



Newsletter

January 2020

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families - the children were keen to tell us all about it when they returned to nursery after the festive period. The only thing we are missing now is some snow!!

The staff and children have enjoyed various outings in January - please can we remind all parents to bring **waterproof** coats/suits, hats, gloves, scarves and warm socks and wellies to nursery to ensure children stay warm and dry when they are outside. It's so important for the children to have the right clothing to ensure they are able to engage with their learning when they are outdoors.

Can I also remind parents that we have parents evening on Tuesday 25th February from 6.30-8.00pm. You don't need to make an appointment (we know timings can be quite tricky with young children!) but please can we ask that you come without your children as we serve cheese and wine during the evening and also we like to focus on talking to parents in detail about your child's development. Our staff have all been very busy preparing individual reports for each child to share with you on the night, it's a lovely chance to catch up with your child's key worker and discuss how everything is going and also look around their classroom to see the beautiful displays celebrating your child's achievements.



Our team

Congratulations to our first staff member of the month in 2020 - Olivia! Our staff said some lovely things about Olivia when they voted, including “Olivia has a fun and positive attitude and I love working alongside her.” Also, “Olivia is really cheery and happy. Her practice is amazing, she is really responsive to the children’s emotions and needs. Olivia is an example to me.” What a thoroughly well deserved award, well done Olivia.

Our team have also been busy furthering their knowledge by attending training courses. Ceri and Terri attended a training course all about “curiosity and loose parts play” which is all about allowing children to explore open-ended resources that aren’t “toys” and therefore don’t have a specific purpose, but allows the child to use their imagination to play with them however they choose. Look out for some of our new resources in Pre-School when you come along for Parents Evening.

Georgia and Vikki have completed SEND training, which focussed on using visual prompts for children to aid their understanding - you may spot our new Pre-School lanyards which have visual prompts to remind children some of our Golden Rules.

Vikki and Terri attended our area ‘Associate Partner’ meeting - we have been awarded “Associate Partner” status by Stockport council as we are a flagship setting in the area and invite other nurseries in to share our knowledge and best practice with them. Terri and Vikki are able to share ideas at these meetings with other similar settings in the area to ensure we continue to provide Outstanding opportunities for the children in our setting.

Terri also went on a course all about Physical Development and has brought back some wonderful activities to share with our team.

We have started the New Year with news that Georgia who is based in our Pre-School Room will be reducing her hours at nursery to only work once a week as she has had a fantastic opportunity to pursue her dancing and choreography career. This means she will not be able to continue her role as 3rd in charge. However, we are delighted to announce that Tasha has been offered and has accepted the role of 3rd in charge. Georgia will pass over her role of 3rd in charge in March, and the senior team will support Tasha in this senior position. Georgia will be greatly missed but we are delighted

that we will all still get to work with her once a week and she is able to follow her dancing dreams too. We are currently recruiting for a Nursery Nurse but we are extremely selective so watch this space for updates on our recruitment campaign.

The other big news for this month is that voting has opened for the NDNA Awards 2020. The nomination we have gone for is Practitioner of the Year 2020, and our nominee is Niamh! Niamh works in our toddler room and has been working as part of our Railway family for 4.5 years. Niamh came to us straight from school and started to study at college, she has blossomed into an amazing Nursery Nurse, gaining first her level 2 childcare qualification and then onto her level 3 childcare qualification. Niamh is fun to be around and always has a smile to greet our families and the staff team too!

This means we need your help in supporting Niamh by voting for her! All you need to do is follow this link - <https://www.votendna.org.uk/vote&award=practitioner-of-the-year-award> , and click 'vote now'. Fill in your details and submit your vote. If you would like to use our nursery laptops to vote you are more than welcome to, just ask one of the senior team for help.

Babies - News from the baby room

The babies have had a ball exploring different sensory activities including scented teabags for Valentine's crafts, water play using different scents, painting using cereal to provide texture, shaving foam and paint mixing and also Chinese writing to celebrate Chinese New Year.

The babies have also enjoyed lots of outdoor play - thank you to all the parents for bringing appropriate clothing and footwear in for the garden, it really helps!

Tasha, Lydia and Vikki

Toddlers - News from the toddler room

Toddlers have been busy making moon sand, exploring different winter environments for the small world animals, ice painting, tasting frozen fruit encased in ice and then watching it melt by pouring warm water onto it and various other sensory activities. The staff and children also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and learning about the different animal themes each year.

In February the toddlers are going to be focusing on the story “Hippo has a Hat’ so please if you have any children’s hats, shoes, handbags, clothes to bring in for the children to use during this topic please could you bring the in as they will be having a dressing up day at the end of the month? They are also planning a trip to the charity shop to support this learning too and source some bargains!

Debi, Niamh, Nina and Charlotte

Pre-School - News from the pre-school room

Pre-School have been continuing with their theme of ‘Winter’ and have been exploring various sensory activities including frozen, coloured ice, making “snow” using cotton wool and water and exploring the changes in nature which we can see in our garden.

Terri also spent a lovely afternoon cooking with the Pre-School children and they have also been busy baking various biscuits and cakes to take home and share with their families.

We have also planned our next programme of Forest School sessions and the children (and staff!) have thoroughly enjoyed trying out the rope swing which has been exhilarating for everyone! A huge thank you to our Pre-School parents who ensure their children arrive for Forest School in appropriate clothing to ensure they are warm and dry and able to concentrate on having fun in the forest!

Marta has been very busy planting with the children and spreading her green-fingered love! Look out for our sprouting daffodils at our front door - they are looking nice and s

Terri has spent lots of time after nursery hours this month sorting out the resources in our Pre-School room and introducing lots of new “loose parts” resources for children to explore freely - have a good look around during our Parents Evening this month to find out more about curiosity and loose parts play.

Terri, Marta, Julie, Olivia, Georgia and Ceri.

Please could we remind you.....

Notice Period

We would like to remind parents that our notice period for changing days at nursery or leaving the nursery is 2 months. As you may be aware, we are very full and have waiting lists in place for parents who are awaiting spaces in the future so if you do know your child will be leaving before they are due to start school, please let us know to help us manage our waiting lists. We have multiple enquiries every day for places from new families but are currently totally full and struggling to fit everybody in. We do sometimes have availability for extra sessions on certain days so please speak to a member of the team if you would like to enquire about an extra session for your child.

Clothing

We would like to remind everyone to bring in suitable outdoor clothing every day as we take the children into the garden whatever the weather. Please bring in wellies or snow boots, waterproof coats, hats, scarves and gloves and lots of spare clothes to change into if they do get wet. Warm socks are also important in this weather to keep their toes toasty as otherwise wellies can feel cold. We appreciate your support with this.

Dates for your diary:

3rd February - Balance Bike Taster session for Pre-School children
10th February - Forest School Session
18th February - Babies Let's Get Physical Day
25th February - Shrove Tuesday - Pancakes at nursery!
25th February - Forest School Session
25th February 6.30 - 8.00pm Parents Evening

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