

The Mulberry Bush Nursery

December 2018 Newsletter

Dear All

Welcome to our December 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.

Christmas Celebrations - The children will be enjoying numerous Christmas celebrations over the next month. Some of our Berries children will be performing a carol concert to the residents the care home in Eye. All the Berries will perform their concert to their families in their festive costumes! Which they are practicing really hard for. Each individual room will have their own Christmas party, including dancing, party games, yummy treats and a gift from a very special visitor! The children who are in on Tuesday 18th December will enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch.

Christmas Jumper Day - We will be joining in with this event again this year, holding a Christmas jumper week, the week of the 10th December. Please wear your Christmas jumpers and donate a pound to raise money for "Save the children". Along with holding a Christmas cake stall and guess the weight of the Christmas cake! Please help us raise as much money as possible.

Children In Need - We are very proud to announce our total money raised for "Children In Need" this year was £192.00! We would like to say a massive thank you for your support and for helping us to achieve this for such a vital cause.

Christmas Parties - We will be holding our Berries and Buds 2 Christmas parties on Wednesday 12th December over at the bowls club. The Buds 2 party will be held from 9.30am until 11.30am and the Berries party will be held from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. Further details will be sent out separately. The Babies Party will be held on Monday 10th December 9:45am until 11:15am. The After-School Club film night will be Monday 17th December 4pm until 6pm.

Food Hygiene Inspection

On the 31st October we had a visit from the Food and Safety Inspector. We are very proud to announce that we were awarded the highest food hygiene rating of 5 stars. We would like to commend Luisa our cook and all the staff for maintaining exceptionally high standards of hygiene and cleanliness in the kitchen.

Winter weather conditions

A note about bad weather: - In the event that winter conditions should be so bad as to become dangerous to travel, then there is the possibility that we would have to close the nursery early. Should this happen, the staff will contact all parents or emergency contacts as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for the children to be collected. Should weather conditions be too hazardous to open the nursery, we will endeavour to contact BBC Radio Suffolk and BBC Radio Norfolk who will read out and/or publish a list of school/nursery that are unable to operate. We will also announce the closure on our facebook page and an e-mail will be sent to all current parents and telephone those whom we do not have an email address for. We do hope this will not occur but unfortunately if it does and we have to close we will not be able to issue refunds or swaps.

School places – A little reminder that if your child is due to begin school in September 2019 you need to apply for their school place by the **15th January 2019**.

Dropping and collecting times

We would like to remind parents/carers of the importance of dropping off/collecting your child/ren at the agreed time for your booking. Your booking times inform our staffing provision and we simply may not have the staff on duty before or beyond your booking. We have strict legal requirements that we have to adhere to in order to safely look after children and I am sure all parents can see therefore that children here before or after their booked time could possibly mean we were understaffed. We hope for your support in this area.

Room News:

After School Club - This term is going so quickly. The children have been playing with the spirograph, exploring what patterns they could make. At the beginning some of the children found it hard to do, in the end they were making fantastic patterns.

The children have been playing with one of our new games called Name 5. The children choose a colour, on the colour is a question which they have to give 5 answers to. The children have had fun finding the really hard questions to ask the staff.

It has been nice hearing the children sing their Christmas songs they are learning at school for their play's, it's been getting us in the Christmas mood. We have also started our Christmas crafts and we have cooking planned.

We are looking forward to our film night with party food on Monday 17th December where we can have a relaxed but fun night all together. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Holiday club

It was nice to see some new children who are new at holiday club. They were excited to be returning after starting school and being able to see some of their old friends.

The children enjoyed doing lots of art activities, science experiments and lots of cooking naming just a few of the different activities that were enjoyed.

I look forward to planning over the Christmas period activities for February half term, the plans should be available to be emailed in the new year.

Berries - This term in the Berries we have enjoyed lots of autumn activities, we have been on walks collecting acorns, leaves and conkers, we used these to do some transient art making some special pictures and patterns without the use of glue. The children really enjoyed this different way of exploring different textures at the same time. We did some leaf rubbing, leaf printing and made some finger print trees. We then moved on to learn about space, talking about the planets, what their names were, what they looked like and size ordering them, made a wall display and the children enjoyed making man in the moon scones.

The children really enjoyed doing some lovely bright firework pictures and we talked about firework safety and had a nice hedgehog story called 'remember remember the 5th of November'. We made some lollipop poppies and poppy biscuits to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. In November we raised money for children in need, dressing up and making cakes for the cake stall, the children also enjoyed colouring in some Dougie and Pudsey pictures and we had a disco. We took part in a Jungle Body class, this was a fitness dance class which we joined with the Buds. The children loved this and joined in really well.

Over the next few weeks we will be making lots of Christmas crafts and doing some cooking, along with practicing for our Christmas carol concert and a trip to Hartismere place and we will have lots of fun at our Christmas party with games and party snacks along with a visit from someone special.

Buds 2 - Buds have had a busy term with lots of exciting activities!

We have looked at Science, Autumn, Bonfire Night, Halloween, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Physical, Pets and Stick Man.

During our Science weeks the children took part in different experiments such as a Smartie experiment, Making Raisins, Fizzy balloons and lots more, they really enjoyed the Smartie experiment - for this we put smarties around a plate and then slowly poured warm water into the middle of the plate, as the warm water hit the smarties it caused the colouring to come off the shells and then run into the water, they loved watching the water change colour.

During our Autumn topic we went on a walk to collect leaves, made bird feeders, baked hedgehog cupcakes, conker rolling paintings and lots lots more. Next was Bonfire Night / Halloween, we made breadstick sparklers where the children dripped breadsticks into chocolate and then into sprinkles, we also made fruit kebabs using strawberries, banana and grapes, the children safely used knives to cut their fruit and then push them onto kebab skewers, we also explored a bonfire night sensory tray and painted their hands orange and red to create bonfire paintings. On our Halloween day we made potions, paper plate pumpkins, carved a pumpkin and explored coloured ice cubes which had googly eyes in them - we called these 'Eyescubes'.

Next we went on to Diwali and Remembrance Day. For Diwali we had some Indian food tasting - the children had the opportunity to try Jalfrezi Rolls, Sweetcorn Fritters, Vegetable Fingers, and Vegetable Samosas., they also made salt-dough lanterns, hanging lanterns and drew around their hands and then decorated them. For Remembrance Day we made poppy biscuits, handprint poppies and had a two minutes silence, we also went onto CBeebies and watched a special Remembrance Day video.

Our next topic was Physical, throughout the week the children took part in lots of different activities and games such as Travelling in different ways (cars, trains, bikes etc.), traffic light game, parachute games, bean game, pom poms and tweezers, the children also tried putting on their own coats and dressing and undressing before bed. We then looked at Pets, the children made handprint goldfish, paper plate dogs, cheerio bird feeders, paw print stampers, and had vets role play, pet shop role play and had animals in the water tray with sponges and soaps. Lastly we looked at Stick Man, we went for a walk down the Avenue to collect lots of sticks, with these sticks we made crowns, and also painted with them, we have had sticks in mud and listened to the stick man story, we made chocolate nest cakes and also done some stick man yoga and acted out the story as a group.

We have also had a lady called Amy come into nursery and took a Jungle Body class with the children, this was a fitness dance class which we done with the Berries. The children loved this and joined in really well.

Over the December period we will be making cards, presents. Abbie has made a giant advent calendar which the children have helped to make, they have been helping paint baubles. Behind each bauble there will be a different activity for the children to take part in. We have also put our Christmas tree up with the children, they have really enjoyed adding the baubles and decorations to it.

Baby Buds - In the babies this term we have been very busy, the first week of the term we have been looking at sensory play, every day we would have a different 'That's not my' sensory book, in our tuff tray, with different materials and objects represented in the book, the children loved this and kept coming back throughout the day to look through the book and explore all the different textures with their senses. We then linked these books with a messy play activity each day, they especially loved the sensory gloves we had out, and the water beads in bags, they spent a good amount of time exploring the texture and feel of these., for those children that didn't enjoy getting messy we had a cling film sensory table activity out, they enjoyed pressing down the different coloured paint and shaving foam under the cling film, feeling all that was underneath, but without getting messy.

After this we then explored Autumn, we went out for a little walk and collected leaves, these leaves we used for many different activities such as leaf silhouette painting, leaf printing, and exploring leaves on the window with stick back plastic, making moveable pictures. We also made different paintings using conkers, sticks, and printing with apples, the children really enjoyed creating autumn apple crumble, they did great scooping, and then filling the cases with apples, and crumble. We moved to owl babies, the children enjoyed reading the book each day before sleep, and used great listening skills to decorate their own baby owl cakes, we made bird feeders to put out in the garden.

There were many celebrations during the autumn term and we had many fun activities celebrating these occasions, such as Diwali we had tea lights, the children enjoyed painting them and putting their own gems on the candle holder, for Halloween painting their large leaves, and creating little leaf monsters, with this we also got the sensory gloves out again, which the children loved exploring again. For fireworks we created many different fireworks paintings with different tools, we used spray bottles to create a picture, and then we used cardboard tubes from wrapping paper to create starburst type paintings, the children enjoyed creating these all together, and exploring our light baskets. For remembrance we had camouflage tuff tray out, and made poppy printing pictures. In this term we had children in need too, in which we created cupcakes for our bake sale, and decorating biscuits too. We enjoyed making spotty pictures and wearing our pyjamas.

We then looked at different mark making, we did a lot of big paper art, and exploring the freedom of mark making on a large scale, using dabber pens, pencils and paint, we also enjoyed painting with frozen paint pops. The children really enjoyed mark making in frozen jelly exploring the cold and texture too.

We have been exploring food and drink, the children loved our homemade little pizzeria pretending to create pizza's and then putting them in the oven, they even got to make their own mini pizza's and ate them for am snack. We have really enjoyed playing in the birthday cake cloud dough, they loved scooping it into the cupcake cases and adding the candle pictures on top too. The children got

to explore the differ vegetables in spiralized sensory play. And lots of different food and drink role play. Over December we will be looking at Christmas and enjoying lots of wintery Christmassy crafts and activities.

Christmas Message - All of the staff at The Mulberry Bush Nursery would like to wish our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019. We look forward to welcoming children back to nursery **from Wednesday 2nd January 2019** and hearing about their wonderful Christmas break.

Dates for your Diary (also available on the website)

Date	Event
Tuesday 18 th December 2018	All funding finishes
Friday 21 st December 2018 6pm	Nursery closes for Christmas
Wednesday 2nd January 2019	Nursery re-opens
Friday 4 th January 2019	Children with stretched funding return
Monday 14 th January 2019	Term time only children return
Monday 18 th February 2019 - Friday 22nd February 2019	Half Term for TTO Children Holiday Club Running
Thursday 7th March 2019	World Book day
Friday 19 th April 2019	Good Friday (Nursery Closed)
Monday 22nd April 2019	Easter Monday (Nursery Closed)
Monday 8th April 2019 to Thursday 18 th April 2019	Easter Holidays for TTO Children Holiday Club Running