

## Dear Families

Hello. The first half term of the new school year has flown by! All of our new starter children have settled in so well, and the older children have really grown in confidence and are enjoying their new responsibilities as the 'big children' of the Kindergarten. The main focus of this half term has been to reinforce the Golden Rules of the Kindergarten, familiarise the children with the routines of the day, and to develop the children's general confidence and independence. Our running theme of Autumn has allowed us to talk to the children about the changes that are happening every day in the world around us. Our walks to collect leaves, conkers and acorns gave us valuable natural resources that we used to enhance the children's learning.

We've been on several walks to the woods and around the block to get the children used to exploring the local environment, as this is something we like to do often. We've also cooked and baked a wide selection of foods with the children, including vegetable soup, fruit smoothies, 'conker' biscuits, 'Autumnal' jam tarts, and even 'Gruffalo' crumble!

To celebrate World Animal Day, we spent a week finding out about animals, during which we constructed a bird hide on the green and used our handmade binoculars to search for birds. The children also enjoyed exploring five different themed animal trays, such as 'polar', 'jungle' and 'ocean', and enjoyed matching all the different animals to their correct habitat.

Other activities that the children have enjoyed include making clay hedgehogs and salt dough snails to take home, visiting Pickwell Farm to pick our own Autumnal vegetables, and making a camping tent in the garden and a pretend campfire from sticks and stones, a provocation which enabled us to talk to the children about fire safety in a fun and engaging way.



The last few weeks of this half term were extra busy, as we had our Zoo Lab visit, which was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about (and touch!) a selection of unusual creatures. We were also visited by Pyjama Drama, which the children loved. We had our photoshoot also with Concept Photography, and the pictures that came back from that were absolutely superb! To end last half term we had our Stay & Play session with afternoon tea to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. A massive thank you to everyone that joined us and donated to this great cause, we hope you all had a wonderful time.

Our focus later in the month will be Bonfire Night, and from there we will be using the children's interests as inspiration for our weekly planning, so please do keep us up informed on what they like so that we can plan exciting and interesting activities around them! Mrs. Skeats' will be leaving us to go on maternity leave towards the end of November, we wish her all the best on her exciting new journey in motherhood. Towards the end of term our focus will shift towards Christmas, as we begin practicing for the Christmas Nativity. It's sure to be a very busy and very fun term!

The deadline to claim additional grant funding (30 hours) for Spring 2018 qualifying children is 31st December. Please apply online at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to obtain your eligibility code so that you can claim the additional grant hours with us or another Setting. Please apply as soon as possible so you do not miss the deadline. Parents claiming the 30 hours or using Tax Free Childcare should reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months. If you have any questions about grant funding, please contact Sarah Weare your Finance Manager.

Kind regards,

## The Kindergarten Team





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# Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognizes different areas of learning. Personal, Social and Emotional development is one of the 3 Prime Areas.

Personal, Social and Emotional development: As children become aware of themselves and others, they learn self control, how to share, to be kind, and to join in activities at their own pace. They need opportunities to build their self esteem and security within boundaries.

It is a vital element in your children's development. Your role as your child's primary carer is the most important one in providing them with a model for making relationships, managing their feelings, self confidence and awareness.

**These are our Top Tips to help you enjoy your child's journey of learning together...**

- ★ Using information from the notice board, newsletter and feedback, talk to your child about what has happened at Yellow Dot today and listen to what he or she has to say. Help prepare your child in advance, by discussing planned events and activities.
- ★ Help your child to build up skills such as hand washing, dressing and putting things away after use by giving him/her time to have a go and resist the understandable temptation to do it all for him/her, because it's easier and quicker.
- ★ If your child does not always behave the way you would like her to, try to help her understand what is wrong and why. Label the feelings, i.e. are you feeling cross? Talk to your child about what you would like to see i.e. walking feet as opposed to stop running.
- ★ Listen to what your child says when talking about what has happened at Yellow Dot, the people and activities there. Help him to talk positively and respectfully about all the different kinds of people in the group.
- ★ Choosing is a skill to be learnt. Encourage your child to make small choices, for example, about what to wear today or what book to have read to him/her.
- ★ Give your child some help, if necessary, in getting along with other children. Keep her company while she plays at first so that you can help her find ways to share and take turns.
- ★ Encourage your child when tackling a difficult activity, like doing a new puzzle or looking at a book. Having you nearby, not doing it for him but showing interest, will help him keep going to the end, building up confidence and perseverance.

**Above all remember your child wants to be grown up like you. Children are more likely to develop personal, social and emotional skills if they see the adults around them behaving respectfully, sharing, persevering, talking and thinking positively.**

More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from the foundation years website: [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

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- As children become aware of themselves and others, they learn self control, how to share, to be kind, and to join in activities at their own pace. They need opportunities to build their self esteem and security within boundaries.
- Personal, Social and Emotional development is a vital element in your children's development. Your role as your child's primary carer is the most important one in providing them with a model for making relationships, managing their feelings, self confidence and awareness.
- Above all remember your child wants to be grown up like you. Children are more likely to develop personal, social and emotional skills if they see the adults around them behaving respectfully, sharing, persevering, talking and thinking positively.
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Yellow Dot is a small Group of Children's Nurseries based in Hampshire. Its hard working team have achieved amazing results with all the settings acknowledged by Ofsted to have Outstanding qualities! Thank you for choosing Yellow Dot to care for your child.

