

# Acorns Newsletter

## Spring Term One 2021



To all of our children and families in Nursery, and at home, Happy New Year and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. This half term we're starting our new topic, Exploring the Cold. We will be braving the cold temperatures to look at snow, ice, Arctic climates, polar animals, and discovering how we, and a variety of different animals, keep warm in these Winter months. For all of our families who have chosen to stay home during this lockdown, please don't forget to access our Sway Page which I will be updating weekly. Please let the office know if you need us to resent the link to this.

*Mrs Gibson*



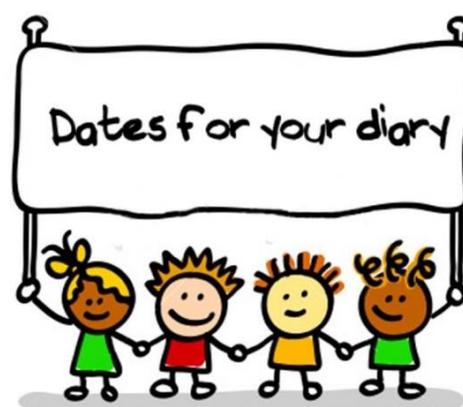
### We're Going Online!

From January the Nursery will be moving , the children's tracking and Learning Journeys to an online programme called Tapestry.

Tapestry is a specific programme designed for Early Years that allows Teachers to complete written observations, along with photos and videos, which can then be instantly shared with you as a parent. Tapestry will provide you as parents with an in the moment update as to where your child is at and how they are developing in Nursery. More information regarding this will be to follow.



Well done to Keall, Eden, Isla, Blake, Oliwia, Nevaeh and Laura who all received our Star of the Week last half term.



**Chinese New Year** Friday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February

**Nursery closes** Friday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February

**Nursery Re-opens** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
February

## Our Learning Journey So Far



Nursery is one big learning journey, and we're keen to encourage children's learning through following their own interests. Here are some of the things we got up to last half term, and how this supported your child's learning.

Remember, remember, the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. The children learned all about Bonfire Night, they created firework pictures for our display and talked about how they would light up the night sky. The children also worked together to build their own Guy Fawkes. Their team work and co-operation in taking it in turns and talking about what they would need was great for developing their Personal, Social and Emotional Skills.



The children have been attending Forest School on a Monday, and have loved exploring the woodland area. Last half term, we went searching for a bear on a bear hunt, we build bird feeders for the birds as part of our 25 days of kindness and we built an Owl's nest to help the Owl from Goodnight Owl sleep. The children also practised their Physical Development skills, climbing and moving in a variety of ways.



The children really enjoyed the Nativity Story last half term, building their own Nativity Scene outside and some of the children even drew some of the characters from the story. The children talked about Baby Jesus, and how the 3 Wise Men followed the star to find him. The children were most excited about how Baby Jesus' birthday fell on Christmas Day. We provided the children with lots of opportunities in class to develop their fine motor skills, through writing letters to Father Christmas, using Sellotape to wrap presents and make their own Christmas decorations. We also had our own Christmas tree display which formed as part of our Maths. The children were able to put up and take down the decorations on the tree, and we would count each day how many there were.

## What's Coming Up this Half Term?

Take a look below at some of the brilliant activities this half term.

Freezing objects and seeing how we can crack the ice. This is brilliant for development fine motor skills, and prompting questions around the children's understanding of the world.

We'll be exploring the Arctic climate and looking at some of the animals and people who live there.

We'll be looking at how we keep warm in Winter and also how different animals keep warm in Winter too.

Chinese New Year falls in February, so we'll be looking at doing some activities in class which support the children's understanding of this festival.

The children will be having Pancakes for snack the last week of half term, as we will miss Pancake Day. We will talk about Lent and discuss if there is anything we could give up in Nursery.

### LITERACY

The books that we will be exploring this half-term are:

- Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?
- One Snowy Night
- The Snowy Day
- The Little Penguin
- Kipper's Book of Weather

### Mathematics

This half term we are starting to introduce the children to the concept of matching numbers to numerals, and continuing to count in sequence. We're also looking at more and less, and how quantities can change. We're also introducing the children to basic 2D shapes and starting to create models using shapes.

### Phonics

In our Phonics sessions, we are starting to introduce the children to the initial sounds in familiar words such as their name. We're also continuing with practising developing those listening and attention skills through music sessions, Phase 1 listening videos and listening walks around the Forest School.

## Home Learning

This half term, we're really focusing on children's listening and attention skills, responding to sounds, following instructions and hearing and saying the initial sounds in very simple, familiar words. Here are some activities you can try at home to support with this.

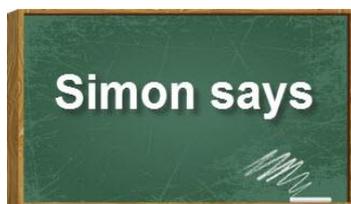


This is a great game for children to start practising their listening and attention skills. Begin by using 'I spy, with my little eye, something the colour of...' to allow children to easily identify what it is you're looking at.

For those children who are beginning to hear the initial sounds in words, you could play this with very simple and familiar words. For example, "I spy, with my little eye, something beginning with D..." which could be Daddy.



Koo Koo Kanga Roo offer videos online which encourage children to listen and follow instructions in the dances and songs that they do. The Nursery children absolutely love these videos, and almost all of them will listen and copy the actions to the songs. Some of their favourites in Nursery are Superheroes Unite, Milkshake and Dinosaur Stomp.



A timeless classic! A game of Simon Says is a great way to encourage children to tune in to what you are saying, and carefully listen to the instructions they are being given.

For those children who might find it a bit tricky to understand the concept of this game, you could replace Simon with your name and your child's name, taking it in turns to tell each other what to do. This turn taking is also great for children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

Don't forget to continue to check our Sway Page weekly for links, videos and ideas for things you can be doing at home.