



Newsletter

January 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We have had an excellent start to the year and the children embraced our Chinese New Year celebrations towards the end of the month for the year of the Rooster! Gong hei fat choy!

We also enjoyed celebrating Australia Day and Burns night this month with lots of creative activities being undertaken throughout the nursery to reflect these celebrations, not to mention delicious themed meals from our fantastic chef Sarah.



Our team

Congratulations to the staff member of the month, Debi. Debi had lots of votes this month with comments from the team such as “Debi has been an amazing team player, identifying when jobs need doing then completing them without even being asked. She has been super smiley and full of fun, as always!” There was so much praise for Debi with staff commenting on how kind, patient and helpful she is. Well done Debi and thank you for your continued excellent work.

Our staff have also been attending various training courses this month - Sarah Massey and Julie have completed their First Aid training which is an intensive 2 day course which all staff complete every 2 years to ensure they are fully up to date with their knowledge. Ceri has attended a course on gender differences in the Early Years and also a course on Outdoor Learning

which was very insightful. Vikki is continuing her block of weekly SENDCO training sessions to ensure our knowledge in this field (Special Educational Needs) is second to none. All of the knowledge is then cascaded to the rest of the team so that we can all benefit from what each staff member has learnt.

BIG NEWS - we are delighted to announce that we are eagerly awaiting our newest member of the team, Tasha Peacock who is starting at the nursery in the middle of February. She has extensive experience from small and big nurseries across all age ranges and is delighted to be joining our team as she was specifically looking to return to a small family run setting, hence she came knocking on our door! I am sure she will introduce herself to you when she sees you as she is very friendly and confident and full of fun.

Allergies

Here at nursery we work very hard to make our nursery menus are just right. We use the NDNA 'Healthy Body, Happy Me' campaign and 'Change4life' to make sure our menu's have a good variety of foods and are well balanced with fresh fruits and vegetables, fish and meats each week. Please can we ask that parents do not bring in foods from home. We have several children with severe allergies so it is extremely important that all food provided at nursery comes straight from our kitchen where we can monitor individual children's dietary requirements.

LPPA

EXCITING NEWS! We are now very close (fingers crossed) to achieving this award and have sent our file of evidence off to an inspector who will hopefully agree that we have excellent partnerships with our parents. After they have looked at our file in depth, we will be visited by an inspector who will come into nursery for half a day to see how it all works in practice, watch this space for further news!

Babies - News from the baby room

The babies have been very excited about exploring their hands and feet this month, enjoying opportunities to see what gloop and paint feels like on them and what their hand and footprints look like on paper. They have investigated different textures including lentils, straw and sand. They also



loved getting involved in our cultural celebrations and decorated Scottish flags for Burns night and painted koala bear footprints on Australia Day.



In February the babies are looking forward to celebrating Valentines Day and exploring lots of RED objects. They are also excited to visit the library and hopefully the newly refurbished Lumb Lane Park in February.

Sarah, Niamh and Vikki :)

Toddlers - News from the toddler room

The toddlers have been working hard exploring their 'Healthy Me' topic. they have been learning about healthy foods and keeping fit in order to keep our bodies healthy. They have been doing lots of talking about this topic including how we drink milk and water to help keep our bodies healthy.

In February the toddlers are moving onto a new topic all about being kind to each other and how to share and take turns when playing with friends. How exciting!

Debi, Karen and Jeny

Pre-School - News from the pre-school room

Our pre-school children have thoroughly enjoyed their topic "Our Senses." This has involved a wide range of activities including food tasting, painting with coffee beans and spices, learning action songs like 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' and completing self-portraits using mirrors.

We also linked this to maths activities - counting our fingers and toes, drawing around our hands and feet to compare sizes and measure size using rulers. One of the most interesting activities was our blindfolded game where one of the children would wear and blindfold and be directed (verbally) by their peers to find an object hidden in the room. It turned out that it was a bit daunting for the children to wear a blindfold as they are so reliant on sight as one of their senses so we adapted it and hid our eyes with our hands, taking sneaky peeks when necessary! We also had a super visit from Puddleducks who came in with their large duck to teach the children about water safety and share some top tips.

Terri, Ceri and Dominique

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

We are now collecting these vouchers and are looking forward to using them to get some new outdoor resources for the nursery - please pop them in the box in the hall if you have any.

NDNA Awards

EXCITING NEWS! We are entering Sarah Griffiths and Michelle into a national competition to recognise their hard work and dedication so we will be in touch soon to explain more about how to vote for them and support them with this.

Local Area Security

Unfortunately a family at nursery has been affected by the recent trend in the local area of car theft. The parents were keen that we share this with you all to try and take extra special measures to keep keys away from your front doors at home and be extra vigilant with security at home. Please do not leave any car or house keys visible from your front door (ie in hallway/entrance) as this seems to be how people are being targeted at the moment.

Speech and Language Study

One of our parents has asked us to pass information on about a Language and Speech development study at the Child Study Centre at the UofM, looking at how infants learn to talk, and they are interested in recruiting babies and children aged 1-5. Here is the link:

<http://research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/ldd/childstudycentre/>

This parent has signed their child up for the study and thought the details may be of interest to other parents so we thought we would let you know.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 14th February - Valentines Day tea party at 3pm

Thursday 16th February - Parent Workshop about Behaviour Management
5-6pm - all parents invited.

Tuesday 28th February - Pancake Day

Please could we ask you to.....

SOCKS!

Please can you provide spare socks for your child(ren) as sometimes they get messy during messy play/splashing in puddles so sometimes we need to change them during the day.

Holiday Photos/Fun Weekends Away

Thank you to all those parents sending in some amazing holiday and weekend adventure snaps! It has been lovely to see all the adventures you've been getting up to. The photos that have been sent in are now displayed in each child's room and all the children love seeing what each other have been up to. This is definitely helping the children develop their Personal, Social and Emotional skills whilst at nursery.

If you have any holidays or fun weekends planned in the future do please feel free to keep sending the photos to us on our email address,

enquiries@therailwaynursery.co.uk

Please do keep sending your photos into us, we love hearing about what you have been up to.

Nursery opening Times

As you are all aware our nursery opening hours are 8am-6pm. We understand that parents may get to nursery a little earlier than this due to no traffic being on the road, or maybe you've just had a super organised morning! Please can we remind you that we can only let you into the nursery at 8am. You may see staff in the nursery before this time, they are working hard to set the rooms up for the day and will also be preparing breakfast for your child's arrival.

Car Parking

Please can we ask parents to use the car park for dropping children off or picking them up at the end of the day whenever possible? We have been asked by the council to ensure that parents are using the car park rather than the road when there are spaces available within the car park so we would appreciate your co-operation with this. It also helps to keep our neighbours happy! 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.

The Railway Nursery Team