

Sweet Peas Nursery Newsletter

March 2016

Happy Easter!



Baby Suite Updates

We have had a really good start to the year in the baby suite. We celebrated New Years by making lots of firework pictures which children experienced using their fingers to sprinkle and spread glitter. We then celebrated Chinese New Year and we got really messy with the paint, making handprints for our big Chinese dragon of which we displayed in our room. This encourages the children to use their fine motor skills and exploration of textures, linking to physical development in the EYFS. The children also painted pictures of monkeys and got dressed up in Chinese clothes, tasted some traditional foods. We even had stir fry for lunch! Valentines day was next and so we were very busy making valentines cards and we created a large pink heart by sticking pink tissue paper with glue. This encourages the children to use their fingers and feel different textures, linking to the expressive arts and design. They loved best of all the heart biscuits that they helped to make, they loved the feeling of the dough in their hands and they all had a go at mixing the ingredients together. Throughout the year we will be having a book of the month. January we enjoyed reading 'The Gingerbread Man'. February we read 'The Three Little Pigs', where we loved pretending to be pigs and making lots of noise. This month we are reading 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. This links to the EYFS through communication and language and literacy. It encourages the children to learn new words and recognise pictures in books. Our display is on the wall of the stairs for you all to look at. In the next few weeks we will be celebrating Easter and have lots of messy activities planned. We have already started our Easter cards which are on route to yourself. We are also currently raising money for sports relief and getting into the sport spirit!



Family Room Updates

This term we have had a lot of fun learning about Chinese new year. We enjoyed making our very own Chinese dragons, we enjoyed tasting Chinese foods such as lychee and dragon fruit. We had a go at Chinese writing and made our own dragon dance. The children were encouraged to learn about a different culture linking to understanding the world. We all got involved at mixing pancake mix for pancake day after listening to 'The Big Pancake Day' story. Our French teacher has been coming every week to teach the Dragonflies basic words such as pets, colours and family members. A list of words they have been learning is available if you want to join in at home. This is to encourage exploration of other cultures and to help with their future education.



We have also had some science lessons which was very interesting for the children. They have made rainbows in a cup, using different liquids. They have also enjoyed experimenting with light and looked at how it travels through water.

We are currently educating the children on St Patricks day and we are making shamrocks. We have got Easter around the corner too where we will be doing lots of activities such as egg decorating, egg and spoon race, baking and Easter stories.

The phonics this term are S,A,T,I,P,N. These are the first 6 letters which are the easiest for children to learn. We will be singing phonics songs, playing silly soup and we are practising writing the letters. The children in the bumble bee group are learning 1—5 and the dragonflies are learning 1—20. They are focusing on these numbers in group time, but also encouraging them to recognise them in the environment and through imaginative play.



Staff Updates

We would like to formally welcome back Tanya Lewis and Tara Dale to our team and also Kim Hodgkinson has returned from maternity leave. Sarah Johnson and Laura Stephenson are both off on maternity leave at the moment and we wish them all the best with their new babies.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are collecting the Active Kids Vouchers at the moment to get free resources for the nursery. There is a box in reception for the vouchers, please bear us in mind when doing your weekly shop!

Thank you in advance.

Easter Bonnet Competition

This will be judged Wednesday 23rd March at 10am! The children will join in a parade to show off their wonderful creations. We have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for each room.



Let's get creative!

Sports Relief

Friday 18th March

Our staff are raising money for sport relief by doing our very own bake off and wearing sports related outfits. They will be judged on the best looking cake and the tastiest!

The children will be kept busy doing sporty activities including obstacle courses and wake up and shake up. They will also be seeing how long they can jump for. If children would like to dress up in sports wear too to get involved and we will have a fun, active day together.

School Holidays

Easter holiday dates are:

Monday 4th April—Fri 15th April 2016

Summer Mid Term dates are:

Monday 30th May—Fri 3rd June 2016

Nursery is Closed on Friday 25th March and Monday 28th March as these are Bank Holidays. We will also be closed Monday 2nd May for May Day Bank Holiday.

Reminders

- If you have holidays booked please advise the staff with as much notice as possible. If you need to amend your child's sessions please advise us in writing; we need 4 weeks notice minimum however we will do our best to accommodate your needs.
- **IMPORTANT NOTICE (CAR PARK SPEED)** For the safety of all children and families please can parents be aware of your speed in the car park.
- Regarding payments, please ensure you are paying standing orders into the correct bank account; Barclays Bank Sort Code 20 33 42 Account No. 73216381. Please also use your Child's name as reference.
- **ENTRANCE DOOR** - We would like to remind parents about the importance of **NOT** holding the main entrance door open for other people. We appreciate this is normally a polite thing to do but unless you know who you are letting in, then we would ask that you avoid it.

Thank you all for your continued support!