Newsletter

April 2021

We have had a very busy month at nursery. We have started our garden makeover by deep cleaning the artificial grass which was a very messy but rewarding job for Paul and I. We are going to use the same specialist machines to tackle the soft play surface next and we have been sourcing some new resources to put in the garden including a new balance beam for our undercover area and some new sports equipment.

Marta has been busy planting various seeds which the children have learnt about and been looking after. We are hoping to grow some very tall sunflowers this year, maybe commuters might be even able to spot them from the train station?!

We have also had the sheer joy of watching our chicken eggs hatch in an incubator and the children have had so many learning opportunities through this experience. The chicks have been a huge talking point for the staff, children and parents and are now getting bigger by the day! All of the children have had an opportunity to handle the chicks and we have taken lots of photographs. The best part was definitely being able to actually see them starting to hatch by gaining the strength to break through their shell. We had 10 eggs and 8 of them hatched into healthy chicks. The chicks will be leaving us at the end of this week to go to back home to a farm in Yorkshire.

We are now back to our 6.00pm closing time but please rest assured that all of the stringent cleaning procedures are still completed as staff are now able to move between different rooms in the nursery which enables us to clean the resources more efficiently at the end of every day. Please ensure that you seek immediate medical advice if anyone in your household develops symptoms of Covid-19 as there have been some nursery closures in

the Stockport area this week so we must still ensure that everyone is diligent with Covid-19 procedures.

Our Team

Congratulations to our staff member of the month this month - Ceri! Comments from the team included “For great Forest School sessions with the children, they learn so much and it’s so much fun for them.”

We have also said an extremely fond farewell to Julie Smith from our Pre-School team who has been an absolute asset to the nursery over the years. Julie is such a popular member of the team, with a passion for crafts and imaginative play. The children absolutely love Julie and she always gets a warm welcome when she walks into the Pre-School room clutching all sorts of exciting things from sprigs of broccoli to huge cardboard boxes crafted into washing machines! Even the staff look forward to Julie and her bag of tricks each week! Julie will be missed by the staff, children and parents - we have children who left nursery 2 years ago who still ask about Julie! Julie is now going to focus on her family life but will be staying on our bank staff team which means she will be working to cover staff holidays and training days.

Babies - News from the baby room

The babies have had so much fun going out and about in our local area this month, exploring the woods and footpaths and splashing in lots of puddles too! It’s such a good feeling to be able to be able to extend the children’s experiences by going on trips again and it’s a lovely season to be enjoying the fresh air.

The babies have welcomed some new faces this month too and some of our older babies have moved up to the toddler room.

The babies embraced our Alice in Wonderland day and enjoyed a lovely picnic tea party, having done lots of tea party role play throughout the day.

They have had lots of sensory experiences throughout the month including exploring fresh soil and water which gives them opportunities to focus on their physical development skills by digging using different tools and pouring water between containers.

The babies have loved looking at the chicks and now they are a little bigger they have been stroking and holding them, using gentle hands and experiencing the touch of their warm, fluffy fur. They have been learning some new words through this activity too. We will be sad to see them go but know that they will love their life on a farm.

Tasha, Natalie and Megan.

Toddlers - News from the toddler room

The toddlers have also embraced their new found freedom of being able to go out to the local footpaths and have enjoyed their nature walks. They have been to our Forest School site and have seen the beautiful blossom trees on the way there too.

They loved the afternoon tea party for our Alice in Wonderland Day and themed activities throughout the day.

They have also been working on their physical skills in various ways using climbing frames in their room for their gross motor skills and lots of activities to develop their dexterity and pincer grip, such as threading beads and sorting small items into sorting trays. These are all activities that can be replicated at home and are fantastic for developing children's skills.

Niamh, Debi and Matty.

Pre-School - News from the pre-school room

Our Pre-School children enjoyed a hands on Science workshop with Paul on 16th April where they completed various experiments together which led to lots of questions which Paul was able to address with them. They also embraced the themed 'Alice in Wonderland' day and loved feeding the 'rabbit' (Terri!) with carrots all day!

There was also much excitement during the funfair day where they played lots of traditional fairground games including hook a duck, sack races, fairground dancing to classical music and knocking a set of stacked tins down by throwing a ball.

Their mini beasts topic has gone down well, they have sorted mini beasts into different groups (eg wings/no wings, antennae/no antennae), making their own mini beasts using craft materials and of course finding them in our garden and on walks or at forest school. They can now identify a range of mini beasts and lots of the children enjoy handling them when they find them.

Their new topics are going to be space and fairytales for the month of May.

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

Please could we remind you…..

Face Coverings

We would like to thank you for your continued support at drop off and collection times with wearing face masks to help protect our team and other families.

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. Hopefully we will need to crack open the suncream soon too!

Dates for your diary:

7th May - 'A Day at the Farm' - themed day in the toddler room
11th May - Annual Sports Day (we will take lots of photos for you, please can children come in wearing suitable clothes for various races in the garden)
12th May - Teddy Bear's Picnic (please don't bring a teddy in for this, see attached e-mail)
24th May - Fruit and Vegetable day in the baby room!
27th May - Pre-school woodwork session
31st May - Spring Bank Holiday (Nursery closed)

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