

HIGHWOOD DAY NURSERY NEWS



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

A very Happy New Year to all of our families and friends at Highwood. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and refreshing break filled with love, laughter and quality time spent with your family.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with you all.

Warm regards,

The Highwood Team

DATES To Remember.....

20th February - Half Term - No Nursery Grant

Week commence 27th February- Nursery Education Funding recommences

General information.....

Warm Clothes

Now that Winter seems to have arrived and it's getting a lot colder, could we please ask parents to ensure that they bring their children into nursery in named appropriate clothes. Children will still be accessing our wonderful outside areas, therefore needing warmer clothing such as jumpers, coats and wellington boots.

We would also be grateful if you could send in a pair of slippers for wearing inside at nursery.

Food and Drink

Please make sure that your child does not come into Highwood eating any food, due to safety for all and to protect the children who attend the setting that have allergies.

Collecting and dropping off- Please come to the door to collect your child/ren. You no longer have to wait around the side of the building.

Car Park

Please be considerate when parking - We are aware that the car park can be very busy at certain points of the day. Please talk to Aimee or Vicki if you would like information about these times so that you can avoid the congestion in the car park.

Dates for your Diary



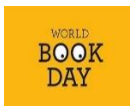
Valentines week – w/c Monday 13th February Our children will be celebrating 'St. Valentine's Day' by creating their own cards, hearts, cookies and paintings for the special people in their lives. These experiences support the children's development in mark making skills and expressing their feelings 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 Rabbit ~ w/b 23rd January 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 ~ 21st 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 2nd 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 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 ~ Wednesday 1st 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 ~ 19th 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.

Watch this space for a special Mother's/special person invitation.



St Patrick's Day ~ 17th March Children and practitioners are going to celebrate Saint Patrick's 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.



Holi Festival – 8th 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.

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.

The caterpillars love songs and rhymes and the current favourites are 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and Sleeping Bunnies' which will be the next focus of one of our wall displays where the children will decorate Bunnies developing use of their senses to use different materials to stick on that can be added to the display.



Here are some of the events we will be exploring in the Caterpillar room.....

Chinese New Year- W/B 23rd 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.

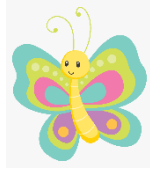
Valentine's Day- We will be celebrating Valentine's day on the 14th February by making some valentine's day cards and little gifts for the babies to give to their parents/carers, we won't give away too much as these gifts will be a lovely surprise.

Pancake Day is Tuesday 21st 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 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.

Mother's Day 19th March- We will be showing our Mummy's/special people just how much we love and care for them by supporting the children in making mother's day cards and gifts.

Butterfly Room



Welcome back butterflies after your Christmas break. We can't wait to hear about the special presents you have received!!

Throughout December the children showed a large interest in Stick Man they particularly enjoyed the part in the story about Santa but also showed interest in the snowman- To continue further with this interest we are going to be exploring a variety of snowman activities learning about different shapes to make them and exploring activities with ice to feel them texture and cold.

We will be providing a variety of winter sensory trays alongside this to further explore different textures and winter colours and learning new vocabulary linked to winter such as ice, snow, cold, snowflake and snowman.


We are going to continue with baking activities as the children very much enjoy this, and use their interest to support their learning with recipes that are of interest and that they will enjoy.

For Chinese New Year we will be exploring some Chinese foods and talking about how they taste. We will be decorating lanterns and enjoy dragon role play. It is the year of the rabbit so we will learn about rabbits and make masks.

For St.Patrick's day we will be exploring the colour green and decorating shamrocks. The children love to talk about rainbows in conversation. We will be exploring the colours of the rainbow, sing the song and link age and stage appropriate activities that incorporate the rainbow theme.

I Can Sing A Rainbow

Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue
I can sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow too
Listen with your eyes
Listen with your ears
And sing everything you see
I can sing a rainbow
Sing a rainbow
Sing along with me



For Mother's Day We are going to be busy creating something special for our loved ones. This will be a perfect opportunity to update our family board. Please send us your lovely photos the children love to look up and see familiar faces. This will support children's learning talking about their families and joining in with role play using the little people.



Ladybird Room

Throughout January we are going to be showing interest in the Chinese New Year celebration- year of the Rabbit, there will be available opportunities to explore role play in our new Chinese restaurant - writing Our friends food orders- initiating conversations with others. Books and visual aids will be available for the children to look at and adapt their understanding.



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

In addition to exploring and talking about weather changes and seasons. We will be using 'Frozen' linked activities associated to children's ongoing interests and activities that will be challenging and enhanced daily- This will be part of national story telling week. We will be enjoying story time guided by child choice to support them by managing to have freedom to choose a story to enjoy together listening in a group, through extended questioning they will be asked about characters and if they knew what happened next?



We will be introducing a new song to the children called 5 little snowmen- below are the lyrics if you would like to practice at home (the same tune as Incy Wincy Spider)

Five little snowmen standing in a row, Five little snowmen that are made of snow, Out came the sunshine and stayed for the whole day, And one little snowman melted all away.

Four little snowmen standing in a row, Four little snowmen that are made of snow, Out came the sunshine and stayed for the whole day, And one little snowman melted all away.

Three little snowmen standing in a row, Three little snowmen that are made of snow, Out came the sunshine and stayed for the whole day, And one little snowman melted all away.

Two little snowmen standing in a row, Two little snowmen that are made of snow, Out came the sunshine and stayed for the whole day, And one little snowman melted all away.

One little snowman standing in a row, One little snowman that is made of snow, Out came the sunshine and stayed for the whole day, And one little snowman melted all away.

Towards the end of January, we will be celebrating burns night. We will be finding out facts about Robert Burns and Scotland. We will enjoy creating and making Scottish shortbread using measuring opportunities to count how much of each ingredient is needed. Using colours for a purpose to re-create tartan patterns.



In February we will be enjoying matching the love hearts together related to number and different sized love hearts and use red/ pink items in our loose part tray linked to valentine's day- The children in preschool enjoy talking about those that are special to us so they are able to draw and paint portraits of those closest to them. We do ask if parents could send across a family photograph or put a photo in their children's bags that can be attached to our family tree. The children will be enjoying pancake tasting and use available role play resources to recreate making their own pancakes and create their own recipes deciding what toppings they would like.

In March we will be discussing St. David's Day using our conversation station to learn facts about Wales. We will be using dragons in small world experiences and categorising the dragons into sizes biggest to smallest.

World Book Week- We are inviting parents to come in and read the children a story. Please speak to Aimee or Vicki to enquire about times available.



St. David day

Throughout this week your child is invited to dress up as their favourite book characters and are welcome to bring in their 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.

Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love, and new life. It's a colourful festival, with dancing, singing and throwing of powder paint and coloured water. Holi is also known as the "**festival of colours**". We will be using powder paint and paper doilies to create brightly coloured patterns and use books and visual aids to look closer into this festival.



World Science week is 11th-20th March

We will be setting up our own science lab by taking part in daily planned science activities. Using vocabulary to question how things happen and why?



We will be exploring magic milk **Magic milk** is cool chemistry with a reaction between soap and **milk** adding drops of colour and watch the magic happen.

Apple Volcanoes- The children will be able to observe what happens when a simple chemical reaction between baking soda and vinegar takes place in the core of the apple.

Magic melting skittles-observing the changes what happens as skittles are arranged onto a plate and water is added – what happens?

Through observed children's interests some are fascinated with space and the world we live. We will be creating galaxy jars layering cotton balls, paint water and glitter into a jar. It looks like space and has stars floating around when you shake or turn over your **Galaxy** creation

Fizzing ice cubes- strengthening hands to improve fine motor skills to use spray bottles to create fizzing reactions using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. We are available any time for
you to

contact us either in person, via telephone 01283 565069

or email info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk

Kindest Regards The Highwood Team