

May newsletter

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the joys of spring!

Key dates coming up

Monday 25th May – Bank holiday – Nursery closed

Wednesday 27th May – Henleigh Hall visit, to see our older friends

Wednesday 8th July – Leaver's celebration

I know it hasn't been long since the last newsletter we sent out but my goodness haven't we been busy! Hopefully you will have had chance to look at the new curriculum documents which we have sent out on the School app and caught up with the information about the Pre-school meeting if you couldn't attend. I have had some great feedback from people about both the curriculum and the pre-school meeting and welcome any further comments or chats!

Spring is an extremely busy time in the Nursery for all the rooms. I always think Spring brings a surge of optimism and energy to refresh and reconnect with nature in a more hands on way, be that gardening and digging in the dirt or just feeling the sun on your face and feeling the warmth – Pure bliss!

Throughout the Nursery we have gardening jobs happening and we are thinking about how we can spruce up the areas with (and for) the children as well as taking care of all the seedlings and plants we have. We also have the older children finding out where they are going to next on their journey to reception classes in schools!

The new spring/summer menu is in full flow, and we have asked the children to tell us what they think both verbally and non-verbally. Overall, we have had a great success and the new flavours and tastes have gone down well!

With the sunnier weather making an appearance (and then going again) we sent out the Sun protection update so that all families are aware of what we do to keep the children safe whilst with us – please do ensure you read this for when the sun comes back out again!

Thank you

Rachel

In the Nest

Throughout April we have been on lots of outings to observe the changes that come with Spring. We saw flowers in the park, leaves on the trees around Nursery and lots of Baby animals when we visited Heeley City farm and Graves Park and farm.

In nursery we have been planting grass seed and herbs on our sensory path, the Babies have been helping to take care of them by watering them. We have also made some bird feeders and have enjoyed watching the birds visit our garden to have a snack!

During May our Makaton signs are 'Read', 'Book', 'Nappy' and 'Tree', the signs can be seen on the Parent notice board in the room, and we would encourage you all to have a go at using these at home. If any of the Babies use the signs, we would really love to know and if you have any pictures do share them with us on Parent Zone.

We have a collection of spare clothes in the room for emergencies; we have loaned out lots of long sleeve tops and socks and haven't had them returned. If you have any at home either that your child has borrowed or that you would be happy to donate, then please do bring them in and we will make use of them!

Thank you

The Den

In April, with Spring in full bloom and animals being born we took this as an opportunity to learn about animals who live on farms. We read the books, 'Over the meadows' and 'What the lady bird heard' which was a favourite. The children have grown to know the books well and some of the older children are filling in gaps when they are read out to the group. We have also enjoyed singing Old Mac Donald had a farm and have learnt the Makaton signs to go along with the animals!

We have enjoyed using our sensory table inside to explore a range of sensory materials such as gloop, water and sand. Scooping was a big deal in April and having time to explore the different materials helps to develop the children's gross motor skills – using the big muscles in their arms and core, as well as mathematical concepts such as heavy and light, more and less alongside counting how many scoops it takes to fill/empty the containers.

In May, we are continuing to look at animals particularly caterpillars, butterflies and frogs. We will be reading the very hungry caterpillar and other books inspired by life cycles. We have lots of sensory activities planned and we will be going to the pond in the woods to see if we can find any frogs!

We would like to challenge our families to go out and see what bugs and creatures you can see whilst you are on a walk.

The Woodland room

During April we introduce phonics to the children, this is in one of the small group sessions they have during the day. Within the Badger and Hedgehog groups the children are following the Read, write inc programme to learn some phonic sounds. We have truly had our socks blown off by how well the children have taken to this and how quickly they have picked up some sounds – hopefully you will have also recognised this at home and the children are showing you how amazing they are! The sounds they have learnt are ‘m’, ‘a’ and ‘s’ so far, and they will be moving on to more in May. If you would like to know more about the phonics programme, we have attached the letters and sounds parent document to the newsletter.

The children have helped with planting and have been planting seeds and potatoes in the garden. They have also been watering and bringing the seedlings inside to help them grow. There is such an array of vegetables and fruits been grown it is amazing, and the children are keen to look out for signs of change such as the potatoes leaves coming up through the soil and the strawberries getting flowers on them!

Our new lost word poems for this month are ‘Dandelion’ and ‘Heron’. The children hear such a rich and broad range of words within the poems which they then talk about and unpick, working out what the words mean and how they can use them in different parts of their days. Children can also see the dandelions in the garden and out and about in the community and at home which adds to their understanding and curiosity of the natural world. We have also had a few children tell us about seeing herons in their gardens and at Endcliffe park!

The woodland room team are busy creating school leavers reports for your children who will be leaving us to go to school in September, this document will be shared with you (in June) and then sent on to school (in July) to give them a short introduction to the children from us. We will hopefully have some teachers to visit us from schools too and we will let you know if/when your Child’s teacher is coming.

Our challenge for you this month is to get yourself ready to go out for a walk all by yourself (we know you can all put your coats and shoes on) and then go listen for as many different sounds as you can and see if you can recreate them! Send us some photos on Parent Zone of you being independent and doing some fabulous listening!

Forest school

At forest school the children have celebrated Earth Day for this we got out the mud kitchen equipment and made a birthday cake for the Earth and decorated it with sticks and things we found on the forest floor. We also looked for our favourite trees and gave them hugs for looking after us and keeping us healthy.

We learnt about Beltane, which is halfway between spring and summer, the children made flower crowns and decorated sticks with ribbons to celebrate the earth warming up and the children created a pretend bonfire which is to show the darkness of the winter is over and the light for spring and summer is back.

We challenge you to have a walk to find the oldest looking tree you can find and have a think about all the things the tree might have seen. If you would like send a photo on Parent Zone of the oldest looking tree you find to share with your friends!

