

Dear Families,



It hardly feels possible that the new year is upon us and the hustle and bustle of Christmas has passed. We look forward to hearing all the stories from your children about their holidays and Christmas gifts.

This month has been wonderful with all the children fascinated by the seasonal changes. The colder weather has come which they are enjoying with lots of conversation in the anticipation of some snow! Please remember to bring the children in coats and wellies if it is wet so we can continue to explore our environment in all weathers.

We are very pleased to be able to welcome some new Team. Jamie joined us just before the Christmas break as an Apprentice, he will be embarking on his childcare studies with us. I hope you will join us in welcoming him to the Yellow Dot Family. We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Cook Kostas and Steph who will be Nursery Nurse in Transition. Becky will be away for an extended holiday this month to Australia and we await her safe return from down under. We say a sad farewell to Kaci who leaves the end of this month to position nearer home.

You may have noticed the expanding waistline of two of our staff members, both Helen and Katie are expecting babies and will soon be going on maternity leave. We wish them both well and look forward to meeting their little ones. We are delighted to inform you that during Helen's maternity leave Heather will be joining the Transition Room as Room Leader and Deputy Manager. We will therefore be recruiting for a new Baby Room Manager I will keep you posted as to how that progresses.

Finally a gentle reminder to all our families that the Nursery closes at 6pm, we kindly ask that you collect your child in a timely manner so that we may give you feedback on their day without making the Team members stay on late and delayed getting home themselves.

We wish all our families a Happy New Year

Best wishes

*Jennie Pethick*

Nursery Manager

## Our Festive experiences



## Babies

On the run up to Christmas, Babies have been getting really creative with lots of messy play. We have been using sponges to create lots of marks getting ready for Christmas, decorating for our Christmas cards and presents. They have enjoyed exploring the new Christmas sensory basket full of objects like baubles, tinsel and fairy lights. We have also explored our senses with play dough, feeling different textures, looking at lots of sparkly festive red and green colours, and smells in our sensory tubes with cinnamon and dried oranges. The Babies have also been getting messy by unwrapping lots of Christmas boxes, to see what treasures they can find inside and singing Christmas songs with bells and scarves. We have loved crawling in and out of tunnels and the blackout tent where we have had new flashing bouncy balls and exploring new wooden mirrored blocks.



## Toddlers

Toddlers have had so much fun throughout December, preparing for Christmas. We have decorated our room with twinkling glittery stars using our fine motor skills, painted not one, but two Christmas post boxes to post our Christmas cards through and have been learning different ways we can celebrate Christmas. We have had the opportunity to practice unwrapping presents, look at the Nativity story (and visit Kindergarten's wonderful performance), and be inspired by Dutch traditions of leaving out hay and carrots for Santa's helpers. We look forward to the new year and our Winter experiences that Bethan and Zoe are planning (whilst Becky is off in the sun!)



## Transition

Our Transition have had lots of fun during December preparing for Christmas and decorating their own Christmas tree and had lots of crafts experiences which have included using their scissor skills, hole punching and threading. Transition have also been exploring the Nativity set with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. The children have really enjoyed learning new Christmas songs. We are looking forward to the new year and hearing all about what you have been doing over the Christmas holidays and look forward to seeing some pictures on Tapestry to share with friends.



## Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten Nativity was a huge success, a big thank you to all who came to watch us perform. We are sure you will agree the children were fantastic. We have been busy with lots of festive crafts, the children have been exploring the woods at every opportunity we get and collecting items to use in decorating our room. Our Christmas Party was great fun, the Magician made us all laugh including the grown ups. A gentle reminder that as we venture out to the woods regularly, please bring in labelled coats, hats and gloves as this allows us to enjoy the environment for longer.

