

Dear Families,



Welcome to our February Newsletter. The big event in January was celebrating Yellow Dot Hedge End's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We had lots of birthday related provocations such as making cards, playing party games, wrapping and unwrapping gifts and much more. We were very lucky to have Mucky Buckets Farm come to visit us too. They brought along 2 alpacas, 3 goats, a donkey, a Shetland pony, a rabbit, guinea pig and a tortoise. The children helped to groom and feed the animals and we learned a little about them all from the handlers that accompanied them. We also had a birthday cake to share and a whole Nursery sing along too which was lots of fun.

Annual fee increases will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and Clare will be working hard to calculate your new fees during February. Fees will increase by 3% (on average 19p per hour) and the Meals & Consumables Charge for Grant funded children will increase by 4p per hour. This year we will be sending the new Fee Information to you by email. If you haven't received your email by 28<sup>th</sup> February, please let me know. Ideally we would like all our families to pay by direct debit. Please pick up a direct debit form from me next time you are in the Nursery.

Finally, we want our children to enjoy outdoor play and experiences whatever the weather. Please bring them in with appropriate clothing for the 'Great British weather'. To further support your child making the most of the outdoors, please may I ask you to bring in a pair of wellies/outdoor shoes and a pair of indoor shoes or slippers to change into. Outdoor shoes need to be suitable for walking, climbing and splashing in puddles whilst also keeping little feet warm (oversize or ill-fitting wellies can pose a hazard). Please remember too, to label all items of clothing, including footwear. Many thanks.

Best wishes

*Jo Parker*  
Nursery Manager

## Some of our Birthday Experiences



## Diary Dates

- **Transition & Kindergarten Information Evening**  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February
- **Sports Relief Week**  
17-23<sup>rd</sup> March
- **Nursery Closed**  
30<sup>th</sup> March & 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- **Africa Week**  
16-20<sup>th</sup> April



### Babies

The Babies have been welcoming new friends to their room during January. They have been babbling and passing toys to each other which helps them all to feel settled. They have been getting to know their Key Person and building strong relationships with them, as well as exploring the room to find out where everything is and getting used to routines.



### Toddlers

The Toddlers were really busy this month exploring textures. They used 'Puffy Paints' to create textured art work and talked about different textures in the environment such as hard, soft, smooth, bumpy etc. They also did lots of baking including making oat and raisin cookies. They had to use a recipe, different cooking equipment and had fun mixing of the ingredients. They tasted yummy too!



### Transition

Water play has been a big hit this month, inside and out. The children have been putting on their waterproof aprons, or wellies, depending on the location to explore the water. They have worked on their tipping and pouring skills as well as exploring the capacity of different sized containers. They have also been busy practicing using safety knives to cut up and prepare their own snacks which is great for their independence.



### Kindergarten

Kindergarten have spent January getting out and about, not only in the garden but on the Yellow Dot Bus! They have played small group games in the garden such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf', using hoops and other resources in pairs and much more. They took a trip to Itchen Valley to explore the woods and play area, We went to Hillhead to see the sand and water and the difference between each of the environments. We plan on continuing getting out and about throughout this month too.

