

Dear Families,



We celebrated Chinese New Year at the beginning of February, the Year of the Pig. The children tasted traditional Chinese food, painted Chinese Dragons, made lanterns and the “Dragon Dancing” that was really worth seeing!

In the next couple of months we will be concentrating on everything to do with “**Growing**” and plan activities to help the children gain a knowledge and understanding of how animals and plants grow and also their own bodies and things that make them big and strong. I’m sure there will be plenty more pictures for you to treasure and stick on your walls and fridge doors of little hands and feet. We will be sowing seeds and much more.

On Friday March 15th we will be raising money for Red Nose Day and this year each room will be dressing up in the funniest outfits they can find. All children and adults are encouraged to join in and a prize will be given to each room for the funniest outfits! Donations will be gratefully received for this fundraising event.

I am looking at the Nursery spaces available from September. If you have a child who has not yet started with us (even if they are on the waiting list) or would like to amend your current sessions, please let me know your requirements so I can do my best to accommodate you.

Best wishes,

Jo Parker

Field Manager



Play dough Recipe

Play dough is a great resource for building upper body strength as children manipulate it. As well as great for provoking imagination and creativity.

You can make it at home:

- 1 cup of plain flour
- 1 cup of boiling water
- 1 table spoon of cooking oil
- 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar
- Half a cup of salt
- Food colouring(optional)

Place all the ingredients in a plastic container and stir until a ‘doughy’ consistency is formed and comes away from the sides of the bowl.

Dates for your Diary

- **Shrove Tuesday** 5th March
- **World Book Day** 7th March
- **Red Nose Day** 15th March
- **St Patrick's day** 17th March
- **Holi** 20th March
- **Clocks go forward** 31st March

Babies

In the Baby room we have had lots of fun learning about Winter through play. We really enjoyed playing with the ice cubes and winter animals such as polar bears and penguins. Babies have also been exploring this season through a range of treasure baskets. We have been going on some exciting adventures into the community. We visited Hedge End Yellow Dot and played with the Babies there. We have also been attending a baby bounce group at the Library where we learnt lots of new songs.



Toddlers

This month in the Toddler room we have been getting creative with boxes, tubes and cardboard and even attempted to make a castle. We had lots of fun in the role play area looking after the dolls and cooking up some yummy meals. The children have been practicing their communication skills by doing lots of turn taking at group time, singing and playing "what's in the bag?". Toddlers have been getting messy and creative this month! We have also welcomed Lindsay, the new Senior, into the room.



Transition

This month has been full of new experiences, starting with snow which sparked our interest in the weather and had lots of conversations during circle time. We also celebrated Chinese New Year by turning our role play area into a Chinese restaurant and talking about different cultures. This then developed into us talking about Valentines Day. We created a pink and rose water tray and created Valentines Day pictures for our loved ones. We have been looking into different artists and made a wonderful display in the creative room to show off the amazing artwork.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten have been working on mindfulness and breathing exercises to support managing feelings and behaviour. We have been looking at books such as 'Angry Alligator' to identify what happens to our bodies when we feel certain emotions and things we can do to help us calm down and resolve conflict independently. We traced Chinese symbols to support our mark making and dressing up in colourful lion heads to celebrate Chinese New Year. Our fine motor skills have been challenged with plenty of crafts, threading hearts for Valentines Day and even making cards for the children at Southampton General Hospital.

