



# Newsletter

MAY 2015

We would like to say a big welcome to all of our new parents and children who have joined us this month. We are very excited to have you with us and are looking forward to getting to know you more.

This month we have continued to improve our outdoor area by adding a house to the main garden which the children love exploring whilst building relationships with each other, the staff have already been asked by the older children to knock on the door if they would like to go in! We have also spent time adding more natural resources to the baby garden for the babies to explore using all of their senses. We have now got a cement mixer and very real looking bricks outdoors which have already become a favourite toy as the children pretend to be builders with their hard hats on! The children have also been busy helping us to make special Peppa Pig cakes for our open day and have enjoyed some lovely trips to the park, library and to the green grocers to choose fruit which we then talked about and enjoyed eating at tea time.



We would like thank all of the parents and children who came along to support us on our open day. It was lovely to spend time with you and to meet your friends and family. We all had a fantastic day jumping on the bouncy castle and getting to meet Peppa Pig before trying some of Leanne's delicious cakes! We were also able to meet some lovely new families and are now very proud to be able to say our nursery is nearly full and we have now started a waiting list for places - it's very exciting!

We have now decided to have our pre-school council meetings every month and our meeting on 21st May was a real success with lots of ideas being

discussed by all of the children. We have got lots of children on holiday this week so we ended up talking about holidays, which then led to a discussion about camping (as it does?!) The children then decided that they would like to 'camp' at nursery so next month we are going to pitch a tent in the garden. I asked the children what they would like to do inside the tent and they suggested eating, sleeping and reading stories, all of which are perfectly achievable so we are going to try them all! The next pre-school council will be held on Monday 29th June, we are looking forward to it already!



### Recipes and Celebrations

You should have all received an e-mail from Ceri explaining that we are keen to include celebrations from different cultures in our activity planning and Leanne is excited to try out recipes from different cultures too. So far, we have got a couple of Irish recipes to try - Boxyty (Irish potato cakes) and Champ (mashed potato with spring onions then you make a well and add hot milk and butter). The game is to see who can eat the most potato while keeping the liquid inside the well! The pre-schoolers are going to love this! We are also going to attempt to make Pierogi (Polish dumplings) soon - Leanne has her work cut out!

We are excited to celebrate Raksha Bhandhan, which falls on 29th August this year. It is a Hindu festival that celebrates brotherhood and love. The word Raksha means protection, whilst Bandhan is the verb to tie. We will be having a celebratory meal on Friday 28th August (thanks for the recipes, we just need to get our tarka perfected now!) and the children will learn all about the traditions of the festival too.



**Our team**

We would like to say a big welcome to Rosie who will be joining our team on the 1st June working alongside Alex in our toddler room. Rosie is an experienced level 3 qualified Nursery Nurse and is very excited to be joining the nursery team in the toddler room.

We would like to congratulate Paul who received the accolade of 'staff member of the month' in May voted for by the staff team. Paul has impressed everyone with the hard work he has put into helping us to improve the nursery by building us amazing things and putting things up for us whenever we ask. Paul is always happy to help us with anything we need. Well done Paul!



### Busy Babies - News from the baby room

During May we have been focussing on the outdoor area and although it did rain a lot this month we were still able to explore outside! We now have a lovely slide in our garden which the babies are going to love exploring. There are also lots of new pictures in the garden for the babies to look at.

In June we are going to be focusing on animals and the noises they make. Some of the babies already like to show off the noises they know. Hopefully we can learn some more! If you have any pets at home maybe you could share a photo with us to help with our animal topic this month.

Vikki and Nina



### Toddlers - News from the toddler room

This month our toddlers have been focussing on different types of animals and where they live. We have had lots of fun exploring the animals in paint, gloop, flour, sand and water and making lots of different animal sounds! All of the toddlers have loved outdoor play where we have been improving our physical skills on the bikes and with lots of climbing on the slide. We have

also continued to talk about colours and have created colour bags to help us learn all about different colours.

Next month in toddlers we are going to be learning about healthy foods through lots of fun activities and a trip into the village to find foods off our shopping list to enjoy at the nursery.

Please can I ask any parents who have not brought a picture in for our family tree if it would be possible to have one as we will also be talking about our families next month? If it's easier please feel free to email me a family snap and we can print it off.

Alex



### Pre-School - News from the Pre school room

This month, pre-school have been focussing on people who help us using puppets, flash cards and dressing up to support their understanding. Pre-school have started to look at basic science experiments and these will be continued throughout the month of June with the children being encouraged to predict what will happen.

Next month we will be focussing more on healthy eating and hygiene routines which has been based on the children's interests from May. Pre-schools letters of the month are E and F.

Terri



### Dates for your diary:

Please make a note of the following dates in May :

Friday 19th June - We will be holding a special Fathers day breakfast and would like to invite all the Daddies in to join us for a delicious breakfast followed by a special singing time with the children from 8.30am -9.30am. Please let us know if you can attend.

### Parent Workshops

We are proud to announce that we held our first parent workshop on 13th May at 6.30pm which helped parents to understand the requirements of the EYFS. It was a combination of a presentation and examples of practical activities to show how parents can be active partners in their child's learning at home. We even got messy with some gloop (cornflour and water) and talked about how household items can be used to support learning - egg boxes, jelly, foil, ice and pasta, to name a few! For those of you who were unable to attend, I will e-mail the presentation to you and the following websites are also useful:

[www.sparklebox.co.uk](http://www.sparklebox.co.uk)

[www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

[www.ofsted.org.uk](http://www.ofsted.org.uk)

Our next parent workshop is due to be held on Wednesday 8th July, 6.30pm - 7.30pm entitled 'Food and The Fussy Eater.' It is based on some excellent training Michelle and I completed earlier in the year and helps give parents advice and ideas on how to ensure children are eating a balanced diet.

We are keen to gain your feedback on suitable time slots for these workshops to make sure everyone is able to access these workshops. We appreciate that 6.30 is right in the middle of bedtime routines etc, so maybe a daytime slot (9.30am?) or a Saturday morning might work better for you? Please could you let us know what your preference would be so that we can change things as necessary to accommodate as many people as possible? This next workshop won't be as messy, we promise!



As we are now approaching the warmer weather please can we ask you to ensure your child brings a sun hat to nursery so we can make sure your child is protected from the sun at all times whilst enjoying outdoor play. Before coming to nursery, please can you apply sun cream to your child and staff will 'top up' throughout the day. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated because as you can imagine, applying cream to 22 children can be a very time consuming task!

Sainsbury's do a great 'voucher for schools' scheme. If you shop at Sainsbury's we would be grateful if you could continue to bring in any vouchers and a big thank you for the vouchers we have already received.

We have been busy making lots of improvements to our website including adding new photos and the amazing parent testimonies you were kind enough to provide for us. We welcome all feedback from parents so if you do have a look at the website and have any suggestions please feel free to share these with us to help us to continue improving it.

We would like to remind all parents that you can check your child's progress by logging onto 'Learning Journals' at any time. If you would like to speak to your child's key person about their development you are welcome to at any point. All parents should now have received an email from 'learning journals'. If you do not yet have a username or password, or have any questions or queries about the online 'learning journals' package please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

We will be testing the fire alarms every Monday, if you hear the alarm please can we ask that you evacuate to the back garden. Thank you.

Any questions or anything we can help you with please feel free to speak to a member of our team or you can send us an email to [enquiries@therailwaynursery.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@therailwaynursery.co.uk).

The Railway Nursery Team