



Buckden Day Nursery Newsletter



February 2019

We are very happy to welcome Keeley back this month following her maternity leave. She will resume her role as Nursery Manager with Grace continuing to support in her role as Deputy. Please do not hesitate to speak to either one if you have any questions. Keeley is looking forward to meeting our new families and will be introducing herself over the coming weeks.

You may have noticed that we have some new resources in the main hallway of the nursery. These books and activities are for you to take home and enjoy with your children.

Please feel free to help yourselves and send in any photos to info@buckden-day-nursery.co.uk

Please can we also ask that you are bringing in suitable clothing for the current cold weather we are having. Coats and hats would be ideal!

Kitchen

Please could we remind parents if they would like to request a birthday cake for their child, Susan requires **at least 1 week's notice**, due to the dietary requirements of other children in the nursery, making sure there is cake for all!

There are a range of flavours including chocolate, vanilla, orange and strawberry and the cost of a birthday cake is £5! There are request forms available on the information shelf next to the stairs and gate to preschool/goldfish.



Our Chosen Charity: Cancer Research UK - Kids and Teens

This February, we will be taking part in a sponsored walk to raise money for Cancer Research UK. This will be taking place during w/c 18th February and we are looking forward to seeing how far we can walk! Thank you to Buckden School for allowing us to use their daily mile track. If you have any questions then please speak to our charity coordinator Lisa, or a member of management.



Tiddlers & Seahorses

We would like to welcome all of our new friends that are beginning their journey with us.

We have been busy throughout January using our senses to explore snow and following the children's interest of mark making using cars. The children have used cars to push through shaving foam looking at the lines and smelling the foam. They have also enjoyed using spaghetti hoops for mark making and they have been taking their learning outside by washing the cars.

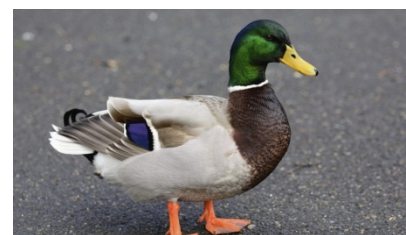


Another big interest for the babies is the home corner. The non-walking babies have been spending a lot of time pulling themselves up and exploring the resources available, especially filling and emptying. We plan to extend on this throughout February by introducing cereals and various other tactile resources for the babies to explore further. Providing these tactile resources provides opportunities for the babies to develop their physical development, communication and language skills, maths and expressive arts and design development. We also extend their learning outdoors by exploring the mud kitchen where the babies use water, sand and other tactile resources to empty and fill containers.

We would like to continue to develop the babies' communication and language skills by reading stories, singing songs and nursery rhymes and continuing to use basic sign language throughout their daily routine. If any parents would like to learn some basic sign language please, just ask and we will be able to show you or recommend resources to buy or websites to view.



As the Goldfish children are all really enjoying the animals at the moment, this month we will be focusing on different animal groups and incorporating them into our art and tactile activities. We will be doing some animal printing in the paint, playing with ducks and under water animals in the water and we will be freezing some insects into ice and watching it melt to get them out again. We will also be creating different animal scenes such as a farm and dinosaur swamp in our tactile tray.



We will be celebrating Chinese New Year by playing with red rice and oats in our tactile tray along with some little red and gold bags that the children can use to empty and fill to encourage their motor skills. As it is the year of the pig, we will also be creating our own pig pictures.



We will be marking Valentine's Day with a lovely treat for our mummies and daddies and exploring with various different red resources in both our tactile tray and daily activities.

Seashells

We would firstly like to welcome Oliver into Seashells. Oliver has settled in really well and is beginning to make bonds with some of the other children.



Throughout February we are going to be looking at the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We'll have a tactile tray providing a variety of resources to explore in relation to the different areas in the book. For example, we are going to be having lots of green materials for the children to explore as they go through the 'swishy swashy grass'.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury



When playing with this tactile tray the children are going to be developing in many different areas. These areas include their fine and gross motor skills, understanding of the word, literacy skills, communication skills as well as their social skills as they play together and take turns.

To continue with this theme, we are also going to making our own bear masks. These masks will be for the children to use as we act out the bear hunt story. To make these masks the children will be given different brown materials to use and it will allow them to develop their art and design skills, communication and language and also their literacy skills as they use the masks for props when reading the book.

Starfish



The Starfish Children were very excited to see a coating of snow last week, I'm sure there is more to come, therefore, could I ask that all children have a named all in one as well as a coat, wellies, hat and gloves please in order for them to enjoy it fully.

This month we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. The children are already enjoying our new role play area. We will be tempting their exploratory skills with a few sensory activities as well as experimenting with their fine motor skills using chop sticks.



Letter and shape of the month

Our letter of the month for February is 'Ff' we would like to remind parents about our display table situated in the upstairs hall way, to further the children's knowledge could we ask you to encourage your child to look for things beginning with our letter where we can display and talk about their finds at circle time.

To link in with our letter the children will be exploring a range of sensory activities, developing their knowledge and understanding of the world, as well as their imaginary and exploratory skills. Our shape for February is a **heart**.

Colour of the month and Book of the month

The colour of the month is **Red**. To extend the Children's communication and listening skills as well as their understanding of our letter, our book of the month will be '**Hooray for fish**'. We will broaden their learning with transient art and tactile activities; this encourages and develops their creativity and the characteristics of effective learning with having their own ideas.

Talking teddy and weekend bear

Our talking teddy is up and running and is already beginning to be a success with the children, as well helping to develop their language and communication skills.

Our weekend bear is also available to take home, just ask a Starfish staff member if you are interested.

Reminder

Don't forget to pick up a '**WOW**' from the board just outside the dining room. This is for something your child has achieved for example, no more nappies, riding a bike, completing a puzzle, etc., once completed bring it back where your child can talk about their achievement at circle time, giving them a sense of self worth.

Thank you for your support

Joanne, Wendy, Abbie and Hayley & Hanna

Preschool

Hello! We hope you've had a good start to the year. In preschool we have been very busy engaging in activities based on the weather such as number recognition using mittens, snowball numbers, snowman letters and forming recognisable letters using our snow sensory tray. We have also been interpreting our own views on winter trees and creating snowflakes. You can see what we have been up to on our winter board!



We have also been enjoying our new preschool vision board with some preschool rules. The board is available for all children to see and lots of children have been using it in their role play. At circle time we talk about the rules where the children give examples on positive things they do and the children are often reminding their friends of the rules which demonstrates that they are developing their personal social and emotional development, some important skills that they will need for when the start school.

Our holiday bear Kian has been enjoying himself by going home with some of the children over the weekend! We will continue to do each week and normal pick children at random

and we will ensure everyone has a turn. If you have something special planned over a weekend or just fancy having him please just ask and we can get Kian and his bag ready.

Thank you to everyone who participated in National Story Telling Week! It was a great success and we had 10 parents come in over the week to read a few stories to the children. We also provided activities based on stories of Elmer, The Three Bears and the Gruffalo. We hope everyone enjoyed their Gruffalo crumble!



What's New?

We have developed an investigation area over the last month to encourage children to explore, touch, smell and compare objects to develop their understanding of the world. We introduced the children to 2 new plants along with a plant observation weekly report where the children are invited to build a tower using blocks to reach as high as the plants and compare the height of the 2 plants. We also have our own preschool pet.....A SHRIMP! It is super small but the children use the magnifying glass to find it. Over the next month we will be discussing a name for it, and giving him a story to enhance their imagination.

The children are enjoying their Chinese New Year home corner to celebrate the festival on Tuesday 5th February. They have enjoyed making lanterns to decorate the home corner and we provided some dried rice and noodles with some chopsticks to encourage the children to discuss different foods. We have been looking at Chinese festival books to promote the celebration and we have been discussing in circle times how to say hello in Chinese 'Nǐ Hǎo'.



Just outside the door in preschool we have created a parent partnership board to display our past events such as Spooky Stay and Play, Christmas Stay and Play and our most recent 'National Story Telling week'. Have a look at the pictures we displayed and also the dates for our next parent partnership. We would also like to hear your suggestions on future events or comments on the previous events so please write them down on the slip of paper and post them in the wallet provided.

What's Next?

With the weather still very cold we are seeing a lot of ice and the children are enjoying breaking the ice safely and feeling how cold it is, also commenting on how the sun melts the ice. We will be providing opportunities to explore the ice further by using paint and colour mixing, numbers and letters in ice to promote recognition and explore animals that live in snow and icy conditions.



Love is in the air in Preschool and we will be talking about Valentines and briefly discussing the story of Valentines and the importance of love to all of those who are special to us! The children will be invited to create a Valentines keep sake and there will be a tactile tray to enhance their sensory exploration.



In the first week of March we are holding a 'Parent Profession Week' where we would like to invite parents in to talk to the children about their jobs. Please look out for an invite in the children's folders and on Family.

Reminders:

- Please could you provide your child with a hat, scarf and gloves to store in their bags as the weather is changing! Brrrrr.
- If your child has developed a specific interest at home/over the weekend please let us know so as a key worker we can extend their learning and development.

That's it for now!

Thank you for reading; we're excited for what the next month holds for learning, exploration and creativity. If you have any queries, please speak to a member of staff who will be able to help you 😊

From Sophie, Kim, Lauren and Jordan 😊