

## June Newsletter

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying the sun (when it appears).

### Dates for your diaries

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers celebration in the woods

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July – last day of the summer term for term time only bookings

### Internet safety

May was a wonderful time to think about technology and our use of it in Nursery.

In the world that the children are growing up in there is an abundance of technology around them; phones, iPads, tablets, computers, TV and game systems to name a few. Children may be using some of these themselves or see other people use them. What we have been reflecting on in nursery is our role in teaching the children to be safe around technology, and particularly the internet.

As you will know, within nursery we do not allow the use of phones or computers with the children. We do have the iPads which we use to record what the children are doing and sharing photos and videos with you the families. But what we have decided is to make some small but important shifts in the way in which we use the iPads with the children.

We have decided that we will no longer use the iPads as a research tool (generally for the older children), we are going to go back to using the labyrinth of books we have, to see if we can find the information there. What this does mean is, that at hand over we may mention researching something at home safely on the internet with you e.g. what noise does a giraffe make (which we may struggle to find in a book).

Another shift we are making, is asking the children (in all rooms) if we can take their photographs rather than just taking them, this will give them the choice and empower them to say yes or no to something which affects them. We will share with them who or what we are going to do with that photo. Even from the Baby room we can say shall we send it to Mummy/Daddy? So that they know why/where the photo is going.

For music in the nursery, we will be using CD players. As the children grow, they will be allowed to pick/change the CDs. We have explained to the children that when we use apps such as You tube or Spotify, adverts can come on and we don't always know if they are appropriate for the children to hear and so we have decided that CDs are safer for

them. So, if you have any old CD's which you would like to donate to us that would be fab as we are keen to have a good mix of different genres.

We have introduced some new books into the Woodland room which talk about using phones, iPads/tablets at home. We want to do teach the children to be safe when they use the internet and what to do if they see pop ups, videos or adverts which make them feel uncomfortable or sad – Tell a safe grownup such as a parent/grandparent or teacher.

There are some great books about internet safety which you might want to read at home, I will add some links below to a few we have found:

[Techosaurus Saves the School! \(Official NSPCC Picture Book for Children about Online Awareness, Safety and Security Ages 3-5\) : Sweet Cherry Publishing: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[Goldilocks \(A Hashtag Cautionary Tale\) \(Online Safety Picture Books\) : Willis, Jeanne, Ross, Tony: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[Old Macdonald Had a Phone \(Online Safety Picture Books\) : Willis, Jeanne, Ross, Tony: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

[Troll Stinks!: Jeanne Willis \(Online Safety Picture Books\) : Willis, Jeanne, Ross, Tony: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

#### Safer sleep guidance

Safer sleep practice has also been a point of reflection within the Nursery over the last few months, and I want to ensure that as Parents and families of the children who sleep that you are aware and confident in what we do at Croft Corner to provide a safe sleep environment for our sleeping children.

All of the coracles and sleep mats which we use meet the standards that we are asked to meet. The coracles have a firm flat well-fitting mattress.

Each child has their own bedding which includes a fitted sheet and a blanket.

Children are placed to sleep on their backs, once a child can roll from back to front, they should still be placed on their backs to sleep, but they can find their own position in their sleep. Each child only has a blanket with them when they go to sleep (except for dummies if they have them), and this is tucked in below the Childs shoulders to reduce the risk of it going over their head or face. No toys, wedges, pillows, duvets, quilts or rolled blankets are used for any of the children.

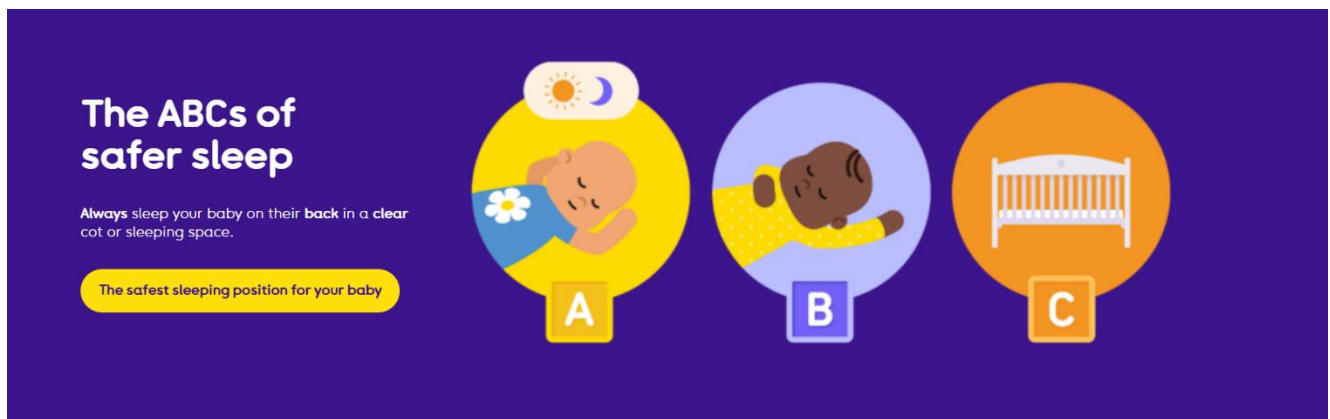
We check the children whilst they sleep at regular 5-minute intervals, and this is recorded in the room by the staff.

Room temperature is monitored and we adapt what the children wear for sleep times with the environmental factors such as removing layers of clothing/blankets when it is a warm day. Shoes, hair accessories and uncomfortable trousers are removed before children go to sleep.

Staff will ensure there are no choke or strangulation hazards nearby and that there is nothing a child could pull down on themselves in the sleep environment. The children will be spaced out as much as possible to avoid disturbance from each other.

If children fall asleep in prams whilst on trips, they are transferred to a sleep mat or coracle when they return. Hats and layers can be removed if children do fall asleep in prams to mitigate risk factors. If older children fall asleep on settees or cushions during the day they will also be moved on to sleep mats to ensure they have a safe sleep.

I have attached the safer sleep guidance to this notification for you to read as it is important that families are following safer sleep guidance to keep sleeping children safe.



For further information to support you at home please do check out the Lullaby Trust website (link below)

[Home | The Lullaby Trust](#)

Thank you for reading that information, and if you do have any questions or would like to ask anything further please do get in touch.

Now, looking forward to the last few weeks of the summer term I am hopeful that the children and families in the Woodland room will have time to celebrate and create wonderful memories at the leaver's celebration and during in your final stay and plays. For all of us, I hope the sun comes back so we can have fun in the gardens and to help our crops grow! Please do let us know if you are going on holiday so that we can ensure children are marked off the registers (and we don't disturb your holiday with a phone call from us!) and if children are leaving for school can we please ask that you give us at least 4 weeks' notice of last days so we can ensure invoices are correct and staff and children have time to say goodbye to each other.

### In the Nest

Last month in the Nest we tried to make the most of the weather, getting out and about whenever possible. We enjoyed lots of water play outside to keep us cool in the heat and then splashed about in muddy puddles in the rain!

We also celebrated Meghan passing her level 2 qualification and we are looking forward to supporting her with her level 3.

We've said goodbye to a couple of our babies as they have made their transitions into the Den and we have welcomed some new families into the nursery. Everyone seems to be settling in well both the Den and the Nest and it is lovely to see the Toddlers enjoying their new space when we are out in the garden where we get a few waves and shouts. The new babies are all getting to know each other and the new environment, the routine of coming to nursery is going well and we seem to be helping them to realise that Nursery is a fun place to be!

As we head into the holiday season our challenge to you is nice and easy, please send us photos of your adventures (home and away) we really do love seeing what you are up to and the babies love to see themselves and their families in our photo book.

### In the Den

We have continued to learn and explore caterpillars and butterflies. We have been looking at the caterpillars in nursery and reading The very hungry caterpillar story. We saw the caterpillars moving around and eating the food in their home, they have now wriggled to the top of their home and turned into chrysalides. The experience of observing and talking about the caterpillars has led to a boost in vocabulary for all the children, and hopefully you have heard some of the new words we have learnt at home!

We have enjoyed lots of water and messy play whilst we had the warmer weather. This has led to us spending lots of time watering the seeds and flowers we have planted in the garden and learning how to be gentle around the leaves and trying our hardest not to pick the petals. The sunflowers are starting to get tall, and we are excited to see if they get taller than the children and even the adults! As you can imagine the knowledge the children are gaining from growing the sunflowers is brilliant, again increasing vocabulary, but also their knowledge and understanding of the world, mathematical language and understanding and the wonder of just how a plant can grow from such a little seed!

In June we are learning about summer, and we are going to be having some teddy bears picnics in the woods and the garden – we will send photos on Parent Zone to show you what we get up to. We are also going to be focussing on emotions and feelings, this will

include naming our emotions, naming other peoples and starting to think (and be guided) what we can do when we feel different emotions.

Our challenge to our families this month is to go to the shop and pick your favourite fruit to make a fruit salad at home, with your grown ups help see if you can peel or chop some of the fruit.

#### In the Woodland room

During May we had the books, 'We're going on a bear hunt' and 'The lion inside' as our book of the months and we also had 'Dandelion' and 'Heron' as our lost word poems which we have been learning about. These have brought up a range of different vocabulary, style of text and opened conversations about past experiences and also feelings on how to be brave. We also did a dandelion experiment in which we picked a few dandelions and then split the stem and then pop it in cold water and this makes the stem curl.

Whilst the sun was shining, we made the most of our outdoor space to create tents and shelters using the tarps and tent kits. The children had a great time learning how to put up the spaces using lots of teamwork and resilience and then used the spaces in their play which was fabulous to see. Our fruit and vegetable crops are coming on nicely and we are all keen to help dig, plant and water them. Hopefully we will be able to taste some of the fruit and veg when they are ready!

Phonics – well to say we are blown away is an understatement! All of the children in the Woodland room seem to be invested in phonics from the youngest to the oldest. The sounds which they have learnt so far are 'm, a, s, d, t, i'. They are linking the sounds to words, matching pictures to the sounds and even saying the different sounds when they are shown them and starting to write the sounds on white boards and carrying on this during free flow time with various pens/pencils and paper. This has led on to some children blending some sounds together to create words or saying the word when a grown up sounds out a word. It is not important by any means for the children to know any phonics before school, but the children are engaged, excited and ready to learn and so we will keep going and see where we end up!

We had Razzmatazz come in and lead a session for us in May, this was a music and movement session with the children engaging in different ways of expressing themselves through dance/movement.

The caterpillars have arrived, and we were enjoying watching them in their habitat where they did a lot of eating (and pooping – the bit the children found most impressive). They have now formed chrysalides and we will be eagerly awaiting them changing into butterflies. They are safely sheltered in the office to keep them still and safe during this

time and we will let you know when they are fluttering around! The experience has been wonderful for the children as they have learnt to take care of another living creature and what that looks like (as it is quite different to looking after a dog or a cat), we have learnt new words and thought about what it would feel like to change into something else!

Our challenge for you all is to have a go at some experiments at home, like the dandelion one and show us what you have found interesting, here is a link to some simple ones you could try [5 Fun STEM Science Experiments for Kids to Explore at Home - Early Years Resources](#)

### At Forest school

At forest school we have been learning about bees, the different types of bees, what bees do and how they are so important in the world. We have been out looking for bees, thinking about what we can do in our garden to make it bee friendly and gaining a knowledge of staying safe around bees. We have been pretending to be bees in the wood and collected nectar to take back to our hive and even made our own pretend beehive!

