Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Well Autumn is most definitely here and we are surrounded by beautiful colours everywhere - we have embraced exploring our natural world and collected all kinds of leaves, conkers, acorns and sycamore seeds to name but a few!

Our staff have been vigilant with following all of our risk assessments to ensure we are reducing the risk of transmission of Covid-19 within the nursery and these extra procedures are now deeply embedded into our daily routines. We had a lovely week of recognition in October for our staff to celebrate Early Years Wellbeing week and they were all grateful to receive recognition and enjoyed some treats to pamper themselves with too!

As the temperature drops, please remember to bring your child to nursery with suitable layers of clothing as we love to explore outside just as much as we love playing inside, whatever the weather!

One of our biggest achievements over the past few weeks has been to re-introduce outdoor trips for our children and we have risk assessed these to ensure they are Covid compliant in every way. The children (and staff) have benefitted hugely from this and I have thoroughly enjoyed returning to our Forest School sessions again - you can catch up with all the news on our Facebook page to see us in action!

Once again, we thank you for your continued support with all of the challenges we face in the current climate, please rest assured that the nursery day is absolutely full of fun and laughter, just like it always has been and indeed always will be!

Ceri

Our team

We have said a fond farewell to the lovely Charlotte in our toddler room who has moved to pastures new to train to be a Primary School teacher. Charlotte has been a huge part of the nursery over the past few years and we are certain that Charlotte will make a fantastic primary school teacher. We are hoping Charlotte pops back when she can to help out as part of our relief staff team.

We also say hello to 2 new members of staff who have settled into our nursery and are throughly enjoying their new positions here. Natalie Kinsey, who is working on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in our baby room and Matthew Allan (known as Matty) who has joined our toddler room in a full time position. You can read all about them and their experience and qualifications on our website here https://www.therailwaynursery.co.uk/our-team/ I'm sure you will join me in welcoming them to our team.

Congratulations to our staff member of the month for August - Emily Whitewood! Emily received the most votes from staff this month with some lovely comments including "Emily has formed strong bonds with the babies and they all really like her. Emily is also great at communicating with parents too"
"Emily always has a huge smile on her face. The babies love you and you do fabulous observations!" Well done Emily, a thoroughly well deserved award for you.

Our staff member of the month for September was another member of our baby team - Natalie! Natalie's comments from other staff members included "Natalie is so calm and patient in the baby room and has done some lovely singing activities too."
"Natalie has a great attitude to work and has an aura of calm everywhere she goes. She is bustling up fabulous relationships with the babies and the staff and is a pleasure to have in the team." We are all incredibly proud of Natalie too for this achievement. Well done.

We are also building up to saying a very sad farewell to our exceptional manager, Vikki. Vikki has been part of the team here since the very beginning of our journey. She has an affinity with children of all ages and has achieved incredible milestones throughout her time here - managing our

extension project, leading the nursery to an Associate Partner status so that we act as a Flagship Outstanding setting to help guide other settings throughout the region, achieving a Nursery of the Year Award last year and being nominated for Manager of the Year this year! She has also built incredibly strong bonds with the children and their families over the past 5 years and will be hugely missed by all. We would love to see Vikki returning to nursery as part of our relief team once she has settled into her exciting new path as a Foster Carer. We can't think of a better person to be looking after children at home with her equally lovely husband Carl. We wish them both every success for their future together which I'm sure will be filled with love, laughter and adventure.

Ceri

Babies - News from the baby room

The babies have enjoyed some new activities to support their physical development. The climbing bridge has been explored with excitement as the babies have stepped from bar to bar, growing in strength and looking very proud of their achievements.

We've had some puppets joining us for sing alongs and the babies have been dancing around with their friends and moving to the music. We've also been learning about the sounds of a guitar and the words to some songs. Our favourites are "Row Row" and "Baa Baa".

There has been a lot of creative and sensory play to get messy with as we learn, including apple printing, salt dough making and corn flour gloop to name a few.

We intend to keep up the messy play as we learn and explore with Autumn leaves and pumpkins in the run up to Halloween. The Autumn weather won't be holding us back as we wrap up warm to make mud pies and go jumping in the puddles!

Tasha, Emily and Natalie

Toddlers - News from the toddler room

Toddlers have been focusing on developing their prime areas of learning (Physical Development, Communication and Language and Personal, Social and Emotional Development). These areas need to be well established before we can move on to learning with the 'specific' areas of learning

(Maths, Literacy, Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World). They have been supporting their prime areas of learning by doing lots of painting, dancing, playing with playdoh, singing, stories and role play.

They have been getting involved with lots of group games and activities to build friendships and enjoying circle time where they can talk about their feelings. They have focussed on the theme of Autumn and been on some lovely Autumn walks then made a fantastic Autumn display for everyone to see. They are continuing with their Autumn theme now and have been fascinated to learn all about Hedgehogs and their hoglets and they are learning to use describing words like 'spiky' and prickly.' Halloween activities are also beginning which is always a source of much excitement too.

Debi, Niamh, Nina and Matty

Pre-School - News from the pre-school room

Our Pre-School children have had so many 'awe and wonder' moments whilst they have been learning about space. Olivia brought in a telescope which fascinated them and they were great at taking turns to use it. They also made their own models of the planets and the sun and they talked about how the solar system works.

They have enjoyed lots of Autumn crafts and our return to Forest School sessions has been a huge hit! We have collected leaves and acorns and brought them back to nursery for our display, rolled conkers in paint to look at the pattern they make and used sticky back plastic to add our own leaves to the display.

We were very excited to find a frog during one of our Forest School mornings and we talked about the life cycle of a frog too. Pre-school have also learnt about lots of other animals and finding out lots of interesting facts about them. We are now looking forward to Halloween and have started this topic by exploring pumpkins and their seeds in the messy tray and making pumpkin pictures.

Terri, Marta, Olivia, Julie and Georgia.

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.

We are continuing our flexible drop off and pick up times and are open from 8.00am to 5.45pm and we are still asking parents to drop off and collect from the front door to avoid unnecessary foot flow into the building. We have hand sanitiser available in the porch at all times.

The Railway Nursery Team