

Leicester College Day Nursery

Freemen's Park Campus

Newsletter

Spring Term 2018



This is the Spring newsletter but as I type, the snow is gently falling outside. In fact the temperature is -5c today! Thankfully we get the use of the GP Hall and the Dance Studio in the college for days when the weather is really bad. The children love going into these spaces where they can run about, dance and play whilst staying warm and dry.

Remember to make sure your child always has a warm coat and hat and some suitable outdoor footwear, as we do go outside most days.

In the nursery we like to ensure everyone is happy. We are always assessing our delivery to make sure that our routine, activities, care and education is meeting the needs of everyone. At the beginning of each academic year we compile a **Development Plan** which outlines areas that we feel need working on to improve or update. The sections include **Safeguarding**, **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**, **Meeting Customer Needs**, **Leadership and Management**, and **Improvements to Processes and Procedures**.

In each section it will state an objective and then say how we plan to achieve this. For example in this year's plan under **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**, we actioned to develop our understanding of British Values and help staff, parents, volunteers and the children to have a greater understanding of what that means in the nursery. So far we have sent staff members on training around British Values, we have held a team meeting to discuss ways in which we integrate the values into our everyday activities in the nursery, included an item in last term's newsletter for parents and in friendly and subtle ways we have passed the message onto the children. An integral part of our activities is teaching the children to be kind, thoughtful and courteous to each other. The staff model respectful behaviour and non-judgemental attitudes, helping the children to value each other's' views, develop empathy and consideration and accept each other's differences.

Shortly we will be sending parents a questionnaire which asks for feedback on different areas of our provision. We use the feedback to inform our Development Plan. In addition to asking parents to help us develop our service, we also involve all members of staff and the children.

The children have the opportunity to tell us what they like most about coming to the nursery and which areas they least like and why, and what they would like done differently.

We all work together to help make the nursery a happy, safe and exciting place to work and play.

Read on to find out what else we have been up to this term.

Baby Room News

In the baby room our resident bear 'Star Bear' who has been on rather lengthy annual leave, will be returning to us and over the next few months we would like him to accompany you all for a weekend at home, or on your travels to experience some of the things you do whilst not at the nursery. We have a book for you to write a little bit about what you have done and if you would like to send a few pictures we can add them to the back.



Just a reminder to anyone who has not sent us photos for their child's photo book, please could you send us some family photos so we can get these completed.

We do a lot of messy activities so please always provide some spare clothes in case of any accidents. We look forward to welcoming the warmer days so we can spend more time outside in our own little play area.

All photos to hchapman@leicestercollege.ac.uk



Safer Sleep for Babies

Meeting and getting to know your baby is an extremely exciting and rewarding time. It's also the beginning of a new relationship. Babies need a lot of sleep during the first few months of their lives so it's important to ensure that they are sleeping as safely as possible.

Parents often ask us for advice about getting their babies to sleep at night or the safest methods to use. Night times can be difficult in those first few months and sometimes sleeping patterns change regularly leaving parents feeling exhausted.

The Leicester Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) have provided a guide which is linked below and provides some very useful information and tips.

<http://www.lcitylscb.org/media/1341/20170313-caring-for-your-baby-at-night.pdf>

The Lullaby Trust provides further information on safer sleep for babies.

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/>

Rosie, Heidi & Chloe

Over Twos' News



This term the children in the 2-4 area have been learning all about space. We turned our side room into a space themed area and the children have been making junk model space rockets and planets. We have been learning about the earth and the children have been reading stories and learning new songs all about space. Some of the older children have been looking on the internet and have been finding out all about the names of the planets and a bit of information about each one. We have lots of space inspired activities planned this term, incorporating space through parachute games, role play areas and songs and stories.

Below is a song that we have been singing, why not have a go together at home.

Five little men in a flying saucer
Flew round the world one day
They looked left and right
But they didn't like the sight
So one man flew away
Whoosh

Four little men in a flying saucer

Flew round the world one day
They looked left and right
But they didn't like the sight
So one man flew away
Whoosh

Three little men in a flying saucer

Two little men in a flying saucer
.....

One little man in a flying saucer
Flew round the world one day
He looked up and down
And he saw a little town
And decided he would stay
Weeeeeeee



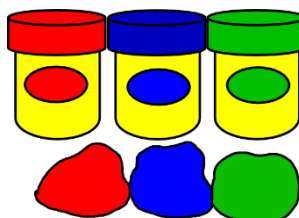
PLAY DOUGH

The wonders of Playdough.

Some parents have asked us for a play dough recipe so we thought we would give you a few some different types of dough recipes which are quite easy to make.

Cooked Dough

2 Cups Flour
1 Cup Salt
2 Cups Warm Water



2 Tablespoons Oil

2 Teaspoons Cream of Tartar

Then add in food colouring, paint, glitter, food extract eg lemon, vanilla, or whatever you have in the cupboard at home!

Mix altogether then you can cook in the microwave or in a saucepan on the hob.

(Just remember if you use glitter don't put it in the microwave)

Can be kept in an air tight container for maybe upto a week.

Salt Dough

Equal amounts of flour and salt and water as required.

Then mix together. This dough is good for modelling, and then can be dried hard in a cool oven and painted.

Can be kept for a short time in airtight container.

Stretchy Dough

3lbs Flour

Water to mix

Mix together then makes a stretchy dough.

Can't be kept.



Happy making, we would love to know how you get on.

Our Outdoor Area



Here at the nursery we love to get outdoors! It is a fundamental part of children's learning and development - there is so much to learn, and fun to be had in all weathers!

We have recently been looking at our outdoor space and have begun creating some new and exciting areas for the children to enjoy. Our new construction area is slightly sheltered, with real construction fencing, a tough spot, wooden bricks and new equipment of wheelbarrows and spades. The children are embracing this new area - building, transporting, role playing and more!

We are also developing our grassed area at the back of the garden, where we have already put in place lots of nature friendly, natural objects such as a water butt, a green house, an insect hotel, tyre planters and log seating. This is an area of particular enjoyment for the children, they all seem to love digging in mud and finding bugs!



We will be continuing to develop these areas, and would like to ask for your help... do you have any gardening items you could donate, e.g. Plastic plant pots, cuttings of plants, vegetables or herbs, children's Wellington boots, compost, or any other items you think may be of use to us - please speak to a member of staff



Events

Chinese New year this year celebrated the Year of the Dog. We had a fun afternoon making dog masks and painting dragons and Chinese symbols. We talked to the children about the celebration and watched a short film where the Chinese community were enjoying the festivities. Cindy, who cooks our nursery dinners, also made us a delicious Chinese banquet.



Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day, fell in half term but we still managed to consume at least 20 pancakes between the small group of children that were attending. Okay, the adults did help too!



We made some colourful daffodils for St David's day on the 1st March, although we couldn't see any outside for the snow! On Ash Wednesday Marilyn helped the children to make crosses to signify the first day of Lent in the Christian calendar. World Book day on 1st March brought into the nursery, many colourful characters from our favourite books. The children enjoyed dressing up and listening to the stories read by Dawn from Leicester College Library.

Some of the stories we have come to love over the years are:

The Gruffalo
We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Aliens Love Underpants
Little rabbit Foo Foo
Farmer Duck
The Tiger who came to Tea
Stick Man
Peace at Last



We have read these stories over and over again to hundreds of children who have attended our nursery over the years and they still really enjoy them. We don't forget the traditional tales that remain in our book collection such as The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and The Three Bears, The Billy Goats Gruff and of course The Gingerbread Man.

We have fictional and factual books and over the years have introduced more and more books that help us to learn about the lifestyles, culture and religions of our families.

We've never had a child that doesn't enjoy looking at a book. Some like to join in the fun with a group of children, some enjoy a cuddle and a book on a one to one with an adult and others also enjoy curling up anywhere they please, to read a book by themselves or with a nursery friend.

We know the children also enjoy reading with their families at home. If you have a favourite book you think the nursery children would enjoy, tell us about it, or if you have the time, bring it to the nursery and share it with a group of children for a story time session.

Alison, Kate, Kerry, Leigh, Marilyn, Sarah, Stacey

The Policy displayed in the foyer is
Equality of opportunity
Valuing diversity and promoting inclusion and equality



January	February	March
Leah	Isaac	Kirat
Violet	Jordan	Jadhai
Matthew	Alayna	Mila
Callum		Elyon
Olly		Oskar
Purity		
Mason		
Bella		



Lots of training has been planned or has taken place for the staff this term.

This includes:-

- Basic Food Hygiene
- Purposeful Physical Play
- Safeguarding
- First Aid
- Prevent Health and Safety

We seek to continually improve the quality of our service by developing the skills, knowledge and individual capabilities of our staff.

The college is very supportive of our staff development.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Don't forget to ensure your child always has some spare clothes and plenty of nappies if needed.

If your child has outgrown pants and trousers/leggings we are always grateful to have them as spares here at the nursery.



An important reminder to parents to please fold up pushchairs and store them as close as possible to the veranda edge, away from all nursery exits. If pushchairs are obstructing the exits, it would hinder our escape in the event of an emergency.



We understand that on rare occasions an emergency crops up, resulting in the late collection of your child but we have had several incidences lately of parents frequently being late and we would like to remind you that that there will be a charge of **£10 for every 15 minutes** for late collection of children, which will now be enforced.