



Welcome to our January newsletter. We hope that you have all recovered from the Christmas festivities and are settling back into your normal routines!

### Staff News

We are pleased to announce that our Early Years Practitioner Sarah Bickell, has been promoted to Trainee Deputy Manager. Sarah has been working with our teams for over a year and is very much looking forward to this new opportunity. We are also pleased to announce the return of Terri Sissons-Serjeant, who previously worked at the nursery as an Adventurers Room Supervisor. Terri will be returning to our nursery in the role of Early Years Practitioner supporting across all of the rooms. It is with great regret that we announce the departure of Luran as our Senior Supervisor from our Explorers Rooms. Luran has worked for the nursery for over 4 years and it has been a difficult decision but Luran has decided to relocate with her family, so we wish her every success for the future.

### This month's birthdays are:

We would like to wish the following children a very happy birthday this month – Emily, Alfie, Frankie, Freya and Penelope will all be celebrating their first birthday while Emily-Mae, Penelope, Isaac, Harry, Lara, Eden and Stanley will be turning 2 this month. Eliza, Ben and Florence will be turning 3 and finally Tommy, Nico and Samuel will all be turning 4.



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We wish you all a very happy birthday!

### Saturday Event

Thank you to all families who supported us for our Christmas event; we raised over £100 for the charity we're supporting; Friends and Families of Special Children.

### Dates for your Diary

**Nursery re-opens** – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

**First day of term (term-time children)** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**First day of term for (funded only Children)** - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**February Half Term-** Monday 12<sup>th</sup>- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**End of Spring Term-** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

If you are unsure which booking schedule your child attends, please double check with the nursery office to avoid unexpected charges for sessions you attend that have not been previously booked or charged for in your monthly fees.

### New Families

We would like to give a warm welcome to all the new children joining us throughout the month of January. Neve, Stanley, Ella, Eleanor, Isabelle, Chloe, Matilda, Preston, George, Felicity and Oliver will be joining our Explorers rooms whilst Joseph, Daniel, Freddie, Astrid, Kacie, Amelie, Dominic, Isaac, Theo and Theodore will be joining our Adventurers rooms.

### Baby Massage

We have our own qualified instructors and offer free baby massage courses for babies as young as 8 weeks, if you or any of your friends are interested, please speak to reception for further details. The courses run for 5 consecutive weeks and we have 2 courses starting in January; Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 5.45-7.15pm or Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 9.30-10.45am. Baby massage supports a variety of common health conditions in young babies such as colic and eczema and our evening courses also promote a soothing bedtime routine



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### 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 reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months, and complete new funding forms termly.

The deadline for completing new funding forms for the spring term will be 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, please visit [www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schooladmissions) for further information.

### Absence Policy

Please can we remind parents that, as per our attendance policy if your child does not arrive for their session, could you please telephone the nursery to advise why your child will be absent. Should the nursery team not hear from those families by 10am, we will make a courtesy phone call home. As well as supporting their learning and development, we want to make sure that children are kept safe, their well-being is promoted and they do not miss out on their entitlements and opportunities. This is why attendance is included in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework and why Ofsted Inspectors include this as part of their Inspection judgement.

### Home Learning

The importance of mark-making is an emphasis throughout the curriculum from a very early age and takes on many forms before children are able to form recognisable letters. All of this input supports children as they approach school age. If you feel that your child is reluctant to put pen to paper, there are many other ways that you can engage your children in the exciting world of mark making, such as using a pencil to make marks and shapes in sand, or the same can be done in the mud whilst playing in the garden or out on a country walk. You can also try putting fingers in paint to make shapes and/or letters. For some children that are reluctant to do any of these they may want to make their own treasure map, to which you can emphasise the importance of them giving meaning to the map and marks they make. All of these ideas help children to build control and support their fine motor skills and these skills will build to children being able to form recognizable letters.



### 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! Could we please ask that you label your child's clothes to avoid items going missing.

Can we politely remind parents that should they have any queries they need to discuss at reception that they stand to the side of the front desk so that we can continue to monitor safe access to the nursery.

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their continued support.**

**Vicki and the team**



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