Newsletter

January 2022

Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter, we hope you have had a fantastic start to the year. We have enjoyed lots of outdoor play this month and haven't seen much rain but it has been chilly at times so we have been wrapping up in lots of warm layers before heading out for our outdoor adventures. You may have noticed that we've been very busy freshening up our indoor environment with some more painting of the walls and woodwork which looks fantastic. This month we have celebrated Burns night and tasted some traditional Scottish food and read some of Robert Burns' famous poems. We also enjoyed Australia Day and had lots of fun finding out where Australia is and learning some facts. Our Pre-School children have been delighted with their new role play 'Doctors Surgery' resources and our babies and toddlers have been busy exploring the new additions to their sensory room - disco lighting and a large ball pool! We have also rearranged the sensory garden to allow more space for our activities with the younger babies and moved our large planter to the front garden where we will soon be planting some seeds - watch this space!

Our Team

Congratulations to our staff member of the month in January - Sharon! Comments from the team members included "She is always full of fun providing exciting opportunities for the children" and "Sharon is always a superstar downstairs!" Well done Sharon.

Our whole team have shown resilience, professionalism and teamwork this month as Covid came knocking on our door and we had several staff isolating but our staff worked extra shifts to ensure that we were able to continue operating and that the children were unaffected by the staff absences. We are so grateful to our lovely team and so proud of everything they do.

We said an emotional farewell to Tasha this month as she started her maternity leave in preparation for having her baby boy very soon! We have had the pleasure of welcoming Vikki back into nursery who some of you will already know as she has worked here previously (from the very beginning when we first opened our doors) and it's so lovely for her to be back with us as our 'Third in Charge' to cover Tasha's maternity leave. We also welcomed a new member to our team at the very start of the year - Tanzeela, who is currently on a gap year before starting University in September 2022 and has hit the ground running in Chloe's team downstairs. We have updated our Staff board in our reception area and on our website so that you are able to read a little bit more about our practitioners - here is the link to our website: www.therailwaynursery.co.uk

Our team are all dedicated to improving their knowledge and have been very busy with various training modules recently including Designated Safeguarding Lead training, Early Years Training and Food Hygiene training. We also hold regular staff meetings and team meetings to ensure our knowledge is up to date and to discuss policies and procedures at nursery and how to ensure the highest quality of teaching and learning.

News from our Baby and Toddler Room

Our babies and toddlers have been very busy with lots of themed craft activities which help them to gain fine motor skills and learn all about colours and textures. They have spent lots of time in their newly designed sensory room, which I'm sure you have all seen - the ball pool has been a big hit! Chloe has also been very busy making some brand new texture boards which the children are fascinated by. This takes "That's not My…" books to a whole new level!

The children have also been enjoying lots of outdoor painting on a large scale - giving them huge pieces of paper to explore freely with their colours and brushes and often their hands and feet too!

The children have been working on their independence skills and are really getting the hang of self-serving at mealtimes which we encourage them to do from a very young age, as soon as they are confident enough to follow

the lead from their older peers. Our downstairs room enables the older children to help the younger children with various tasks, role modelling positive behaviour which has a ripple effect and benefits all of the children.

We are looking forward to lots more exciting activities as we enter February - time is flying by!

Chloe, Natalie, Allie, Sharon and Tanzeela.

Pre-School - News from the Pre-School Room

Our Pre-School children have enjoyed lots of outdoor activities this month and enjoying the mud kitchen in the big garden. The home corner has been changed into a Doctor's Surgery with some "real life" resources for the children to explore. The old fashioned typewriter has been a big hit - bringing back memories for some of the older staff!!

The children have been playing various early phonics games and the most popular one seems to be the Postman game which I'm sure they will tell you about. Lots of the games involve rhyming words to help the children learn and recognise different letters and sounds, helping prepare them for school when they turn 4.

We have had beautiful weather for our Forest School sessions this month and we also found the most beautiful earwig on one of our sessions, with tiger stripes and striking gold colours down its back.

The children have also shown a keen interest in music this month having moved on from Christmas songs and they love the various sessions that they benefit from with our talented staff team who can play the keyboard, guitar and the flute!

The small world toys have been popular too during the children's free play time where they choose what they would like to play with. Small world toys encourage children to use their imagination to recreate play situations with their peers - for example the dolls house and the wooden pirate ship.

Terri, Niamh, Sue, Alice, Katie and Ceri.

Please could we remind you about…..

Face Coverings

Following the recent changes in Government guidance regarding face coverings we would now like to advise parents that wearing face coverings at nursery is now optional and completely up to you. If we have another Covid outbreak we may revisit this if we are advised to by Public Health but we will let you know if this is the case. All of our staff are now fit and well and out of their isolation period which is fantastic news!

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.

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