



# Newsletter

## January 2021

Happy New Year! We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break with your families despite everything being a little different this year. The children have been very excited to tell us about their experiences at Christmas and it really has been a special time for them.

We have begun the year with another National Lockdown, but haven't let that dampen our spirits here. We are unable to take the children out on trips during the National Lockdown but we are having so much fun in the garden which has had lots of gigantic puddles to play in recently! All children are developing their independence skills by accessing the garden frequently throughout the day as they learn to find their peg, wellies and puddle suits and help each other to get them on and off too!

We have also been focussing on our physical development skills in our toddler and baby rooms by enabling the children to serve themselves at mealtimes using serving spoons and smaller dishes to help them. They thrive on the responsibility of using the serving spoons to get the food from the serving dish to their own plate and then enjoy tucking in! They also help to scrape their plates at the end of the meal and stack them all in a pile. This encourages communication and teamwork skills and various physical development skills and independence. We encourage parents to support this at home as much as possible too - you will be surprised how capable even the younger children are when given the opportunity and also how proud they are of their achievements.

Terri has been busy planning our Calendar of Events for the year ahead which has now been sent out. We have currently only included internal nursery Events in light of the situation but as soon as we get the go-ahead to arrange a wider range of events we will be in touch with some exciting new events too.



## Our Team

Congratulations to our first staff member of the month in 2021 - Marta! Our staff said some lovely things about Marta when they voted, including “Always thinking outside the box and has some great activity ideas.” and “Marta provides excellent teaching and learning opportunities for all children and always goes the extra mile with them. Fantastic interactions with the children during outdoor play, following their interests and inspiring them at all times.” What a thoroughly well deserved award, well done Marta.

Our team have also been busy furthering their knowledge by attending training courses. Several members of the staff team attended a weekend course to renew their Paediatric First Aid course which is a full 12 hours of training and I’m delighted to report that they all passed with flying colours! All staff have also completed an Allergy Awareness Course this month which was very informative and useful.

We are also in the process of renewing our ‘Makaton Friendly’ status which we initially achieved 3 years ago and are keen to maintain. Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression. With Makaton, signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. We use these at nursery to help all children with their early communication skills and use them during singing times and group times with children of all ages. If you would like any further information please do let us know and we would be happy to help.

## Babies - News from the baby room

The babies were welcomed back after the Christmas period and we have a couple of new starters who have settled in to nursery life really well. We are saying goodbye to some of our older babies as they are now ready to move onto new adventures in the toddler room which is all very exciting for them.

The babies had a ball playing in the snow which arrived this month and they enjoyed using the snow in different sensory activities - adding paint and using stacking cups to make different marks on the snow too. There is now a lovely winter display up in their room to remind them of the fun they have had over the last couple of weeks in the garden. Their new topic is all about farm animals and they are in the process of various craft activities which will be added to their 'Old McDonald' display in their room.

As part of their celebration of Burns Night this month the babies painted their own versions of Scottish flags using white and blue paint and of course they enjoyed the Scottish themed menu too, exploring new tastes.

They have been working on their physical skills using an indoor football and this has also developed their sharing and turn taking skills and dancing is another favourite activity at the moment too.

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, Emily and Natalie.

### Toddlers - News from the toddler room

Toddlers have been busy with their Winter theme this month. The snow fell at the right time as it fitted in perfectly with this topic and they also enjoyed ice cube painting which encouraged lots of communication about the colours and the effect of the ice on their senses - what it looked and felt like. They had a very messy day using flour as snow inside which was incredibly messy but so much fun and provided so many learning opportunities for the children.

The toddlers enjoyed celebrating Burns Night and listened to bagpipes, decorated their own flags and of course made their own shortbreads which were simply delicious! There has been a big focus on the children developing their physical skills and the staff have been working hard to encourage the children to be more independent by using their knives and forks at the table, drinking out of proper cups and putting their own wellies on ready for outdoor play. What a busy month we have had!

Niamh, Debi, Matty and Leila.

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

Pre-School have been engrossed in their topic about 'Our Bodies' which has encompassed a variety of different activities. They have discussed the importance of how to dress appropriately in different weather conditions, completed lots of activities about healthy eating which has included fruit and vegetable tasting and they have painted pictures of their bodies using different techniques.

One of their favourite activities has been to complete Joe Wicks PE sessions which you can find online - the staff and children all found these pretty exhausting!

They also had a fantastic theme day all about London which was planned because several children showed a specific interest in this topic during conversations at group times. They learnt all about famous landmarks, used some superb photo booth props, completed cutting and sticking activities and enjoyed a very British tea party too!

As we move into February our new topic is recycling and pollution which we will report back on next month.

Terri, Marta, Julie, Olivia, Nina, Sue, 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:

9th February - National Pizza Day!  
9th February - The Railway Nursery 6th Birthday!  
12th February - Valentines Day Tea Party  
12th February - Chinese New Year Celebrations  
16th February - Pancake day!  
16th February - Theme Day for toddlers - 'Hygge Day'

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