

Dear Families,



Happy New Year! We look forward to starting this 2019 journey with you. I hope you all had a lovely break over Christmas. We can't wait to hear all about what the children have been up to over the festive period and would love any photos you may have to share on Tapestry. Christmas time in the Nursery is the most magical time of year and the Team and children have thoroughly enjoyed all the festive experiences they have had, from festive baking to Christmas card making and so much more! Although Christmas has been and gone for 2018, we will continue to revisit this over January so that the children can remember and talk about their own first hand experiences of the festive period.

Thank you for all of the gifts, cards and Christmas wishes we received from you before the break and we hope you liked your presents too! A **very big thank you** to Kay and Mandy, our Cooks, for making Christmas lunch 5 times so that every child was able to enjoy roast turkey with all the trimmings.

Thank you for helping us raise £172.65 for Save the Children charity. It was lovely to see so many different Christmas jumpers.

We were bursting with pride during Kindergarten's Nativity Play; what a fantastic and energetic performance they showcased. My thanks to the Team for their hard work and special efforts. The children certainly showed us the spirit of Christmas. I'm sure you will all agree we have lots of little actors in the making! Welcome to our new families who have joined us on their exciting Yellow Dot journey.

Winter is here and as it gets colder please provide labelled hats, gloves and scarves as well as a nice warm coat

Warm regards

Maryanne Strickland
Nursery Manager

Chatting with children at mealtimes

Effective communication is the basis for developing healthy and mutually rewarding child-to-child relationships and adult-to-child relationships. Mealtime can be an important time to encourage communication. Think of mealtime as a communication time, a time when you can converse with, nurture, and obtain feedback from children. Consider removing distractions around meal time and eat with the children. When adults eat with children they can:

- Serve as role models by their food choices.
- Protect children from safety hazards such as cross-contamination and choking hazards.
- Encourage conversation at mealtimes.

Dates for your Diary

- **National Story telling**
26th Jan – 2nd Feb
- **Chinese New Year**
5th February (Year of the Pig)
- **Valentines Day**
14th February
- **Pancake Day**
5th March
- **World Book Day**
Thursday 7th March

Babies

This month the Babies have enjoyed exploring our Winter interest tray with polar bears and penguins. The babies have also enjoyed making cheese star pastries and going on winter walks. They investigated our Christmas interest area and table, and have been doing Christmas painting. The children have also enjoyed a trip to the local library to see Father Christmas!



Toddlers

The Toddlers have been on a trip to see the reindeers at Garson's, where they fed the reindeers and looked at all the different coloured Christmas decorations. Following on from this the Toddlers have been making their own Christmas decorations, making baubles and snowflakes to decorate the Christmas tree in the Toddler room. The children have also been making some yummy ginger bread biscuits, which were on sale for the parents or other children to try too. The Toddlers explored play dough, making different shapes, so to follow on from the ginger bread biscuits they made, they helped to make some play dough putting cinnamon and ginger in it too, and used different Christmas shaped cutters!



Transition

Transition have been exploring different Christmas provocations such as making Christmas decorations to decorate the room and our tree with. To follow on from this, they made some green sparkly play dough to make Christmas trees. The children also enjoyed making mince pies and exploring the nativity small world tray. They have shown a keen interest in singing and dancing and really like choosing songs from our Christmas song basket. Transition particularly like to sing 'Jingle Bells'! Some of our children went on a trip to Garson's Garden Centre to see the reindeer. They also saw a musical Father Christmas Band!



Kindergarten

This month Kindergarten have been exploring the seasonal changes of Winter, the winter animals, and their habitats. They have also been exploring a variety of Christmas provocations which include; making salt dough decorations, visiting the reindeers at Garson's Garden Centre and making mince pies with the residents at Valley Lodge Care Home. Additionally, another interest has been our Christmas song basket, practising our singing for Christmas Carols as well as our Nativity!

