



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a wet and windy few months here at Lower Beeding, we've had a continuous battle in the garden with the leaves and twigs from the trees falling as quickly as we have managed to collect them up. That said we have found that the children love to sweep up and collect so we have added a few "little" yard brooms to our outdoor resources, this enabled us to discuss the changes in the seasons and "I wonder who will spot the first green leaf" discussions.

To compensate for the wet days that we haven't been able to get out we have created an indoor play area in the Baby Snug and an outdoor learning shed in the "green" garden. The children spent ages watching the workmen digging the hole for the foundation, mixing up the concrete and installing the shed. The preschoolers then came in and tried to build a shed with their wooden blocks. There is nothing quite like an unplanned visit to inspire a spontaneous observation of how much children are interested in the world around them, how things work, how they can think of different ways to do things and work together to reach a goal.

Emma

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Good Friday - 29th March (nursery closed)
- Easter Monday - 1st April (nursery closed)
- Early May Bank Holiday - 6th May (nursery closed)
- Spring Bank Holiday - 27th May (nursery closed)

Other:

- Funding application deadline - 31st March
- Easter Sunday - 31st March
- Eid - 9th April
- St George's Day - 23rd April
- Duck eggs arrive - 7th May
- Fathers week - 10th June

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The Baby Snug

With the bad weather outside and babies needing to climb, we have set up a soft play area within our baby room, this is a perfect place for babies to safely explore and extend their physical play. Using their whole bodies to develop confidence, agility, flexibility and strengthening core muscles.

Sensory play – our youngest children enjoyed messy pancake and valentine day sensory activities. These activities support the development of fine motor skills through tactile play and this in turn will be useful for when children want to hold a pen or use scissors. These activities also support language development, communication and social skills.

We continue to implement our curriculum within the room including baby massage, baby yoga, baby boogies and baby Picasso. The little ones are so familiar with these activities they physically go to the boxes they want and choose their favourite activity.

The Toddler Den

The toddlers have been looking at their emotions. They have chosen the 'Colour Monster' book as a reference and during small group time they have been looking at and beginning to identify their emotions by choosing coloured ribbons. They have been able to tell us a little bit about why they feel the different emotions. The children have been choosing when they want to look at the book and fill their jars. They are starting to understand that it is ok to feel lots of different ways

The children in Toddler Den have also been making playdough pancakes, they are using their pincer grip to pick up things, measuring, pouring and manipulating objects to develop their fine motor skills. Adding their own choice of toppings finishes off their pancakes with their own objective in mind.

The Pre-School Study

The pre school study have been looking at different cultures and diversity. We looked at different costumes, celebrations, and different homes. We drew pictures of our homes and looked at our local area and where we are in the world. We celebrated Australia Day and we produced some beautiful aboriginal artwork. For Watangi Day we looked at the New Zealand flag and then went on to look at the colours in all the flags of the world. This broad subject is ongoing we are now looking at different habitats and animals that live in different countries.

We have also had our lovely new waterplay stations set up in the garden. These are at different heights and the children are really enjoying filling up their buckets and watering cans and watching the water cascading down the different planks. They have also been "cleaning" the fences using brushes and paint rollers, looking at how the water dries in the sunlight.

Recipe of the Month

RECIPE NAME - CHICKEN FAJITAS

INGREDIENTS:

For the filling:

- 2 large chicken breasts thinly sliced (or a meat substitute)
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 red chilli, thinly sliced (optional)
- Handful grated cheese
- 1 heaped tbsp paprika
- 1tbsp ground coriander
- Pinch ground cumin
- 2 medium garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lime, juiced

To serve:

- 6 medium tortillas

For the salsa:

- 1 cucumber peeled and diced
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 250g tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 tbsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1 tspn lime juice
- 1 tspn olive oil
- 1/2 tspn ground cumin
- 1/2 tspn ground black pepper



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6.
2. Mix paprika, coriander, cumin, crushed garlic, olive oil, and lime juice together in a bowl.
3. Stir the sliced chicken breasts, red onion, red pepper, and optional chilli into the marinade.
4. Heat a griddle pan until smoking hot and add the marinated chicken.
5. Keep everything moving over the high heat until you get a nice charred effect. If your griddle pan is small, you can do this in two batches.
6. To check the chicken is cooked, cut into the thickest part of the chicken. If it is still red inside, then continue cooking
7. For the salsa, mix the diced tomato, onion, cucumber, then add the lime juice, minced garlic, cumin, and black pepper. Set aside.
8. Put the tortillas in the oven to heat up for a few minutes, and serve with the cooked chicken mixture, salsa, and grated cheese.

Recent Training

Louise has started her Forest School Leader training where she spent a week in the forest learning new skills which she is very excited to bring back to nursery. She will be spending another few days overnight in the forest and attending an Outdoor First Aid course. Then she will be qualified and good to go, we cannot wait to see what exciting activities the children will be doing later in the year.

