

Dear Families,



A warm welcome to a chilly February here at Yellow Dot. There was a buzz of excitement in the Nursery throughout January, with new families starting and children moving up to new rooms. It's delightful to see how the children have settled into their new learning environments, gaining confidence and making new connections.

As we move into this month we'll explore the festivals that happen at this time of year including: Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Shrove Tuesday. We will be exploring how the children experience them in their own families or see them celebrated in the wider community and of course be enjoying some lovingly made pancakes along the way.

Annual fee increases will take place from 1st April 2018 and Chrissie 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 28th 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 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

Lynne Carrigan
Nursery Manager

Healthy Eating

Healthy eating can help children maintain a healthy weight, avoid certain health problems, stabilize their energy, and sharpen their minds. A healthy diet can also have a profound effect on a child's sense of mental and emotional well being. The sooner children are introduced to wholesome, nutritious choices in their diet, the easier they'll be able to develop a healthy relationship with food that can last them a lifetime. Making time to sit down as a family to eat a home-cooked meal also has great benefits. As well as being a great example for children about the importance of healthy eating, it is also a lovely way for a family to share their days experiences together.

Dates for your Diary

- **Valentines Day**
14th February
- **Shove Tuesday**
13th February
- **Chinese New Year**
16th February
- **National Wildlife Day**
22nd February
- **Closed for Bank Holiday**
30th March & 2nd April

Babies

Babies have been exploring real foods in their role play kitchen, enhancing their role play experience and helping to develop their language as the Team talk about and label the shapes, colours and smells of the fruits and vegetables. The children have also had fun making their own musical shakers to enrich community singing time using different objects to generate different sounds.



Toddlers

In January Toddlers took an interest in the wonderful story of 'Dear Zoo'. Together they have enjoyed reading the story and playing with different animals, they also had boxes to hide the animals in as it describes in the story. The animals have been on an adventure outside in the fresh winter air, which sparked the Toddlers imagination and creativity as they played with a tray which was set up with natural resources. The children even went on an animal hunt around the garden to find hidden animals which they really loved.



Transition

The Transition children have been exploring traditional tales during January. They have been enjoying the story of 'Jack and the Bean Stalk' and made their own collage Bean Stalk. They also planted beans to observe growing over the coming months. A trip to the local Park allowed the children to "run, run as fast as you can" like the Gingerbread Man did. They also visited the Library where they collected lots more fabulous traditional story books to spark their imaginations. We look forward to February and the festivals it brings and look forward to making a Chinese Dragon to celebrate the colourful Chinese New Year Festival.



Kindergarten

The Kindergarten children have been exploring Winter and what this frosty season brings. They have been learning about what animals live in the colder climates which has brought great discussion and widened into talks about hibernation. The children caught a Bus to the Library to collect books about hibernation and went for a Babyccino to warm up.

The children have enjoyed using natural resources to make campfires and clay to re-create animals which hibernate. Our winter provocation will continue into this month and the children will investigate sea animals and experience water and how it freezes.

