



# Newsletter April 2017

## Tiddlers and Seahorses

The staff would like to wish the babies moving to seahorses and goldfish a happy new adventure and wish them all the best as they continue their journey through our nursery.



As we are officially now in spring, we are looking forward to spending lots of time outside in the garden, exploring our environment as much as we can and going for walks around the village to see the lambs. Please could we ask that all children have coats, shoes and sunhats as well as wellies for the

inevitable spring shower! We will be learning about Easter and have lots of fun activities planned to extend the learning and development within the early year's foundation stage. To enhance our Understanding of the World, in our tactile trays we will be investigating various resources from hay and straw to eggs and bunnies, and to encourage our physical development we will be having mini Easter egg hunts in the garden with our friends.



Using the resources from the tactile play, we will be creating collages with paint, crafts and glue - this will help promote our Physical and Expressive Art and Design skills. The babies will be given



opportunities to join in with the ladies baking Easter cakes. We will be encouraging each other to take turns and use the cooking utensils to mix, stir and pour, which will promote our Understanding of the World, our Communication and Language, Maths and Physical skills.

## Goldfish



We would like to welcome George, Grayson, William, Isla-Rose, Lewis and Rudie to the Goldfish room for lots of fun. During April we will be looking for signs of spring, talking about colours and watering the flowers in the garden, which links into some of the children's interests in gardening. We will be making our own lambs, flower and

insect pictures for our spring display to enhance our EAD and UW.

To mark Palm Sunday, the children will be exploring branches in the tactile play and making marks in sand, paint and shaving foam. To mark Easter the children will be offered a variety of materials to make Easter pictures as well as baking Easter treats.



The Goldfish children will be celebrating St George's Day by exploring red and white in our tactile tray and making their own flags.

Our nursery rhyme this month is Miss Polly had a dolly; we will sing this at group time, encouraging the children to join in with the words and actions to promote their

Communication and Language skills.

## Seashells



The Seashell children are still enjoying listening to the Bear Hunt story so we are going to be doing some den building in the garden to make our own caves. This will develop our Gross Motor skills, our PSED, our UW and our EAD skills. The children are also going to continue their exploration of the tactile trays to mark each are the family hunt through.

We are going to be looking at family pictures on our family board to spark new conversations about where our families are when we are at nursery, who we like to spend time with and who we live with. This will develop our Communication and Language skills as well as our Understanding of the World and Personal, Social and Emotional development.



To mark Easter, we will be making some chocolate rice crispy cakes which will develop the children's fine motor skills, UW, Maths and PSED skills. The children will also be making pictures with different media to mark different things linked with Easter such as eggs and chicks. These pictures will also enhance their EAD skills as they adopt the Characteristics of Effective learning as they choose their own resources to get creative. Even though the weather is getting warmer, please ensure our children still have wellies at nursery as when we go outside we shall be spending lots of time splashing and playing in the water tray!

## Starfish



Our book of the month is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We will be developing our literacy skills by reading the story and extending this by trying some new fruits at snack time. We are also going to be talking about butterflies and using our creative skills to make pictures. We will be choosing our own colours and creating geometrical patterns, which promote our EAD and mathematical development.

We are enjoying the sunshine and spending as much time as we can outdoors so can we please can we ask parents to start bringing in named sunhats.

To link with our theme of the Hungry Caterpillar, we will be going on bug hunts in the garden and talking about the similarities and differences between the insects we find.

This will help promote our 'Understanding of the Natural World' and how to care for it.

We will be continuing our exploration of spring with blossom in the tactile trays and spring walks; we are looking forward to seeing some baby animals as we have been talking about them in circle time.

Our colour of the week is yellow and we will be looking for objects around the nursery which are shades of this colour. We will continue to discuss colours and differentiate between them by choosing what we would like to do to celebrate Easter, which also incorporates the Characteristics of Effective learning. We may make some special treats to come home too!



Our letter of the month is 'Dd' so we will be talking about items which begin with this letter and thus practising our letter recognition, which develops our literacy skills.

Please can you continue to bring in family photos to share with the children. We are always interested to hear of any interests or achievements from home, so please do share them with a member of the Starfish staff.



## Preschool



Our topic this month is 'spring' and incorporates science and biology, which focusses very much on one of the four specific areas of the EYFS; Understanding the World. We will be exploring our garden and watching for continuing signs of spring as we wait for the peas we planted in the pots just outside the garden gate, to grow!

Thank you to Martha's mum who kindly provided us with the seeds and thus extended our learning and strengthened our parent partnerships.

We will continue our spring hunt with clipboards and checklists which the children really enjoy and watering the fruit and vegetables which Susan will use in our lunches and teas later in the month. We will be updating our seasonal board with daffodil collages and



blossom pictures, with a variety of materials for the children to choose from to get creative with. We will be studying the lifecycles of living organisms and creating a display of the lifecycle of one of animals the children choose to learn more about such as the frog and caterpillar.



Linking into this theme, we are also very excited to welcome in a new member of pre-school! Next week sees the arrival of a giant land snail, kindly donated to us via Wendy in Starfish. The children themselves will get to choose her name and we will be learning all about her habitat and food chain. Any donations of cuttlefish and cucumber gratefully accepted!

We will be celebrating Easter with our annual Easter egg hunt. Outside the staff will hide coloured eggs in the garden for the children to find and in turn the children will then hide the eggs for us and their friends to find! This will encourage positional language and number ordering for mathematical development as well as encouraging PSED skills as they work as a team to find the eggs and take turns hiding them. The children will be cutting out their own bunny masks to wear as they take turns at hiding the eggs.



Inside we will be creating our own Easter tree, which touches on Palm Sunday links, where the children will be invoking the characteristics of Effective learning by choosing a variety of materials to decorate eggs for the tree in, including our special rock pastels which can make some really beautiful effects. The children will be patterning their own eggs and baskets with the special pastels and crayons too - developing their hand control as they also manipulate scissors, and their EAD skills as they choose different materials to collage, colour and create. We are focussing on the process, not the end product, to develop our skills, independence and originality.

### Role play area

The children have enjoyed the castle role play area and once they have shown they have exhausted their play here, linking in with in St George's day as we raise the flag on our make shift flag pole! Our role play area will be transformed into a garden centre, in line with our pea planting and spring topics. This as usual covers all seven areas of the EYFS as this encourages their UW, PSED, EAD, Literacy and Communication and Language skills as they roleplay with friends and their Maths and PD skills as they count money into the till, write lists and sort items on the shelves.

### Letter of the Week



Letter of the week, which forms a strong part of our Literacy development, commences Monday 3rd April with the letter N, followed by O, P, Q and R the following weeks. As always, any items you have at home beginning with these letters each week are gratefully received and used on our theme table. This greatly encourages confidence and sense of self-worth when the children 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.

## Colour of the week

The children themselves choose a different colour each week and really enjoy collecting objects of that colour in and around nursery. This encourages their colour recognition and the characteristics of effective learning in making links. Please encourage your child to look for the colour of the week at home, and again, any items from home are welcome for our theme table situated in the first room.



## 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 strengthens our parent partnerships by encouraging your involvement thus helping us in providing for your child's stimulation as it aids our planning of the seven areas of learning and also enables us to celebrate your child's achievement which furthers their PSED skills and sense of self. We are looking to re-introduce the WOW board, to record all our achievements, so any photos of momentous occasions such a bike riding, swimming or doing up their own coat would be very welcome.

## Reminders

- 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, as well as looking at the Parent Information Board, located just outside the pre-school.
- Please can we remind parents to call and inform us if your child is going to be absent for nursery for any reason. This allows us to adjust our ratios and dinner numbers. Thank you.
- Please ensure you sign your child both IN and OUT of nursery each day. We need to account for all children at nursery to ensure the safety of your child in the unlikely event we have to evacuate the building for any reason.

Sarah, Emma and Kim

## Kitchen news: 'Susan says'.....



"I am looking forward to cooking with the fruit and vegetables your children have been planting! And don't forget you can order a birthday cake from me, for your child to share with his or her friends. I need at least 48 hours' notice and I can make plain, vanilla, chocolate or lemon flavours"



## Dates for your diaries



Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April: Pre-school will be walking to the church for our annual Easter service. We will be leaving nursery at 10.15 and aim to be back for 11.15. Parent helpers are welcome to join us please do let a member of pre-school know if you can help. If your child does not attend nursery on this day, you are still welcome to meet us at the church at 10.30, just please be advised you must remain responsible for your child.

That's all for this month!! 😊