

Highwood Spring Term News

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

It's hard to believe we are in February already. This term is going to be a busy one with lots of events to cover, Pancake Day, World Book Day and Chinese New Year!

As children are dropped off and collected from the front door we have moved our parent/carer noticeboard to the bay window.

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 - W/c Monday 14th February

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 mark making skills and expressing their feelings and emotions.

Friday 18th February - 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 Tiger ~ 1st 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. We will look at children's birthdays and look at 'the animal of the year' for these birthdays.

The children will also be learning about Chinese New Year traditions and how we celebrate and enjoy festivities.





Pancake Day – Shrove Tuesday ~ 1st March

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 28th February



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 friends during story times. Our children will be learning new and exciting ways to present stories, and role play characters from books.

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



St David's Day ~ 17th March

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

Mothers/Special Person Day ~ 27th 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



Nursery will be closed on Good Friday -15th April and Easter Monday-18th April

NEF and Think 2 spring Funding ends on Friday 1st April and summer funding will start on Monday 4th April and finishes on Friday 22nd July. There will be no funding during the following weeks W/B 11/04/22, W/B 18/04/22 and W/B 30/05/22

Holi Festival w/C 14th 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.

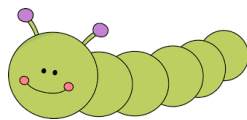
Throughout the week we will also be looking at different cultures and traditions where this festival is celebrated.

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.

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.



Caterpillar Room

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!

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, to help to 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 where you can see art work and pictures of your child taking part in creating the display. 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.

EAD 0-3- explore and engage in music making and dance

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.....

Chinese New Year- W/B 31st January 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.

Physical Development (0-3) " Explore different materials and tools"

Understanding the world (0-3) " Explore materials with different properties"

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.

Pancake day is Tuesday 1st March 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 different toppings.

St Patrick's day 17th March - 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.

Mothers day 27th March- We will be showing our Mummies/special people just how much we love and care for them by supporting the children in making mothers day cards and gifts.

Understanding the world- 0-3 - makes connections between the features of their family and other families

Easter- Easter is on Sunday 17th 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.

In April we will be introducing the children to planting and growing. The babies will enjoy filling up pots with soil and with a little support will plant some seeds and watch them grow. Carers will create a garden centre tuft spot for the children to explore. The babies will also be able to explore and taste a variety of Spring fruit and veg and use these for printing and creating their own pictures.



Butterfly Room

To celebrate Chinese new year we are going to be implementing daily activities such as exploring different messy play such as rice and noodles, getting creative making and decorating lanterns , food tasting where we can discuss likes and dislikes and explore themed sensory trays.

Physical Development (0-3) " Explore different materials and tools"

Understanding the world (0-3) " Explore materials with different properties"

We are going to be updating our role play area into a kitchen, where the children can explore the play food and talk about food they are making, this also links with our food tasting and baking activities later this month.

For Valentines day we are going to have a themed week where we will be getting creative making something special for our loved ones, exploring sensory trays, threading love hearts, developing counting skills by counting the hearts and making love bug biscuits.

Mathematics (0-3) " Count in everyday contexts sometimes skipping numbers 1,2,3,4,5"

We would like to take this opportunity to ask for some pictures for our family display please bring them in or email them to nursery info@highwoooddaynursery.co.uk

To celebrate St. Davids day we are going to be making some lovely daffodil pictures using different texture materials and talking about how they feel.

EAD (0-3) " Explore different materials using their senses to investigate them, manipulate and play with different materials"

On 1st March, to celebrate pancake day, we will be tasting some pancakes with the choice of toppings, We will be making a messy tray to explore flour and water to enhance children's language using describing words.

To link with World book day on 3rd March we are going to be talking about our favourite stories and creating a new story area for the children making it cosy and inviting for the children to

come and look at the book of their choice. Pictures of our favourite stories will go on the wall for the children to look at.

Literacy (0-3) "Have Favourite books and seek them out to share with an adult, with another child or alone"

For St. Patricks day we are going to be having a green theme, creating some brilliant shamrocks and rainbows- Linking to rainbows we will be using assorted coloured powder paints for the celebration of Holi.

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", showcasing the children's arts and crafts they make relating to the season.

Understanding the world (0-3)" Explore natural materials indoor and outdoors "

For Mothers Day we are going to be making something special to send home.

Throughout April we will continue to explore the spring season by enjoying messy and creative activities. We are going to be planting sunflowers and care for them at nursery for a while whilst we watch them grow and then we will send them home for parents/carers and children to care for and monitor how tall they get.

Our Role play area will be turning into a Garden centre where the children will be able to explore different seed packets , the till and other visual aids to encourage role play scenarios.

EAD (0-3) "start to develop pretend play, pretending that one object is another"

Over the Easter weeks we will be getting very creative making easter crafts. The children will go on an Easter egg hunt and taste some hot cross buns.

Our Dear Zoo board will be changing into the three little pigs with the help of the children's artwork. This is a new story sack we have created and been reading with the children. We are going to discuss building with different construction to link with this.

For St Georges day we are going to be decorating the England flag and making dragons by gluing and sticking materials.

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 their 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.

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 Wednesdays we enjoy yoga where we can strengthen our bodies and improve our balance and move our bodies in different ways as well as copy movements. Kimbles is back on a Thursday and is a firm favourite with our children.

EAD 3-4- Use Large and small motor skills

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. On Friday 18th February we are encouraging the children to come to nursery dressed up as someone they love.

We will be changing our role play into a Chinese restaurant linking this to Chinese New year. This year is the year of the tiger. We will be using our senses to join in with food tasting Chinese food such as 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.

EAD 3-4- Develop manipulation and control

Explore different materials and tools

Understanding the world-3-4- Notice differences between people

Half term is a pirate and princess themed week where we will be making hats and tiaras and walking the plank to avoid the snappy crocodiles. We will also enjoy going on a treasure hunt together to develop our listening and attention by using prepositional clues.

Week Commencing 28th February- World book week we will be inviting children to come to nursery dressed up as their favourite character. During the week we will be linking our planning to a story book each day acknowledging children's interests and enhancing their learning.

Literacy-3-4- Understand the five key concepts about print

Tuesday 1st March 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.

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.

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.

Physical-3-4 use one handed tools and equipment making snips with scissors

The children will be looking closely at the changes during Spring and will be encouraged to have a try at painting trees and print with bubble wrap to create blossom effect

Holi is the festival of colour which we will be celebrating on w/c 14th March by using brushes to splatter bright coloured paint.

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?

Mothering Sunday is 27th March - the children will be making special cards to bring home to their loved ones.

In April Our role play area will be changing into 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.

EAD-3-4 -Take part in simple pretend play

Week commencing 12th April -The children will be making some lovely crafts to bring home. The children will be going on an Easter egg hunt and match 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!!

On 23rd April the children will be learning about dragons and knights as we learn about St. George where they will use the relevant colours to paint the patriot flag. They will be encouraged to use their imagination to play with the wooden castle play set and listen to the story of George and the dragon.

Understanding the world 3-4- know there are different countries in the world and talk about differences they have experienced or seen in photos