

January 2019

The Nature Den Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas Break and wishing you a very Happy 2019! Welcome also to all our new families who joined us at the start of this term – we are really pleased with how well all the children are settling in.

We have lots of exciting plans for learning and play during 2019 which we can't wait to share with you. Don't forget to check our facebook page and noticeboards to see what we have on.

As we love to give children the opportunity to be outdoors whatever the weather, don't forget to ensure your child has a named pair of Wellington boots, a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves.

Kind Regards

Steph and the Nature Den Staff Team

Staff News

Welcome to Jo – who has been appointed Deputy Manager for the Nursery. Highly experienced, Jo has transferred across from one of our sister Nurseries and will be working Monday – Wednesday from the 4th February. Jo will be focused on ensuring your child receives the very best learning and care opportunities.

Congratulations to Emma, who has been appointed Nursery Senior on Thursday and Friday's. Emma is also our Nursery SENDCo, so please contact her if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child.

Dates for your Diaries

Fri 25th January 11 am - Let's Talk reading event. **Ensuring children are getting the best out of books. Parents welcome to attend. Discussions include how to join the library and free support for families with EAL needs.**

Tues 12th February – Parents Evening. Please book your time slot on the sign up sheets on the Nursery door closer to the time.

Thurs 7th February, 4^{pm}– Makaton training for parents and children. Limited childcare available.

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd February – Half term. No funding during this time.

Thurs 7th March – World Book Day. Come dressed as your favourite character from a book. More details to follow!

Fri 29th March, pm – Mother's day afternoon tea. Inviting special females in your child's life to come and join us for afternoon tea and a stay and play session. More info to follow nearer the time.

Mon 1st – Mon 22nd April – Easter Holidays. No funding during this time. For children in over the holidays, please note the Nursery will be closed on the following days: **Fri 12th April (PD Day), Fri 19th April (Bank holiday) & Mon 22nd April (Bank holiday)**

Tues 23rd April – First Day of Summer Term

Part of the Bows and Arrows Group

Welcome to –

Claire who has been appointed Early Years Educator until the end of the summer term working 5 days a week. Claire had already been working at the Nursery on a temporary basis so will already be a familiar face to many!

Leah who is our new Nursery level 2 Apprentice. Leah replaces Katie who successfully completed her apprenticeship with us.

Forest Schools – The children return to the forest on Thursday 17th January and this term we are increasing the number of children we take from 5 to 11. We can't wait to get back to the forest to see what seasonal changes have occurred.

Living Egg Project – From 4th – 15th March, we are very excited to announce we will be part of this project which enables children to watch eggs hatch into chicks. This is great for the children to learn about life cycles and growth and development, but also really encourages social interaction and caring and nurturing skills. The chicks will leave us on the 15th for a long and happy life at a free range farm.

Junk Rescue – We will be setting up junk recycling area in the lobby. To do this, we need your help! We need plastic bags, clean empty tins, clean plastic bottles and plastic lids. If you have any of these at home then please bring them in.

Our plan is to recycle them to enable us to: make our own paper, use plastic bags for threading, use tins for planting in as well as use in our junk modelling creations.

We have lots of other ideas and can't wait to get started.

Children's Centre – Paula from the Children's Centre is still coming to us on Friday afternoons. Every week we are looking at different feelings, such as happy, angry, sad and we are talking about these through the use of puppets or role play.

If you have any comments or concerns, please contact your key worker, Nursery Seniors Jo and Emma or Manager Steph. For regular updates on the Nursery, please check The Nature Den or Bows and Arrows Group Facebook page.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all our families for your fundraising support last term. We were overwhelmed by your generosity. We intend to spend the money on improving our garden area. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you.

Holiday care – did you know you can stretch your funded hours? This enables you to have childcare all year round rather than just in term time. If you are interested in finding out more please speak with Steph or Jo.

Staff Training – on PD day, Emma and Olivia went on Elklan Training. This training enables practitioners to be more effective in their support of children with speech, language and communication needs. Olivia has also become part of a new project team within Ipswich which promotes the importance of literacy. Details about parent events will be coming soon.