

Dear Families,



Welcome to our March Newsletter, I can already see signs of Spring around us as the evenings are drawing out and the mornings are becoming brighter. In February the children enjoyed making delicious pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and celebrating Chinese New Year. Kindergarten made a lovely dragon out of cardboard boxes and acted out a Chinese dance. We enjoyed chopstick play by practicing our skills in picking up noodles.

This month the celebrations will continue with World Book Day and a visit from 'The Gingerbread Man'. Thank you to all our Grandparents who have shared stories with us and are planning to! We will also be busy creating some beautiful things for our Mummies and other 'special grown ups' for Mothering Sunday. We are having Stay and Play Sessions so if you would like to join please sign up in your child's room. We will also be exploring Holi Festival celebrations. Holi is an Indian Festival celebrated once a year and is renowned for fun and colour! The children will also be exploring other celebration days in March such as St David's Day, St Patrick's Day and Sports Relief, where our Toddler Peg area will turn in a mini disco to raise some funds – so don't forget to dress up 80's style and get your best moves on!

In April we will be raising funds for our sister Nursery in Kisumu, Kenya. The Nursery will be turned into an African Jungle which has always brought great excitement with the children and adults!

If you are looking to increase your sessions in September please could you let me know so that I can let you know what availability we have to offer you.

Warm regards

*Maryanne Strickland*  
Nursery Manager

## Storytelling

Storytime is a great way to introduce children to the magic of books. Ideally we should begin reading books to our children when they are very small. Babies and children enjoy books with bright pictures and simple text. While Babies cannot understand the intricacies of the language, they do enjoy the rhythm of the words. As children grow older, our choice of books should reflect their interests. Older children also like to be involved in the story being read. Talking about the pictures and what is happening in the story will encourage their interest in the books.

## Dates for your Diary

- **World Book Day**  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March
- **Open Evening**  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm – 8pm
- **Mothering Sunday**  
11<sup>th</sup> March
- **Sports Relief**  
17<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> 80's disco themed
- **Good Friday**  
30<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Monday**  
2<sup>nd</sup> April

## Babies

Over the past month the Babies have enjoyed exploring the red and gold interest table. We have been on a few spring walks and on a walk to the Chinese shop and Tesco to buy some Daffodils. We have had a busy month exploring Pancake Day, Valentines day and Chinese New Year. The Babies enjoyed eating their pancakes and Chinese food tasting. We have also explored messy activities, such as rice play, shaving foam play and mixing glue and paint together.



## Toddlers

Over the past month the Toddlers have shown a great interest in different vehicles and have been very lucky to be able to go on different 'Out and About' Trips! The Team recently took a group of children out on the Yellow Dot Bus to Eastleigh Train Station to watch the trains go past. When coming back from this trip the toddlers and the Team made their own Train Station role play area, and showed their creative side by making their own train tickets. When going 'Out and About' in the local community the Toddlers were able to see a construction site, which had diggers! The Toddlers loved watching the diggers and made their own construction site in the Toddler room, and relaxed while reading the 'Dig Dig Digging' story.



## Transition

Over the past month, Transition have been on different 'Out and About' Trips! The Team recently took a group of six children out on the Yellow Dot Bus to an Art Gallery in Romsey where they made their own decorations from clay! They then decorated them with sequins and were able to take them home. Transition have also been on trips up the lane and out to Hocombe Mead, the local nature reserve, to explore signs of Spring. They found Daffodils, Crocus and spotted some Squirrels too! Transition also spent time playing 'Pooh Sticks' with leaves, watching them float under the bridge on the stream.



## Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we have been celebrating Pancake day, Valentines Day and Chinese New Year. We have been sharing these experiences with our friends at Valley Lodge Care Home, where we have been making pancakes with the residents, sharing related stories and doing Chinese dancing with a homemade Chinese dragon! The children have loved sharing these experiences! We have also been talking about the changes in the weather, looking for signs of spring, exploring clay and what we can make with it.

