

# FAMILY NEWS

December 2021



Dear Parents & Carers,

The children have loved looking at the weather changing and how aspects in the garden have changed. This has included looking at the frost on the grass and seeing how many insects we are able to find. The children discussed bonfire night and this prompted a wide range of discussions about colour and shapes they saw when watching the fireworks.

I am looking holding the parents' forum on Monday the 17th January, please let me know if you are interested in joining and can attend that date.

## Starting School Sept 2022

Children starting school next September, applications can be made on West Sussex County Council are open now and close on the 15th January 2022. You are solely responsible for applying for your child's school, you will not be sent anything through the post. School allocation will be in April 2022, date TBC. Please make appointments with any school you are interested in.

## Christmas

Please can you let a member of the staff team know if your child will not be attending during the Christmas period, this allows us to ensure that we have accurate numbers for staffing and to inform the chef of requirements for lunch.

## Dates for your diary

### Christmas Fayre

Saturday 4th December

### Dentist visit

Monday 6th December

### Christmas Party

Friday 17th December 9am-11am

### End of term

Friday 17th December returning  
Tuesday 4th January 2022

### Nursery is closed

27th & 28th December 2021  
& 3rd January 2022

### Half term

Monday 21st February returning  
Monday 28th February 2022



## Christmas Party

We will be holding the Christmas party for the children on Friday 17th December 2021 between 9-11am. All children and parents/carers are welcome, please let me know if you are attending. There will be a party snack and games for the children to enjoy.

## January

In January we will be having a new member of staff join us, her name is Jo and she will be room leader of the Pre-School. Terri is moving to room lead the Toddler room. Jo will be in the setting on Thursday 23rd December if you would like to come and meet her. Jo has a wealth of experience and knowledge, and we are all very much looking forward to her joining the Pre-School team.

## Gentle reminders

The weather is continuing to get colder, so please can you ensure that your children have warm weather clothing and wellington boots. This means that we will be able to explore the garden and splash in the puddles.

## COVID, Medication & Infection Protection Policy

We have recently reviewed our medical policies. If you would like a copy, please do not hesitate to contact us [ashington@thenurseryfamily.co.uk](mailto:ashington@thenurseryfamily.co.uk)

## COVID Protocols – from Beverly

We are continuing to take the following precautions to minimise the spread of covid within our nurseries:

- All staff are continuing to lateral flow test twice weekly
- Good hygiene procedures remain in place; appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated,
- Anyone with signs and symptoms, particularly a temperature, are to not attend the setting until a negative PCR result is confirmed and emailed. This is to support prompt isolation of suspected cases.
- Encouraging vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff.
- Checking the temperature of anyone entering the nursery.
- Masks to be worn by parents and visitors who enter the building.





### The Baby Snug

We have been developing our creative skills, using different media to create different types of pictures. Exploring how the media feels and using our hands to create our masterpieces.

We have been developing our Makaton skills through naming animals and singing. We are continuing to develop the signs for the animals, we have been singing baa, baa black sheep and Miss Polly. Please do ask us if you would like to know the signs. The sign we are going to be focusing on is share.

When we have been hearing music, we have been developing our dancing skills. Extending our rhythm and responding to what we are hearing.

We have been learning how to develop our independence skills through the toy babies. We have been sitting them in the highchairs and making sure they have the strap on to stop them falling out. We have been using wipes to wipe the babies faces.

### The Toddler Den

We have been investigating different ways to make marks. We have used all sorts of different media to create and make the marks, our finger, brushes and even cotton buds.

We have been extending our mathematical skills while putting up the Christmas Tree. We counted how many baubles we put on and the different shapes that we could see. We extended our colour recognition through looking at the lights and the reflections in the baubles. This has prompted conversations about Christmas and learning different Christmas songs.

We have been learning about how to care for our Giant African land snails. We have been feeding them strawberries and watching what they do to eat. This led to us exploring the trails that they have left and the patterns they created.

### The Pre-School Study

We have been using our curiosity to explore how different substances can change. We have been carrying out a range of science experiments. We started by watching what happens when we added hot water to skittles. The colour came out of the skittles and created a rainbow. We added bicarbonate of soda to white vinegar and watched as it created a volcano, bubbling up over the cup. Together we developed our exploratory and curiosity skills, asking questions and testing ideas.

We have been discussing things that have been happening. We discussed bonfire night and the fireworks that we saw. This prompted us to want to explore colour and colour mixing. Looking at how to create and use new colours, we then used these colours to make firework pictures. We had to use our fine motor skills to use scissors to cut tubes as we wanted to create the patterns we had seen.

We had seen people wear Poppies and we were asking what they were for, together we explored Remembrance Day. We wanted to create and design our own Poppies; we selected our own materials and how we were going to create them.

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