children will be exploring and learning about this special festival in many ways, including creating lanterns and using sparkly sequins to decorate them. On this day the children can dress as the animal of the year they were born, learning about Chinese New Year traditions and how we celebrate and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



Pancake Day – Shrove Tuesday ~ 16th 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 different cultures and traditions during this celebration.

Book Week ~ w/c 1st March



Throughout this week our 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. Our children will be learning new and exciting ways to present stories, and role play characters from books.

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



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, create Welsh flags and enjoy small world role play with dragons, exploring cultural traditions and songs.

Mothers/Special Person Day ~ 14th March

Throughout this week our children will be talking about the people in their lives that are important to them and what makes them special. The children will be making gifts for the special people in their lives, exploring 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. Our children gain a great understanding of the lifestyle/culture in Ireland from our parents/ carers and families own experiences.



Easter Break

Monday 29th March – Friday 9th April

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



Holi Festival w/C 29th March

Our children will be taking part in various craft activities exploring colours and how they can be changed. Our children 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.



Highwood Information

Our Key Person Approach

'The (key person) role is to help ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs, to help the child become familiar with the setting (people around them and the environment), offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents. Children learn to be strong and independent from the base of loving and secure relationships with parents and a Key Person', EYFS 2017'.

At Highwood we provide a key person/buddy (another practitioner in key person's absence) approach daily for our children. Highwood, believes this approach is vital to the well-being and development of the children within our care. Relationships start from day one of settling for any child and continues to develop and form throughout your child's time at Highwood Children can change key person as they grow and make transitions through the setting. We ensure any transition is a smooth one, with care and consideration for all involved, including parents and carers.

Write dance

What is 'write dance'?

- An exciting music and dance approach.
- Playing music while children use props to make marks in the air or on paper or use other resources to music.

- The music and the dance is used to guide and aid children's imagination and language development, so the pieces of music, with the corresponding movements, are structured into 'narrative'.

Why use 'write dance'?

- To develop the skill's children, need to develop writing.
- Movements in write dance are designed to help children feel happy and comfortable with their bodies, improving their motor skills and providing a strong foundation for writing.
- Includes music, songs and suggested movements that develop gross motor coordination.
- Helps children work on their coordinated mark making skills in a fun and imaginative way, using movement to help make the shapes they will eventually need to write in their given language.
- Rhythm is closely linked to rhyme and children are encouraged to use their voices to describe the actions as they move and dance, improving language and communication
- Children's individual expression, pace of learning and writing style can be recognised within this approach.

How does Highwood use write dance?

- Provided weekly, as part of our daily routine.
- Used as a planned activity, in free play or at group time.
- Practitioners will observe children while taking part and capture these on the child's observation, photo or soon to be video and link to children's learning.
- Practitioners are provided with training as part of their professional development plan.



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.

Weather warning

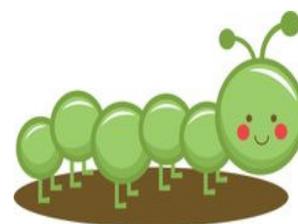
If we experience bad weather, we will do all we can to remain open and in fact have many staff that live within walking distance. In the event of closure, we would notify via email. We do have a severe weather procedure. Take extra care when using the steps from our carpark, holding on to the hand rails at all times for support.

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.

News from The Rooms

Caterpillar Room



We would like to welcome Jayne to our room she will be working alongside the older babies.

The babies love looking at photographs especially looking at people they recognise. If you haven't already done so please could you bring in a photograph of your family. You are more than welcome to email them over to us info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk.

Throughout January we have been busy with creating our new display boards, "5 cheeky monkeys". (Please find the words on the following page) We have also started to introduce more investigation activities, where the children explore different material boxes and containers

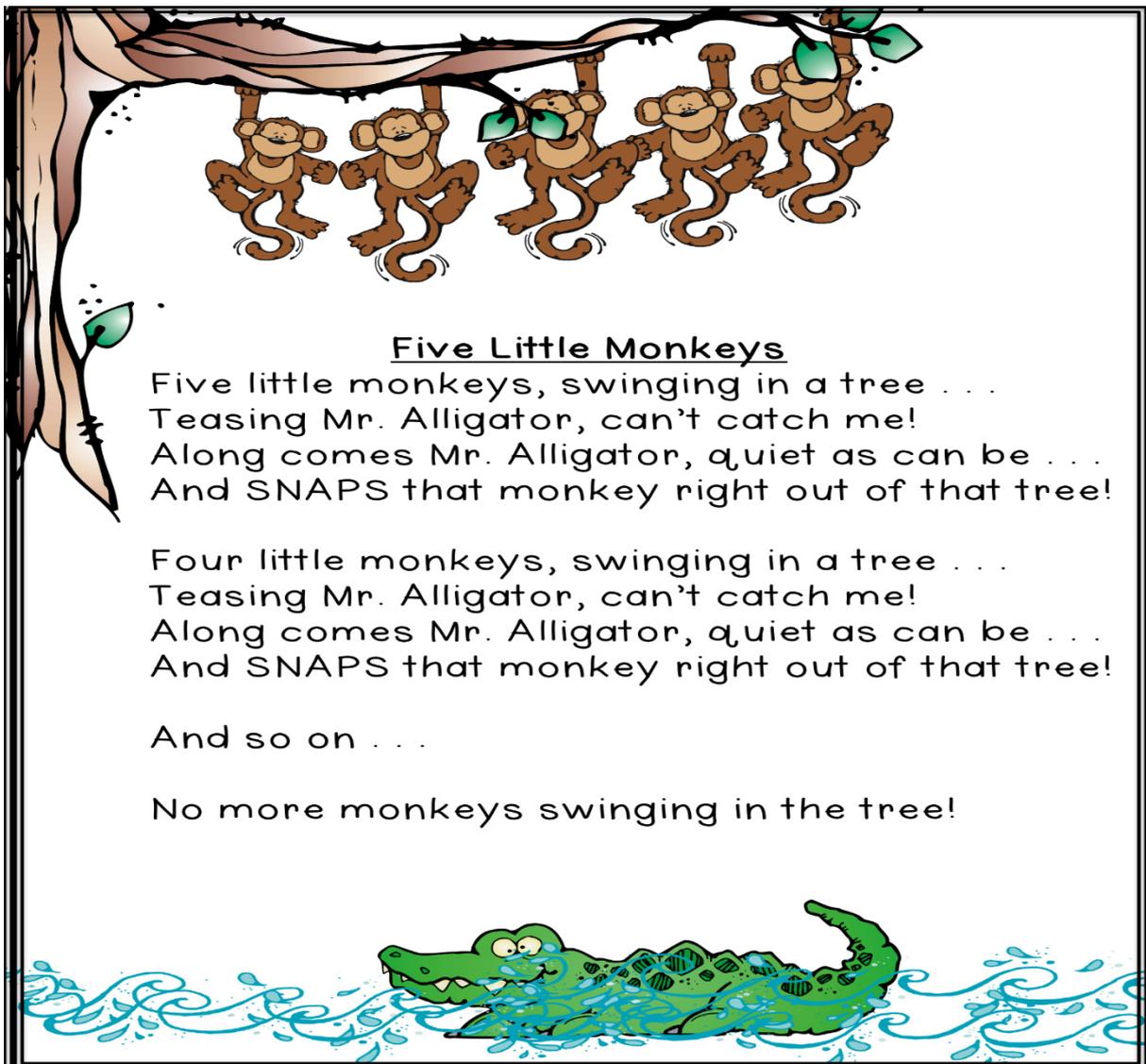
For Valentine's day we will be expressing our creativeness by creating things related to the occasion. The babies will have opportunities to explore different sensory trays linked to the event.

We will be busy exploring filling and emptying activities using malleable materials such as rice and spaghetti.

As we begin to move into March the caterpillar room will begin to introduce spring. We will be changing our winter display to spring- This will be changed into 'The farm' displaying the baby animals, this will also be extended through small world play, role play and books.

We will be changing our "Pets" board to "Our favourite toys" we would like to kindly ask parents to send photos of their child playing with their favourite toys at home, as well as linking their favourite toys at nursery.

Can please request where possible that parents bring nappies for their children instead of pullups, practitioners are finding that they are extremely time consuming when they are trying to clean and replace nappies quickly and efficiently, as they require them take off layers of clothing in order to change them. ~ Thank -You x



Please enjoy sharing this song at home with your little one

Butterfly Room



February

This month we have lots to celebrate and learn about starting with Chinese New Year for this we will encourage the children to take part in food tasting where they will have the opportunity to taste some Chinese foods and talk about whether they like them or not. This year is the year of the Ox therefore the children will be able to get creative taking part in messy play activities for Chinese New Year colouring pictures of an Ox.

Physical Development: Health and Self Care (16-26) "Develop own likes and dislikes in food and drink"

For Valentine's Day we will be focusing our activities around the colours red and pink. We will be linking the activities to mathematics counting how many and categorising big and small.

Communication and Language: Understanding (22-36) "Developing understanding of simple concepts e.g big and little."

Mathematics: Numbers (22-36) "Recites some number names in sequence"

Currently the children have shown lots of interest in the hair dressers role play box and therefore we are going to transform our role play corner into a Hairdressing Salon, where the children can freely explore the hairdresser tools and join in play with their friends. We will also begin to be looking at what the tools can be used for.

PSED: Making Relationships (22-36) "interested in others play and started to join in"

Expressive Arts and Design: Being Imaginative (22-36) "Beginning to make believe by pretending"

To celebrate pancake day and give the children some understanding of it we will be exploring some pancake mixture and feeling the texture, the children will also have the opportunity to taste some pancakes with a variety of toppings.

March

For St. David's day we will be getting creative making lots of bright daffodils using a range of materials providing lots of opportunities to talk about textures and use new words.

Communication and Language: Speaking (22-36) Learns new words rapidly and is able to use them in communicating

The children will be sending a little something to their loved ones for Mother's Day.

Also to link to Mother's Day we are going to be discussing families and those we care about.

We will be reading "The family Book" and asking the children to draw family pictures, we would love parents/ carers to bring in family photos we can add to our family display board feel free to email them across – info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk

Understanding the world: People and Communities (16-26) Enjoys pictures and stories about themselves, their families and other people.

We are going to be learning about spring and talking about changes of the weather and what clothes we might need to wear. We will be changing our winter display into spring with lots of the children's art work showing all the colours of spring

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

To celebrate St Patricks Day on 17th March we are going to do some pepper printing shamrocks and explore rainbow sensory trays talking about all the different colours

Expressive Arts and Design: Exploring and using media and materials (22-36)

"Experiments with blocks, colours and marks"

To celebrate St Georges Day we are going to be making England flags and making our own dragons.

Ladybird Room



In January we have been discussing the new season "winter". We have enjoyed listening to the story Jack Frost – The children have been busy creating portraits using our imagination to guess what Jack Frost looks like?

We have been investigating ice overtime observing the melting process enhancing and developing our language to use keywords to describe what they can see and how it feels? – this activity was also implemented using frozen jelly to enhance their understanding and discovery.

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

By observing children's interests, we have been enjoyed using paints and crayons to draw our own characters from "Frozen"

Our role play area is now a Doctors Surgery enabling the children to use their imagination based on first-hand experience, encouraging conversations and pretend play scenarios using props to support play and understanding what they are used for.

This will link to the theme "People Who Help Us" developing our understanding and knowledge about special occupations and how people help us. We will be engaging in themed activities and use the I Pads to look at clips to watch to observe how people help us and our community.

Understanding the world- People and Communities-30-50-Shows interest in different occupations and ways of life.

January 25th – Burns Night

We will be busy looking at "Scotland", tasting shortbread biscuits, painting the Scottish flags, colouring a Loch Ness monster and look at tartan patterns using colours for a particular purpose.

On Tuesdays we enjoy Forest School with Callum- Please keep a look out on the whiteboard with our weekly activities. Please could your child bring their welly boots as it does get muddy in the forest school area.

On Fridays we will be having a baking/ Food Lesson. This will be updated each week to let you know what yummy things we will make on a weekly basis to bring home to share with our families.

In February we will be talking about those people who are significant to us and use language to re tell past events. To celebrate Valentine's Day we will be enjoying a red and pink themed day, creating a card for that someone special.

We will be changing our role play into a Chinese restaurant linking this to Chinese New year. This year is the year of the Ox. We will be using our senses to join in with food tasting prawn crackers and spring rolls. We will be making red envelopes with golden coins to represent Good Luck. The children will have opportunities to copy symbols to represent numbers using fine paintbrushes and black paint, decorating our own Chinese lanterns and developing scissor control to cut out a Chinese dragon. We will use the IPADS to look at Chinese dragon dancing and develop our physical development by using movements to copy ourselves.

Expressive Arts and Design – Being Imaginative-30-50-Captures experiences and responses with a range of media, such as music, dance and paint and other materials or words

In half term we will be enjoying an Animal themed week making masks showing interest in animal patterns, and enjoy going on an animal hunt together to develop out listening and attention using prepositional clues.

Tuesday 16th February Pancake Day/ Shrove Tuesday, we will enjoy tasting pancakes with a variety of toppings, the children will develop their social play by using the wooden playsets to join in together. We will attempt to form the letter "P" in batter mix for pancake.

Literacy-Writing-30-50- Sometimes gives meaning to marks as they draw and paint.

1st March is St. David's Day, we will be doing observational drawing of daffodils and use our handprints to print our Create our own daffodils on paper.

Over March we will be enjoying learning about new life and focusing on lifecycles- We will be using small props to develop our own understanding about the processes and what happens next this will be also learnt through visual aids such as books and posters. 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.

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

Thursday 4th March for World book day we will be inviting children to come to nursery dressed up as their favourite storybook character During the week we will be linking our planning to a story book each day acknowledging children's interests and enhancing their learning.

17th March St Patricks Day- We will be enjoying green glitter playdough, pepper printing creating shamrocks linking this to quantity 1-10, and listen to Irish Music and look at Irish dancing. Can you put the Leprechauns in order of size.

Mathematics-Shape, Space and Measure-30-50-Shows an interest in shape and space by playing with shapes or making arrangements with objects

Mothering Sunday is 14th March the children will be making special cards to bring home to their loved ones.

Holi is the festival of colour we will be celebrating this on 23rd March by using brushes to splatter paint using bright colours.

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.