

The Mulberry Bush Nursery

January 2018 Newsletter

Dear All

Welcome to our January 2018 newsletter. Please find detailed below lots of information about what we have been doing at Nursery recently and any upcoming events for your diaries.

Firstly, all of the staff here at The Mulberry Bush Nursery would like to wish our families a Happy and Healthy 2018 and hope you had a great Christmas.

Tapestry – We hope that you enjoy looking through your child's Learning Journey and welcome you to reply to our observations and add your own too.

School places – A little reminder that if your child is due to begin school in September you need to apply for their school place by the **15th January 2018**.

Tax free child care account – we would like to make you all aware of a government scheme aimed at working parents to open an account to use to pay your childcare from, Every £8 you enter into this account the government will add £2. For more information go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. Within this website can also look at your eligibility for other childcare benefits.

Christmas Celebrations – The children enjoyed numerous Christmas celebrations over the last month. Some of our Berries children performed a carol concert to the residents at Hartismere place a care home in Eye. This was a wonderful event and is something that we hope to be able to continue with in future years. All of the Berries then performed their concert to their families in their festive costumes! The children all did extremely well and received a big applause from their audience. Each individual room held their own Christmas party, including dancing, party games, yummy treats and a gift from a very special visitor! The children who were in on Wednesday 20th December enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch.

Gifts – All of the staff at The Mulberry Bush would like to say a big thank you for all of the very kind and generous gifts that we have received in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Jumper week – Staff and children joined together the week of the 13th December to wear their Christmas jumpers and raise money for Save the Children, we raised a total of £53.60. Thank you once again for supporting our fundraising efforts.

Saturday Workshop – We will be holding an Easter crafts and Baking Saturday workshop in March (date to be confirmed). A day for you to bring your child/ren of all ages to nursery and stay and take part in an assortment of crafts to create and some lovely cake decorating to take home.

Mother's weeks – We will be holding Two Mothers weeks this year from Monday 5th March until Friday 16th March. All female relatives are welcome to visit the nursery for an hour to share some special moments with their child/relative in the nursery environment. If you have a special talent that you would like to share with the children such as playing an instrument, singing, dancing or baking then we would welcome you to share it with us, but if you would prefer to come along and join in our everyday activities then that would be fine too. If you are free and available to join us please speak to your child's key person to book a convenient session.

Named clothing – please can we ask that you name your Children's bags, coats, jumpers and shoes as we have a number of children with the same or very similar designs and this will help to minimize any mix ups

Signing In and Out - Please can we remind parents and carers to sign your child/ren in and out of the registers located by the front door of the nursery on arrival and departure of your child's sessions. Please also remember to advise us if another person will be collecting your child as we do require previous notice and a password.

Room News:

After School Club – The After school club made lots of pictures and figures for Halloween which they told me they were going to take home and decorate their houses with. We also had paints out for them to paint firework pictures or to make junk modelling rockets out of and paint.

December was a busy month the children gave us a taste of their Christmas plays by practicing their singing during after school club. I must say we all got to know all the songs by the end of it. The children made Christmas cards and penguin baubles to hang on their tree at home. The after-school club was finished off by watching a film while eating party food. This was such a relaxing but fun way to end the year with, the children all enjoyed it.

We have now started back and the children have been using the Hama beads to create some really cool designs. We have also made marshmallow dipped in chocolate and sprinkles. The children have asked to do more cooking as well as craft things this term so I have been asking them to think of ideas and look forward to sending these homes.

Berries – The Berries were very busy in December, making lots of Christmas gifts including cards, decorations and mince pies.

We had a great time at our Christmas party, dancing, playing games and a special visit from Santa. The children enjoyed their party snack and took home a little party bag.

We enjoyed our trip to Hartismere residential home on the bus and sang Christmas carols to the elderly people, on the way back to nursery we went round to see the wind turbines. Once we got back to nursery we all enjoyed a Christmas lunch.

The Berries loved performing their Christmas carols to their families and were very proud.

Over the next term the Berries will be taking part in National Bird week along with activities connected to valentines, Pancake Day, Chinese New year and mother's day.

We will also be continuing with our weekly PE sessions introducing changing into a t-shirt and trainers if possible.

Buds – The Buds have had a busy term once again. Our first topic was Julia Donaldson. Each day we read a different story and had activities based around these stories. We made stick men and painted with sticks for 'Stick Man', made Gruffalo crumble for 'The Gruffalo', we painted with spaghetti broom sticks and made magic wands for 'Room on The Broom', made ladybirds for What 'The Ladybird Heard' and made snail trail pictures for 'The Snail and The Whale' as well as more activities. Next was Traditional Nursery Rhymes. We cooked star shape shortbread for 'Twinkle Little Star', Humpty Dumpty's, handprint spiders for 'Incy Wincy Spider', tea pot pictures for 'I'm a little tea pot' and cotton wool sheep for 'baa baa black sheep'.

We next went on to Nature and St. Andrew day. For Nature we used scissors to cut leaves and played with the heuristic objects as well as other activities. For St. Andrews day the children made handprint thistles and made shortbread. We looked at Light and dark, we played with the different light toys, painted a giant sun and moon for our display and looked at different day and night animals.

Some of our children enjoyed going for a ride on a bus whilst some of the Berries went to the Hartismere Place to sing Christmas songs, they then came back to nursery and enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch and chocolate Yule log for pudding! They loved pulling the crackers with their friends and wearing their Christmas hats. They all had lots of fun at our Christmas party and most of the children liked seeing Father Christmas and receiving a Christmas present.

The children came back from their Christmas break and excitedly talked about their Christmas and Father Christmas bringing them lots of presents. Our first topic back was Winter. The children made melting snowmen paintings, handprint snowflakes and used scissors to cut out snowflakes. In the next half term we will be doing lots of activities based on topics of colours, Bird watching, Burns night, Healthy Eating, Valentines, Pancake Day and Chinese New Year along with activities for the story Spider Sandwiches, this is a very popular story in Buds! Making handprint monsters, 'squashed fly jam' sandwiches, which we ate for snack and lots more activities.

Please can we ask for our parents to send some pictures of your child's weekend through their tapestry. This gives our children the opportunity to sit down with their key person and talk about what they have been up to. Also, don't forget we have our holiday bears which would love to come home with you for the weekend or go on holiday with you. Just ask a member of staff about taking one home with you.

Baby Buds – Baby buds have had a lovely fun filled term and Christmas, we have been up to many exciting activities, one very popular item in our room has been the Potato head interactive boards, this term they have been dressed up as Santa, and reindeer. We shall be keeping these in our room and changing the theme of the potato heads within the themes running through the term. Last term the potato heads even joined in with children in need, were we enjoyed our teddy bears picnic, making lots of colourful spot pictures, as well as making cupcakes which the babies loved to get involved in the mixing.

We have enjoyed the main holidays and events of the term, such as fireworks night, where we made very yummy chocolate sparklers, and brightly coloured firework pictures, we loved getting messy and colourful. As well as exploring the colours when it was Remembrance Day we explored printing with apples to make poppies and using many different techniques to make camouflage pictures, such as cling film and tin foil the babies loved making these pictures. For Christmas the babies really enjoyed their party and exploring the ball pool, and dancing, the ball pool was a big success, and I hope they enjoyed their presents. Our Christmas activities were also very much enjoyed, we had an interactive Christmas tree, in which they loved to decorate how they liked, as well as our actual Christmas tree, we also enjoyed making our baubles, and enjoyed lots of messy play with shaving foam, to look like snow.

We loved the week of reading winter stories, and did lots of art work relating to the stories, such as train painting for polar express, snowmen for the snowman story, painting with sticks for stickman to name a few. Another week we very much enjoyed and got very messy was out painting week, were we explored many ways of using paint, we loved the body painting, which is now on display in our art room. We explored ball painting and marble box painting, we loved shaking the box and listening to the balls move around. We also explored more cling film painting but as a group, and loved painting with different media, such as spaghetti, and different tools.

Since coming back from the Christmas holidays, the babies have settled back into the nursery routine well, and we have been looking at winter, were we have been doing snowy welly boot printing, and making snow animals such as penguins and polar bears, we have also enjoyed making melted snowman paintings.

Over the next term we will be looking at nursery rhymes, singing row row your boat in our tuff spots, I'm a little teapot, having fruit tea messy play, pouring with the teapots, as well as making our rocking polka dot teapots. Incy wincey spider day, a day full of spider's webs and lots of spiders along with lots more rhymes and activities. Continuing with more themes for the term such as Bears, which will then lead on to We are going on a Bear hunt. We will then be looking at Dinosaurs, and then Chinese New Year. We hope you have had a lovely new year, and we look forward to seeing all the fun and exciting things the children will be getting up to this year, both at nursery and at home.

Term Time Only Children –Term finishes for Easter on Thursday 29th March 2018 and begins again on Monday 16th April 2018 with Half term being the week of 12th February 2018

Dates for your Diary (also available on the website)

Date	Event
Friday 5 th January 2018	Term time only Children Return
Tuesday 13 th February 2018	Shrove Tuesday
Monday 12 th February 2018 – Friday 16 th February 2018	Half Term for TTO Children Holiday Club Running
16 th - 23 rd February 2018	Chinese New year (year of the Dog)
Thursday 1 st March 2018	St David's Day
Sunday 11 th March 2018	Mother's day Mothers weeks w/c 5 th March and w/c 12 th March
Saturday March 2018 TBC	Easter workshop (crafts and cooking)
Saturday 17 th March 2018	St Patrick's Day
Friday 30 th March 2018	Good Friday (Nursery Closed)
Monday 2 nd April 2018	Easter Monday (Nursery Closed)
Tuesday 3 rd April 201 to Friday 13 th April 2018	Easter Holidays for TTO Children Holiday Club Running