

The Mulberry Bush Nursery

September 2017 Newsletter

Dear All

Welcome to our September 2017 newsletter. We hope that you have all enjoyed not so hot summer and we would like to welcome back our term time only children and families.

Change to snack-Following our Ofsted inspection and recommendation to give the children more opportunities of independence and self-help skills. We will be changing snack slightly to more of a snack bar with variety of items of fruit and savoury to choose from with a specified number of each item to have. We will be trialling this in the buds and berries in the new term

Lost Property & Belongings - Please can we ask that you take a look at the lost property located in the main cloakroom to see if any of it belongs to your child. Please can we also ask that you take home any belongings that belong to your child which they are not currently using here at nursesey.

Second hand rail - We have decided to have a 'second hand rail' in the main entrance hall. The idea is for parents to donate unwanted clothes to the nursery for other parents to buy. The money will then be used for large resources for the nursery for example new bikes for outside. We will create a thermometer which shows how much money is being earned. We will be starting this over the next few weeks, if you have any unwanted good condition clothes you would like to donate please bring to the office.

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.

Staff news - We would like to introduce Ellie Nightingale who will be joining the team as bank staff, she will be covering within all rooms as required to cover staff holidays.

Along with Priscilla Evans who will be working within the office starting in the next few weeks. Please be with us and welcome her to our team.

Christmas Cards - _Sorry thinking ahead to Christmas already. This year we have decided to participate in a 'Greetings Card Art Project' run by Little Paintbox. The project aims to encourage a pupil's creativity and design skills whilst also raising funds for nursery.

Over the next few weeks each child will create his/her own design for a Christmas Card that will then be professionally printed by Little Paintbox to produce a high quality card that is both unique and useful and offers a very personal form of greetings card to send to family and friends.

Each child will receive a free proof card of their individual artwork, and there is no obligation to purchase cards unless you choose to do so after you have seen the proof.

Fundraising events -Over the next few months we will be holding 3 fundraising events

W/C 2nd October we will be holding a cake stall in aid of McMillian Cancer all donations of cakes will be very welcome but please avoid any cakes containing nuts.

W/C 13th November will be Children in Need Week more details will follow shortly

W/C 11th December will be Christmas jumper week in aid of Save the Children. Please help us raise as much money as possible for these charities.

Pack lunches - We have a number of children who have packed lunches please can we ask if your child does have a packed lunch that you do not add anything which contains nuts as we are a nut free zone and have a child who has a severe nut allergy and want to eliminate any chances of contamination which may cause a reaction.

Term Time Only Children - Half Term will commence Monday 23rd October 2017. The Autumn Term will finish on Friday 22nd December 2017.

Spring term starts back for all funded children on Friday 5th January 2018 and runs through to Thursday 29th April 2018 with the week of 12th February 2018 being half term holidays

Childrens toys from home - please can we ask you to try to refrain your children bringing in toys from home other than their comforters as this has caused some issues within the rooms. If your child insists on bringing them please get them to leave it in their bag during nursery time so they don't get misplaced Thank you

Nursery Produce - We hope that you have enjoyed purchasing some of the produce from our Fruit and Vegetable Garden. The children have loved watching the vegetables grow and picking them to put on sale in the Cloakroom. All proceeds will be put towards seeds for next year.

Room news

After School/Holiday Club - Our Holiday Club has been a great success out in the marquee on the grass. The holidays passed by very quickly and we have been very lucky this holiday with the weather and taken full advantage of the new climbing frame and large sand pit which the children absolutely loved. The children were really happy to be back and meeting up with some old friends from last year and making new ones. There have been lots of activities and materials which the children could choose as well as planned activities such as CD fish, Marbling, cooking, experiments along with tin foil and balloon fun. We were lucky to go out on many outings including Diss cinema, seaside visit, High lodge Thetford and golf. We have also said bye to one of our long standing holiday club child due to starting High school, we wish them the best of luck. We are now back into the school term and After School Club we will be busy doing different activities involving different textures, cooking, modelling with mod roc and enjoying relaxing with our friends after a long day at school. We will continue to use the marquee as our base until the weather turns too cold.

Berries - Over the last 6 weeks the Berries learnt about our emotions. We played various emotion games such as face fishing, egg-pressions and emotion fans games. We also looked in the mirror and practiced different faces. We played a game with m and m's where each child picked various colours and had to talk about an emotion to match that colour! Such as red angry, blue sad, yellow happy. We also made face biscuits.

We then did summer for two weeks. We had an ice cream role play buying and selling and creating our own imaginary flavours, we used sandpaper to make beach scene pictures. We had a paddling pool where we did fishing for magnetic fish. We had ice cream for snack and made sandcastle cakes.

From summer we moved on to holidays. Where we discussed what we would take on holiday and where we have been. We cooked fruit salad using a range of fruits to develop our cutting skills such as strawberries and tinned pineapple and grapes where we used the grape cutter.

We have also done about insects and bugs, focussing on the hungry caterpillar. We visited the bug garden with books and magnifying glasses to try and identify the insects we found. We made finger painting lady birds, symmetrical butterflies, and cooked cheesy snails.

We have also been using real tools. Talking about what each tool does such as hammer, screw driver and the difference between a nail and screw. We talked about using them safely. The first week we experimented with tools and the following week we made aeroplanes.

Next term we are looking at problem solving colours dinosaurs and harvest along with introducing PE lessons which will also involve self-help skills starting with taking off and putting on their socks and shoes.

Buds 2 - The Buds have had a busy few weeks, we had a lovely summer exploring lots of different messy play and Mark making. Buds had a week of 'Pets'. They played with the Vets Role Play and took part in making animal shaped shortbread biscuits, making rabbit masks and paw prints. They enjoyed animal yoga and also singing with our animal nursery rhyme puppets. Thank you to those of you who sent in pictures of your pets, the children really enjoyed talking about their pets to their peers. Next was 'Where We Live'. We made houses out of junk modelling and drew pictures of different houses. We also looked at pictures of different houses around the world. We took a walk to the park with the Holiday Club and looked at the different buildings in Eye.

We then went on to look at 'Carnivals'. The children made colourful carnival masks using lots of glitter and feathers. We dressed in bright colours and danced to carnival music. We explored different musical instruments and made necklaces with pasta. We made parrots from paper plates and also made mini pizzas using sweetcorn and different coloured peppers. We then moved on to 'Road Safety'. We looked at traffic light signs and played the Traffic Light game. The children made traffic light biscuits and dressed up as police too. We are waiting to hear back from the police with a date to come and visit the children and talk about road safety.

Lastly the children took part in 'Jack and The Beanstalk'. Some of the children planted some beans in cups which we have put in the conservatory for the children to water and watch as they grow. We played the Bean game and listened to the story of Jack and The Beanstalk. The children also took part in, making magic beans, golden eggs, threading harps and making a castle.

We look forward to our Buds returning from their summer and telling us about what they have been up to. Over the next few weeks the children will be taking part in the topics; Harvest festival, The Seasons and Dinosaurs.

Baby Buds - The baby buds have been very busy over the last month our main topic has been animals we have been looking at dinosaurs, wildlife, zoo animals and our pets. We have enjoyed listening to the animal listening CD recognising

the different sounds animal make and even some of the children have tried to copy the sounds. Also, we have enjoyed getting involved in baking by making animal biscuits and hedgehog bread rolls. The children enjoyed showing us their mixing skills and turn taking. Furthermore, we have been getting messy by playing with angel delight, shredded wheat and custard. The babies had great fun in the angel delight and got very messy with this. The babies have also been busy washing the different animals using sponges in water play. They have also enjoyed having the vet's role play out by putting the different cuddly animals into the pet carriers and using the stereoscopes and bandages. We also had a visit from Jess's tortoise what she kindly brought in to show us they watched as it moved across the room. Keeping on the same topic of animals we have been very creative with making different animals such as snakes, elephants, monkeys, rabbits, frogs, hedgehogs and rabbits. We have been sticking and painting and some of these animals are in the art room on the wall for you to look at. Additionally, we have looked a little at sensory play and we made some lovely sensory paintings which didn't make any mess at all. The children enjoyed using the fingers to touch the cling film to spread the paint over their paper. These are also hanging up in the art room for you to look at they look very bright and colourful. We have also enjoyed the lovely weather we have been outside lots playing with water in our water tray. Also the older babies have been joining up with the buds on the green together playing in the sand pit and playing peek a poo in the playhouse. We have also been on walks to see the sheep in the fields and have even seen tractors doing their work which the children got very excited about.

Furthermore, we had a glitter week which was fun we made lovely sparkly glittery stars and some lovely free sticking so the children could put whatever they wanted onto their picture, this did involve a lot of glitter! The children also got involved in making glitter playdough the older babies help by using a wooden spoon to mix and then got the chance to add the ingredients into the bowl. When the children had made the playdough they then enjoyed exploring with it by using their fingers to poke holes into it. We had the shiny treasure basket out so the children could make lots of sounds banging the objects together and the children enjoyed singing twinkle twinkle little star. Also we now have our story sacks ready to take home so please ask a member of staff in the baby room if you would like to take one. Please remember we still have out two holiday bears that our ready to go on their little adventures, if you would like to take one please also ask a member of staff out of the baby room. Lastly, we are

