



Newsletter

December 2015

The Parish Council need your help in making Buckden Village a 20mph limit. It is vital that they get a good turn out as they need to send a clear message of support to the council so we urge as many people as possible to vote and each adult in a household should vote separately. You can vote using the link below. The vote is open to those living or working in Buckden, but if you are parents who want to vote, but you don't live here, I would suggest you fill in the form with Nursery's address and explain your connection to the village (through your child being at the nursery on the form). The PC might exclude the vote, but at least they will know that people outside the Village may also have a view they wish to express.

Have your say - Buckden and Stirtloe 20mph
Parish Council vote now open @



www.surveymonkey.com/r/buckden20mph

Vote open until 27th December

Tiddlers and Seahorses



We would like to welcome our new friends to the Tiddler and Seahorse rooms for lots of nursery fun! We are looking forward to marking the lead up to Christmas with lots of festive activities. We will be exploring using our senses through lots of different tactile experiences including glitter, candy cane playdough and, fingers crossed, snow! We are also looking forward to using our EAD skills to get creative and using paints and collage materials to create cards and calendars for the New Year. We will be extending our exploration of glitter and different colours by creating our own decorations for the Christmas tree. This will provide an opportunity to develop our communication and language skills by copying simple words and sounds and will be further supported by the Christmas songs we will be introducing at singing time!



In addition to our Christmas activities we will be extending our Understanding of the World by exploring the changing weather as we move from Autumn to Winter. This will give us the opportunity to get chilly exploring ice in the tactile tray and dressing up in the coats, hats and gloves which keep us warm outside!

Goldfish

First we would like to welcome Jack, James, Hester, Freddie and Parker to the Goldfish room - we are very excited to have you with us. This month we are looking forward to extending our Understanding of the World by celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah as well as the winter solstice. We are going to be using our EAD skills by participating in lots of creative activities including making angels, Christmas trees, Star of David's and snowflakes. We will be engaging our characteristics of effective learning to complete these by choosing our own resources such as glitter, paint and glue. This month's story is going to be 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs and as well as creating our own activities using these resources, weather permitting we hope we will be building our own snowman in the garden!



Seashells

Seashells would firstly like to welcome Arya, Bailian, Aaron and Claire to the room☺. Over December we will be getting ready for Christmas by making some special Christmas cards to develop our fine motor skills and our art and design skills. We will be making some personalised calendars using paint. This will develop our art and design skills as we explore with the paint.

The seashell children have also enjoyed playing with playdoh this month so we will be making some playdoh ourselves using many different ingredients which will develop their gross motor skills along with their understanding of the world.

The seashell children will then be given some buttons and sticks to create their very own snowman which will develop their imaginative play further.

Starfish

Christmas is nearly here and in Starfish we have been busily awaiting his arrival by preparing him a Santa's workshop where the children are enjoying making toys with the tools, pretending to paint them and then the wrapping presents. We have also made a sleigh to further enhance their role playing. We are making lots of exciting Christmas things such as baubles, calendars and cards as well as a special present for our lovely starfish Mums and Dads. We have been making a tactile tray with snow, snowballs and artic animals which the children have loved playing in! We will be extending our Knowledge of the World by talking to the children about the Christmas story and what Christmas is all about, so watch out for our new display board depicting the nativity over the coming weeks.



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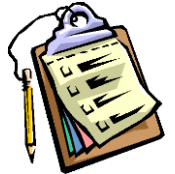
Our story this month is 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs. We have been making a large, medium and small snowman for our display, drawing snowmen with pens and chalks and talking about what snow is and where it comes from.

Best wishes from all in Starfish - we hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.

Preschool



Our topic this month is winter. We have already enjoyed developing our Understanding of the World and Maths skills by turning into scientists and conducting ice experiments around the nursery! On one of our coldest days, we found lots of different sized pieces of ice in the garden and the children had fun collecting it in different bowls. We placed the bowls all round nursery including the freezer and radiator, in a window and outside, and we talked to the children about thick and thin, big and small, and hot and cold. We enlisted our critical thinking skills and communication skills to discuss which bowls of ice would melt first. We made a ball of ice and added food dye to make it look like one of the fruits from Handa's surprise, our book of the month in November, and used our characteristics of effective learning to make links! We shall be continuing this experiment as the weather gets colder, using different shapes, colours and places. We will use clipboards to record our predictions and outcomes, which also encourages our literacy skills.



We will be using our creative skills to make Christmas cards, decorations and presents this month, using a variety of media and materials to make, amongst others, handprint reindeers, collages of Christmas trees and stockings and 2016 calendars with sponge print wreaths. We will be making salt dough Christmas tree decorations; any spare Christmas tinsel or glitter you may have will be gratefully received! We will also be celebrating Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, which starts from 6th December where we will light a candle every day for eight days.



We have a new member of pre-school! Bing, our 'Elf on the Shelf' has set up residence to keep an eye on the children and report back to Santa about what good thinking, listening, sharing and playing they have been doing. Unfortunately, in the meantime he has been getting up to mischief in the pre-school rooms - keep an eye out on our Facebook page to see how he is getting on. The children have had great fun using their prediction skills to see what he will do next!



Book of the Month



To aid our Literacy and Communication and Language skills, our Book of the month this December is 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. This popular book is all about the adventures of a Stick Dad, who is separated from his family but is returned to his home on Christmas Eve by Father Christmas! The children will be making their own stick men in the garden with the fallen sticks from our trees, re-living his adventures in different parts of the garden and using our creative skills and characteristics of effective learning by choosing our own resources to make our own family tree for our display inside.

Role play area



This month our role play will be Santa's workshop! The children will have fun wrapping presents for each other which will enhance their PSED skills and practice their maths skills as they count, discuss colour, shape and size. They will be able to develop their PD skills as they cut, wrap and stick, along with their literacy development as they write gift tags and cards.



Letter of the Week

Letter of the week, which forms a strong part of our Literacy development, commences Tuesday 1st December with V, followed by W, X, Y and Z the following weeks to finish off the year. Any items beginning with these letters each week are gratefully received and used on our theme table. This **parent partnership** is not to be underestimated as bringing in items from home greatly encourages the children's confidence and sense of self-worth when they have something to show and tell at circle time. Please ensure they are named, and small enough to fit in your child's drawer when we have finished sharing them. Thank you.

Interests and achievements board,

Each week, we ask that you write down your child's interest or achievement on the interest board situated to the right of the whiteboard on the wall. This helps us in providing for your child's stimulation, aids our planning of the seven areas of learning and also enables us to celebrate your Child's achievement which furthers their PSED skills.



Donations

As always, we are grateful to receive any donations to help with our topics and activities. This month we are asking for cardboard boxes and leftover Christmas wrapping paper and cards for our Santa's workshop.





Reminders

- Now the weather is turning colder, can you please ensure your child has a named **WARM** coat, hat and gloves in nursery.
- Please do remember to check your pouches as you enter and leave pre-school each day. These contain any invoices, letters or information about forthcoming events. Each month you will receive a "Next Steps" slip of paper, which informs you what topic and areas of learning we are covering each month and how you can further aid his or her learning to complement what we are doing at nursery. This month it will be about the Christmas Concert!

- As well as the newsletters and pouches, we have now implemented a 'Parent Information Board', located just outside the pre-school. Here we will endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible with information dates.
- Due to a variety of recent incidents, we are asking parents to bring books into nursery instead of toys or teddies. We have had several episodes of lost or broken toys causing some distress to their owners! The books will be read at circle time or throughout the day and can fit into the child's drawer so there is less chance of it being taken home by another child or getting lost or broken. The children have the added benefit that they get the chance to choose their own story to share with their friends at quiet times, which promotes their PSED skills as well as their literacy skills. We hope you are able to support us in this matter. Thank you.

Dates for your diaries

- Parent consultations will be held on **Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th December** between 5.30 and 7.00. Please ensure you have booked your ten minute time slot (located on our new parent information board just outside the room). If for any reason these times are not suitable for you, please speak to your child's keyworker who will be happy to arrange an alternative date.
- Walk to the church for the Christmas service: **Tuesday 15th December 10.15**. Please let staff know if you are able to help walk there and back with us. We are leaving at 10.00 and aim to be back at nursery for 11.00. 
- Our pre-school Christmas concert is booked for Thursday 17th December between 3.30 and 5.00pm at the Millennium hall, with an option for tea for those who require it at the nursery afterwards. We will be leaving nursery at 2.45. Children who finish between 3-4 are invited to join in the concert but parents must meet us at the HALL at the appropriate collection time, and collect their child once the concert has finished. Children who do NOT normally attend nursery in this session are welcome to meet us there at 3.25 dressed in their outfits - children who DO normally attend this session, please ensure your child's outfit is brought in, in a NAMED plastic bag, week commencing 7th December. All the relevant information has been put into your pouches, as well as in the newsletters and notice board, so please check to make sure you do have all the details. 

Merry Christmas!