

Welcome to the December edition of our newsletter and the beginning of the very festive season.

Staff News

We would like to congratulate Sarah Bickell, our current EYP, who has been appointed as our new Deputy Nursery Manager and will commence her new role in January 2018. Sarah is really excited about this new opportunity and is looking forward to working with all of our families more closely.

New Families

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to new children who will be starting at our nursery throughout the month of December; Charlie, Emma and Florence will be starting in our Explorers rooms.

Birthdays

We would like to say a big 'Happy Birthday' to all of the children celebrating their birthdays throughout the month of December. Ella, Ava,



Amelia, Eleanor and Chloe will all be turning 1 this month. Theo, Millie, Charlie, Erin, Poppy, Amelia, Henry, Alfie, Arthur and Dominic will all be turning 2 and Chloe, Darcey, Rosanna, Callum, Isaac, Matthew and Ellie-May will all be celebrating their 3rd birthday. Finally, celebrating their 4th birthday this month will be Fraser, Thomas, Isabella and Ryan. We hope you all enjoy your celebrations.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Jumper Day- Friday 15th December

Christmas Fun Day- Saturday 16th December 10am-12pm

Christmas Closure- open until 7pm on 22nd December and re-open at 7am on 2nd January 2018

First day of term (term-time children) – Thursday 4th January 2018

First day of funded only hours- Monday 8th January 2018

February Half Term- Monday 12th- Friday 16th February 2018

Children in Need

We would like to thank all our families that supported us in raising funds for Children in Need. We raised a whopping £305 and had lots of fun dressing up and baking with the children. This is more than double last year's amount so a huge well done to you all.

30 hours 3 and 4 year old funding

For all of those families, that are currently claiming for 30 hours of early years funding. A reminder that you must recheck your eligibility by 31st December 2017. Should you not complete this, your additional funding will cease for the term starting in January and you will only be able to use the standard 15 hours of funding.

For all of those families who will be joining the Early Years funding in January 2018, you must complete a funding form and hand in your eligibility code to the nursery office before we close for Christmas.

Should this not be complete you will be unable to claim your additional hours until the start of the summer term in April 2018.

Fee Review

We have reviewed our nursery fee schedule to take effect from 1st January 2018. All parents should have received a letter explaining the new charges with a copy of their predicted January invoice. Please ask any parents who currently pay by childcare vouchers to review their voucher amounts in line with the new fee schedule to reflect their new monthly charge.

Early Years Pupil Premium Funding

Registering could result in extra funding for your child's early years education. We will be sending forms home for parents to review so please ensure you return as soon as possible in order for this additional funding to be applied.

Direct Debits

Please can we remind all parents that should you not use the tax free childcare or salary sacrifice schemes that fees are payable by direct debit and due on the 1st of each month. Any parents currently without a direct debt will need to complete a form as part of the nursery terms and conditions.



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2018 School Applications



If your child is due to start school in September 2018, applications are now open online and the deadline for submission is 15th January 2018, please visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions for further information.

Gentle Reminders

Now that we are experiencing much colder and wetter weather could we please remind all parents to ensure their child comes to nursery with a coat, jumper, hat, scarf, gloves and wellies as we like to play outside in all weathers!



At this time of year it is natural for children and adults to become a bit under the weather. Can we please remind parents that if your child has a sickness bug, it is our policy that they do not return to nursery until 48

hours after their last bout of sickness. This is to ensure that we are taking all necessary measures to reduce the risk of cross infection.

We have had an increase in the number of children bringing in their own packed teas for a late evening snack. Unfortunately we do not have the capacity to store large lunch bags in the fridges so please ensure you pack the food items in a small tub which we should then be able to facilitate cool storage. We have also had an increase in the number of juice bottles which are coming into nursery. Please can we remind parents that children have access to both milk and water throughout the day without restriction and we would only suggest a bottle as a last option should children not be consuming enough fluids throughout the day.

Please can we remind parents to refrain from allowing their children to bring in toys from home. Firstly we would like to remind parents that we complete risk assessments on all resources and as such the toys brought in from home do not reflect this process. Secondly, we do not want children to become disappointed should their toys become broken and we will be unable to replace these should this happen.

Home Learning- Festive Creations

This month there will be plenty of opportunities for children to experience the wonder that is the magical build up to Christmas. There will be many a discussion about how different families will be celebrating and all of the children will be sharing those experiences with their friends and carers. For some children, this may be the first Christmas where they have awareness of what is happening and why.

There are plenty of ideas of popular Christmas items that you recreate with your children. A favourite of ours here at Happy Days, is making Christmas tree decorations from salt dough. The recipe is very simple with relatively low mess to clean away after (ideal for those home environments with not so many wipe clean surfaces as ours!) Try the following recipe and then get creative with the decorating process from glitter and glue to sequins and fairy dust; let your imagination go wild.

How to make salt dough and salt dough decorations

1. You will need half a cup of water, half a cup of salt and one cup of flour.
2. Put the flour and salt into a bowl and then pour on the water.
3. Stir the mixture until it forms a nice dough.
4. To make decorations roll out the dough and cut shapes using cookie cutters.
5. Make a small hole in the top of your shapes for hanging, using the end of a paintbrush or a pencil.
6. Add details by pressing in buttons, Lego, drinking straw ends ... whatever you like.
7. You can pop your salt dough shapes in the oven on a low heat for about 2-3 hours OR you can try zapping them in the microwave for about 2 minutes.
8. Once they are dry paint them, add some glitter if you like and varnish if you want a shiny protective surface and add ribbon to hang.



Thank you for your continued support



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