



## PARENT NEWSLETTER – December 2018

Welcome to the last Henley newsletter of the year!

It is starting to feel a lot like Christmas around nursery at the moment – the stocks of glitter and sparkly sprinkles are all in place ready for making lots of festive creations.

Firstly, a reminder that in order to qualify for free postage, any orders for photographs must be made by tomorrow, 5<sup>th</sup> December.

I am pleased to confirm that our Spanish classes in Pre-school with Lingotot will be starting again on 5<sup>th</sup> December, with a new teacher, Omaira.

Could I please remind everyone again that the code to our front gate should only be shared with parents and those family members who collect children on a regular basis and so are known to the staff. Please do not let anyone into the nursery unless you know that they are the parent of a child who is attending, but instead ask them to ring the bell, as visitors must be accompanied by a member of staff when on the premises.

A reminder of some dates for your diary:

**Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm** – Christmas songs by the children in Pre-school, Butterflies and (hopefully!) some older children from Caterpillars, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Do let me know if you are able to join us, if you haven't already done so.

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December** – 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Everyone is invited to come in wearing a festive jumper and to make a donation to Save the Children.

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas party between 3.30pm and 5pm. If your child does not normally attend on this day, but you would like them to come in for the party, do let me know by Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, if you haven't already done so. Parents are welcome to come along and join us, or alternatively you can book your child in for the party, subject to space.

We will be closing for the Christmas break at 1pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open on Wednesday, 2nd January 2019. For those children who attend on a term time only basis, the last day of term is Friday, 21st December and the new term starts again on Monday, 7th January 2019.

Many thanks  
Julie

## **Notes from the rooms:**

### ***Caterpillars***

Caterpillars have been getting very messy this term, both inside and out! We have had our imaginations absolutely captured by a (pretend) cat who visits our garden, appearing in different places each morning! We love going to spot him and we are developing our language as we do so.

We continue to enjoy cooking activities, both structured and a little more open-ended. So far this term we have made delicious cakes for Children in Need, whipped up pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving and helped Claire make sparkly cinnamon-scented playdough in time for Christmas.

Over Halloween we had some fantastic sensory experiences; coloured spaghetti, jelly sensory bags and pumpkin seeds all filled our Tuffspot over the week. We also found pumpkins in our digging pit and painted with corn on the cob for Thanksgiving. Fireworks night was also messy fun, using lots of tools to make firework paintings that now adorn our walls, along with our poppy apple printing for Remembrance Sunday. We celebrated St Andrew's Day by making Cranachan.

Over the next few weeks we will be preparing special Christmas surprises for our families alongside other Christmas-themed activities. We have a beautiful tree to decorate with glue, pom-poms and, of course, glitter and lots of sensory play opportunities.

Finally, please can all children bring in named shoes (or wellies) suitable for outside, and a named outdoor coat as we do go outside whatever the weather!

Becks and the Caterpillars team

### ***Butterflies***

In Butterflies we have been developing our gross motor skills through creating lots of different obstacle courses outside, using the planks and crates. This has also been a really good 'risk taking' activity, with some children initially needing adult support for the tricky bits and then, when confident, being able to attempt it all by themselves, giving them a great sense of achievement.

We are really looking forward to the next few weeks when we will be practising our Christmas songs – you will probably hear these a lot at home!

It is also coming to the time of year when we all go home covered head to toe in glitter – it just wouldn't be Christmas without it!

Ali and the Butterflies team

### ***Pre-school***

Pre-school have been very creative this month, celebrating different festivals and events. To celebrate Diwali we made tealight candle holders out of clay, decorative buttons and glitter. We helped fundraise for Children in Need by making Pudsey Bear cupcakes for our nursery cake sale – this was lots of fun! We made special poppy plates for Remembrance Day using pipe cleaners and red tissue paper.

We have continued our Children's Council 'little cook's choice' by making rainbow cupcakes and also made shortbread for St Andrew's Day.

The children have been loving the 'Supertato' saga books and so, from this, we have helped to encourage and support activities based around these stories, such as the 'WANTED Evil Pea' poster.

In Forest School the children have enjoyed making fairy houses to keep the fairies warm during the winter months.

The Pre-school team