

SUFFIELD PARK NURSERY NEWSLETTER



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February 2018

What a fantastic half term!

Your children, without exception, have experienced a wide range of opportunities that they have enjoyed and it has been fantastic to see the learning that has taken place- we were even lucky enough to play in a little snow!

We would like to extend a warm Suffield Park welcome to children and their families who are new to the Nursery this term. Whilst our Nursery is a busy one, please be assured that our staff will always make time to speak to you about your child's progress or if you have any concerns- just ask for an appointment if this isn't possible at the beginning or end of your child's sessions.

In The Rock Pool the children have amazed staff with how interested they have been in singing familiar action rhymes. Many now join in with the actions to 'The Wheels on the Bus' and our 'Bumpity Bus Song' which is fabulous for supporting their communication and language development. It has been exciting to see confidence, independence and exploration developing through the play opportunities provided.

In The Coral Reef the children have enjoyed getting to know the focus stories- The Very Hungry Caterpillar proving a firm favourite, with many of the children able to re-tell the story. Using focus stories is working brilliantly in terms of supporting the children's Communication, Language and Literacy development; the repetition of these stories consolidates the learning of language, vocabulary and story structure whilst the familiarity significantly enhances the love of books. They have loved seeing their creations proudly displayed on the Nursery wall as part of The Very Hungry Caterpillar display! Despite the cold weather the children have enjoyed wrapping up warmly to play outside- splashing in puddles with their friends has provided much joy! Playing on the ride-on bikes and cars has been popular and the children are beginning to understand the concept of taking turns using timers- which is incredibly tricky when you are two years old!

In The Deep Blue Sea the children have been impressing us with their maths skills. We always try to incorporate maths into the children's play in practical and meaningful ways to support children's understanding. The opportunities are endless, for example counting candles on playdough cakes the children have made, sharing out the fruit at snack-time, counting out money to pay for an ice cream in our role play or thinking critically about shapes and sizes in our construction play. It has been fantastic to hear the counting and see the children recognizing numerals on the steps leading into Nursery! Please do continue to support your child's maths development at home; children's brains are fascinating and connections are constantly being made- maths is more than knowing how to count! For example, learning about what '3' means- it is less than 4/more than 2/if you have 3 cakes you can share these equally between 3 children.

The children are amazing at retelling our focus stories; they have particularly enjoyed using props during play to tell the stories of The Three Little Pigs and The Gingerbread Man. Little Rabbit Foo Foo is also a favourite and most of the children can join in with the story using actions to support them

Please do let us know about your child's learning at home, this could be to tell us that they have achieved something or to tell us about something that they are working on. It is extremely useful for us to know about what your child is interested in too as we can then ensure that their interests are incorporated into our planning.

Thank you...

Christmas seems a distant memory now that we are rapidly heading into Spring but we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas events. We were particularly proud of all the children who bravely got up in front of big audiences to perform their Christmas songs and hope you felt proud too! We must also thank everyone who contributed sponsorship for the Boxing Day Dip which raised a grand total of £382. Well done to Tyler who won the prize for collecting the most sponsor money! Our new bike storage has been ordered.

Nursery staff update...

Sad News

We are sorry to share with you that our lovely Jill who works for us as bank staff was taken ill over the Christmas break and has subsequently been unable to work at the Nursery. Staff have been to visit her and it was great to see her when she popped in to see the children who she misses dearly! We are sure that you join us in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Great News

Hannah Rebbeck has joined our team and is enjoying getting to know the children in all three of our rooms! Hannah has significant experience in working within a Nursery setting and holds a Level 3 qualification.

Volunteers needed...

At Suffield Park Nursery we are always looking to develop and extend the opportunities available to the children during their time with us, for example, spending time in our Nursery woods, visiting The Danbury Lodge and music to name but a few. We would love to hear from anyone who feels able to give up some time to help us with such activities to help us enhance these opportunities, for example enabling us to use tools with the children in the woods. It maybe that you are interested in working with children as a career or just have some available time during your week to join us in our hugely rewarding work. You could volunteer with one of our existing opportunities but please let us know if you have a particular skill you would like to share with the children, for example, gardening, cooking or reading stories.

If you are interested in helping us please could you let Hayley know, we would need to carry out a criminal records check and carry out a short induction.



We are also actively advertising for bank staff to join our team covering staff holidays, absence and training on a flexible basis. Applicants would need to hold a minimum of a Level 2 Early Years qualification and any employment would be subject to satisfactory references and a DBS check. Please see Hayley if you would like more information for yourself or anyone you know. An application form would need to be completed for consideration.



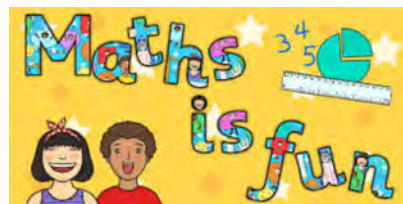
Suffield Park Nursery and The Danbury Lodge (Halsey House) Project

During the latter part of the Autumn Term, Alex, Autumn, Bella, Logan, Oliver and Ruby were part of some fantastic work we did with staff and residents at The Danbury Lodge (a residential care home for people living with dementia). We visited The Danbury three times and on each occasion the children and residents joined in with a range of activities such as playdough, singing, sharing stories, baking and even played pass the parcel! We could not be prouder of these children and we were so impressed with their behaviour during our visits. The joy the children brought to the residents couldn't have been clearer from the smiles and laughter. Chris (Manager of The Danbury) commented that our visits had a positive impact on the well-being and emotional state of the residents and gave examples of residents remaining in the room that we had used in a happy and contented state long after our departure and those usually reluctant to eat enjoying their lunch! The children's confidence grew with each visit, they communicated freely with the residents and relationships blossomed as they spent time together. We are incredibly excited to be continuing this work and we have planned a further three trips with a different group of children this term. Obviously it won't be possible for all children to have the chance to join in with this project but we are planning to provide additional opportunities for children to visit the Daycare sessions at Halsey House. Thanks you so much for your support with this work, we were overwhelmed by the positive response from parents/carers. Additionally we would like to thank Jill and Caren who volunteered their time to help us make this so successful! As already mentioned we would love to hear from anyone who would be able to volunteer their time to help with this project.



Maths Workshop for Parents/Carers

Wednesday 14th March, 6.30-7.30pm and Thursday 15th March, 12.30-1.30pm



You are warmly invited to come along to a workshop run by Nursery staff to discuss expectations in the Early Years curriculum and give you some practical ideas about supporting your child in their Mathematics Development at home. Maths is a subject that can summon fear in the most confident of adults so we hope we can demonstrate how fun it can be and increase your confidence in helping your child to enjoy it!

Please look out for the sign up sheets which will be available from 26th February in the Nursery.

If you would like further information please see Hayley.

Mother's Day Celebrations

During the week beginning 5th March we will be celebrating Mother's Day in style! We will be holding Afternoon Tea style celebrations when mums, grandmas, nannies, aunts and family friends are invited join the children. The Deep Blue Sea sessions will be held in the school hall and The Rock Pool and Coral Reef sessions will be held in the Children's Centre. Please find the dates and times at the end of this letter.



30 Hours Funded Childcare

You may have heard of, or are already accessing up to 30 hours funded childcare. This funding is available for children (from the term after their third birthday) of parents who work a minimum of 16 hours each week (both parents need to be working in two parent families). It is the parents responsibility to apply for the additional funding during the term before your child becomes eligible, for example, if you work the required hours and your child turns three in June you would need to apply before 1st September to access funded sessions in the Autumn Term (September-December).

To apply please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> and scroll down to the '30 hours free childcare' section and click 'Apply now'. If you have any problems setting up your account when you apply please contact the Customer Interaction Centre on 0300 123 4097. There is a box on the application asking if you have been 'invited' to apply, you will need to click 'no'. If you are eligible you will receive an 11 digit 'eligibility code'.

You must reconfirm your eligibility via your account to ensure that the details of your application are still accurate and that you are still eligible for the 30 hours every three months. If parents do not reconfirm their eligibility the funding will not be allocated and will result in either parents being invoiced for or the loss of your child's place for hours exceeding the universal 15 hour entitlement.

Please come and see Hayley or Kerry if you need further advice or support with this and we do our best to help you.

Children's Sessions

As many of you are aware the Nursery is very busy and we are booking children's sessions well into the next academic year (September 2018 - July 2019). If you would like to increase or change your child's sessions during this time and haven't already done so, please come and see Hayley or Kerry L in the Nursery office. We will do our best to accommodate the needs of each family! If you know other families in the local area who would like to access our Nursery provision please could you advise them to book in at their earliest convenience to avoid disappointment.

Safeguarding

At Suffield Park Infant Nursery we take the safeguarding of our children very seriously. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available to you on the website or you can find a copy on the Parent's Noticeboard. Please be assured that if there is a concern about your child, this will always be shared with you unless it is deemed that sharing this information will put your child at further risk. If you ever have a concern about a child or adult please speak to any member of staff who will support you, alternatively you can speak with one of our designated safeguarding leads; Hayley Powell, Cath Ellis or Emma Waddingham. Alternatively you can contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 0344 800 8020, Website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/keeping-children-safe/report-concerns>

Dates for your diary...

Friday 9th February-

Nursery breaks up for Half Term

Monday 19th February-

Back to Nursery



WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 1st March-

Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character for Nursery.

Week Beginning 5th March-

Multi-Cultural Week- India

Monday 5th March, 10.30am-

Mother' Day Celebrations- Deep Blue Sea

Monday 5th March, 2pm-

Mother's Day Celebrations- Coral Reef and Rock Pool

Wednesday 7th March, 10.30am-

Mother's Day Celebrations- Deep Blue Sea

Wednesday 7th March, 2pm-

Mother's Day Celebrations- Deep Blue Sea

Thursday 8th March, 2pm-

Mother's Day Celebrations- Coral Reef and Rock Pool

Friday 9th March, 10.30am-

Mother's Day Celebrations- Coral Reef and Rock Pool

Monday 12th March-

Infant School closed- Nursery open as usual

Wednesday 14th March,

6.30-7.30pm

Maths Workshop for Parents/Carers

Thursday 15th March,

12.30-1.30pm-

Maths Workshop for Parents/Carers

Tuesday 20th March, 6-7pm-

Nursery Parent's Evening

Wednesday 28th March-

Nursery breaks up for Easter Holidays

Friday 30th March-

Bank Holiday- Nursery closed

Monday 2nd April-

Bank Holiday- Nursery closed

Monday 16th April-

Summer Term begins

