

Dear Families,



Welcome to our February Newsletter. The children haven't let the cold weather stop them from playing and exploring!

We have welcomed some new families in the last month and it's wonderful to see the children settling in, investigating their new environments, gaining confidence and making friendships.

In Team news, Anisha our Transition Room Manager is leaving us for a teaching position, we wish her all the best. I will keep you updated on her replacement. A warm welcome to Lizzie our Lead Practitioner who is supporting and leading practice in all Yellow Dot's. Do say hello if you haven't already!

We look forward to a busy February with such festivals as Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Shrove Tuesday just around the corner. Lots of Chinese food tasting this week – yum!

Best wishes

Charlotte Tubbs
Nursery Manager

Dates for your Diary

- **Chinese New Year**
5th February; Year of the Pig
- **Valentines Day**
Thursday 14th February
- **Pancake Day**
Tuesday 5th March
- **World Book Day**
Thursday 7th March
- **Good Friday and Easter Monday we are closed**
19th and 22nd April

Positive ways to talk about the weather

- If it's **COLD** try saying.....
Come and look out the front door! Can you see your breath? That means we need to wear our warm clothing today.
- If it's **WINDY** try saying.....
Can you see the trees swaying in the wind? Today would be a great day to fly a kite.
- If it's **SNOWING** try saying....
WOW! Look at all those beautiful snowflakes. Lets go outside and see if we can catch some on our tongues.
- If it's **RAINING** try saying...
Rain is wonderful for plants and animals. It's a perfect day to jump in some puddles.
- If it's **CLOUDY** try saying....
The clouds are hiding the sun. Today would be a great day to look for shapes in the clouds.



Babies

In Babies we have had fun enjoying Winter activities, getting outside, touching and exploring the ice and snow and watching the changes in weather. Back in the room we did some ice painting with seasonal colours using silver, blue and white. We also made white play dough! We have observed the children being really interested in enclosing and hiding themselves. So we created lots of experiences around box play, hiding objects and ourselves and lots of giggles playing peek a boo!



Toddlers

Starting the New Year with firework pictures, we have been enjoying Winter walks around the conservation area and observing different vehicles fly or drive by. This really sparked the children's interest in transport. Starting with ground vehicles one week, we moved onto airplanes, helicopters and air balloons. Using a paper plate to represent a balloon, the children individually painted their own air balloon and also rolled vehicles through play dough. Wheels led onto the circle shape, then onto cylinders, so the children were threading through tubes to develop their fine motor skills. Toddlers also made 2 types of biscuits, traffic light and snowy biscuits! We have been painting Chinese lanterns and Chinese food tasting this week as well.



Transition

Using the Winter season for our inspiration the children have been exploring Winter animals in the builders tray as well as enjoying local walks. They especially liked the book "Snow bears surprise" and painted a night sky based on the story. Then when the snow arrived we had a great time outside making snow balls! The Transition have been interested in trains and playing with train tracks so we turned the role play into a train station read lots of train books. For Chinese New Year we have been painting a dragon using paper plates and read stories. We have also made and enjoyed cinnamon biscuits. After talking about the dark evenings and noticing their shadows on the ground we move onto a light and dark interest.



Kindergarten

We have also been investigating Winter and after filling a builders tray with powder paint and arctic animals we put it out overnight to see if it froze. There was lots of talking about temperatures! The children really enjoyed a snow ball fight in the garden and talked about snowmen they made at home, one child had even made a snow family. The "Stickman" story topic led to weaving sticks with wool and a stick walk where we talked about sizes. Drawing lines then linked to the artist Piet Mondrian. Kindergarten made red envelopes and enjoyed a sand activity with red and yellow sand tracing Chinese letters.

