

Dear Families,

What fun we had in December! Our trees arrived and once again the Nursery twinkled for the month of December. The children and Team had a wonderful time creating lots of Christmas inspired crafts, bakes and decorations. Our Christmas Party for Kindergarten was a great success with the magician wowing the children with his tricks. As always our Nativity went down a storm as the Kindergarten children sang out 'Wriggly Nativity'. Thank you to everyone who came and for the wider Yellow Dot Team for their support on the day.

During December the children in all the rooms have been out and about in our 'third space', the community. We are very lucky in Eastleigh to have a wide and diverse community to share and embrace. The community is one of the Key Principles underpinning the Froebelian approach which gives the children a greater sense of belonging and respect for the things around them.

Babies wrapped up warm and enjoyed the crisp, cold air. Toddlers went further afield and took the train to Winchester to experience the Christmas Market. Transition and Toddlers went to the Museum to see the Christmas Tree display and toured Eastleigh looking at the lights and finally Kindergarten went to Eastleigh Baptist Church to experience the 'Nativity Labyrinth', they came back full of stories of awe and wonder.

The Nursery will continue to extend the festive season into the New Year as the children now have their own real life experiences to talk about and revisit in their play.

It's the start of a new year in the Yellow Dot family I can't wait to see what it brings. Happy New Year to you all.

Kind regards,

Jo Hogan
Nursery Manager

The Third Space

Jane Dyke the founding Director of Yellow Dot writes about the benefits to the children's development of accessing the outdoors and experiencing the wider world

She talks about the importance of 'third space'. This a place where children can authentically play in nature, experience risk, play boldly and bravely.'

For Yellow Dot during the past year, this access to the third space has been developed and now includes visits to the local community, Nature Nursery and Beach Nursery all now playing a part in every day activities at Yellow Dot.

Jane concludes that 'Pre-Froebel training, we would have probably accessed these spaces a few times a year, but now they are a weekly excursion.'



Babies

The Babies have been making seasonal sensory bottles and treasure baskets to continue their Christmas exploration. They went to the Christmas Market to see the lights and trees and smell the Christmassy scents. They then explored items with bright colours such as red, green and metallic colours to extend the Christmas feel. In the New Year we will continue to visit the Library and enjoy joining in with Rhyme time.



Toddlers

The Toddlers have been out and about exploring Eastleigh looking at the Christmas lights and other Christmas decorations in the shops. They have been out to the Museum in Eastleigh looking at the Christmas tree display. We have been creating a nostalgic Christmas display board as the parents have sent in pictures of the children from last Christmas. The children have also had great fun exploring further Christmas provocations that we set up. They had lots of Christmas related objects in their provocation baskets and enjoyed decorating Christmas cards and wrapping paper.



Transition

Transition have been exploring light and dark as the dark nights have well and truly set in. The children have been very interested in the Christmas displays around Eastleigh and looking at the Christmas lights. A visit to the Museum provoked lots of discussion around Christmas trees and different ways they can be made. The children have been developing their skills and understanding around printing. They have been looking at printing in the wider world then using their skills to make their own Christmas inspired masterpieces. The children have also been exploring paper laying, weaving and making paper chains.



Kindergarten

The children in Kindergarten have been very busy this month leading up to Christmas. They have explored Christmas, both the Nativity Story and the way it is celebrated and marked in the local community. They enjoyed celebrating with a party welcoming a magician. They also visited 'The Nativity Experience Labyrinth' at Eastleigh Baptist Church where they explored the Christmas story and met characters from it. They then dressed up in their own Nativity characters when they performed their Nativity which was 'The Wiggly Nativity.' The children were absolutely wonderful and performed beautifully making all their 'special adults' extremely proud.

