



Fir Trees Newsletter Spring 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year together. We will enjoy hearing all the children's stories over the next few weeks as they particularly like to tell all their friends at register time the adventures they have had.

Over the next few days we are focusing on making marks using all sorts of different mediums, such as sand, water, loose parts and of course pens. We will be looking at labels we recognise in the environment and displaying the labels for the children to talk about.

Our focus story is the Gingerbread Man, which has lovely repetitive refrains which the children enjoy reciting. I am sure some gingerbread baking will be going home at some point too!

From Monday 20th January we will be celebrating Burns Night. We are hoping the children will design an original Fir Trees tartan pattern. We will have some neeps and tatties for snack. Does anyone play the bagpipes?

After half term we will be hatching our own White Indian Runner Ducks. The children always find this really EGGciting.

May Day Bank Holiday

Please note that we are now open Monday 4th May 2020 and closed Friday 8th May instead.

School Admissions

If your child is due to start school from September 2020 you should find out the decision 16th April 2020. Please let us know which school your child will be attending and we will organise school transition visits.

Reminders and Information for New Families

- Please label all uniform, as several children have the same size and colour.
- Please label all lunch boxes and drinks.
- Please cut all cherry tomatoes, mini sausages and grapes etc. Sausages need to be cut lengthways. This is to avoid possible choking hazards at lunch time.
- Drinks are available throughout the session, but please provide one from home if staying for lunch.
- Croc shoes are very popular but are a trip hazard at nursery during outdoor play.

Phonics, Letters and Sounds

We have been doing lots of activities with our July 2020 school leavers to help them with their school transitions. The children are already recognising sounds at the beginning of words and hearing/repeating words that rhyme. Some children are successfully sounding out 3 sound words. A high proportion of the schools we feed into follow the 'Letters and Sounds' phonics programme and we will be doing lots of rhyming activities, listening to sounds in words and the environment. We will introduce some of the 'Oxford Reading Tree' characters to the children and investigate our Oxford Reading Tree resources.

This complements the Jolly Phonics programme which our younger children participate in when they first start nursery and helps the children understand how sounds form words. We always put a copy of the letter sound we are thinking about in the porch for you to take home.

Government Funding

If you are eligible for 30 hours funding from April 2020, please obtain your code before the end of March 2020. www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you already have your 30 hour code, please use the website above to renew your code before the start of every term. If the code is not renewed, you may lose 15 funded hours per week for that term.

Alison Piper
Nursery Owner / Manager