

FEBRUARY 2020

# Inn Farm Private Day Nursery Newsletter



**Staff news-** We would like to welcome Rebecca Fuller to our team, Becky is just completing her Level 3 qualification and will be working in Bumblebees. We would also like to welcome Emma Turner to our team. Emma is a qualified Early Years teacher and music is her speciality, so we are looking forward to her implementing some fabulous ideas. Emma will, mainly, be working in pre-school, but you will also see her in the other buildings from time to time sharing her musical talents.

We said goodbye to Charlotte on her maternity leave and she did not waste any time, baby Jonah was born four days later! Both mum and baby are thriving and we have enjoyed a visit from them both.

Rosie is due to go on Maternity leave during March. We would like to wish Rosie and her husband, Paul, all the best in welcoming their new arrival. We are looking forward to lots of cuddles!

While Rosie is on maternity leave Zoe will become Deputy Manager. Zoe has been both a Deputy Manager and Nursery Manager previously and will be happy to answer any queries in Joanne's absence.

**Cold weather-** Please ensure your child brings suitable outdoor clothing for the cold weather, including a named hat and gloves.

**Coronavirus -**We are monitoring this situation closely and would ask that you inform us immediately if you travel to any regions that have been affected by this virus.

**Fundraising-** A huge thank you for supporting us in raising £780 for Children in Need, a fantastic achievement! Our Christmas raffle raised £150 for 'Rise Africa'. Our recent pyjama day for Crackerjacks raised £59.58. Thank you very much for your continued support in raising money during our charity events.

**Family observation forms/Home interest sheets-** You should have been given these forms by your child's key person recently. We would be very grateful if you would fill these in and return them to your child's key person ASAP. This information is used for planning activities around your child's interests and plotting their next steps in their development.

**Safety-** Please can we ask that you hold your child's hand when walking down the driveway, in order to keep your child safe. Can we also please ask that you drive very slowly up and down the driveway at all times.

**Increasing sessions-**We are becoming very busy in all of our rooms, with lots of new starters joining us. To avoid disappointment, if you are looking at increasing your child's sessions, please can you let Joanne know ASAP.

**Holiday dates-**If you have any forthcoming holidays booked, please can you let us know in advance so they can be written in the diary. Thank you.

**CALPOL -** Please ensure that if you have given your child calpol prior to their arrival at nursery that you tell one of the team so that this can be noted on your child's record. This allows us to know whether we can administer calpol safely in an emergency. If you have any questions about this please speak to Kate or Joanne.

**Kate and Joanne**

## Ladybirds

Over the last few months we have welcomed some new faces into Ladybirds room and we look forward to being a stepping stone in their journey at Inn Farm. Many of our ladybirds have found their feet, learning how to walk and are growing in confidence. Our younger ladybirds are learning to sit up and crawl, we will encourage this further through the use of tummy time, with our tummy time pillows. We have been exploring ICT toys, pressing the different buttons to see what happens. The children have been enjoying going out for some winter walks to see our animal friends, we love practicing our animal noises whilst feeding them apples.

In the next few weeks we will be focussing on early language and will introduce the babies to numbers and counting through number action songs. The babies are keen experimenters and explorers, enjoying problem solving as they do so! We will continue to support them in this by exploring the shape sorters and puzzle boards.

We recently celebrated Chinese New Year, through painting with red and gold paint and listening to some Chinese music. We will be getting very creative as we explore Valentine's Day and Mother's Day, making decorations for our special people.

As our babies love singing, we will teach them lots of actions songs such as '5 little Speckled Frogs', and many more!

To support language development, we will be encouraging the babies to explore a variety of books. They have recently enjoyed 'Sophie's Busy Day' and 'Spot goes Shopping'. We will continue to read these during group time.

We love to encourage you parents to join in too. To help support their learning you can: sing their favourite songs, read books together and talk to them as you go about your day.

**Emily, Lorraine, Rebecca, Sallie and Julia H**

### Caterpillars

We would like to welcome the children transitioning from the baby room- Savannah, Ezra, Ambar and Tabitha. They have settled really well and we are looking forward to watching their development blossom further within our room.

We have been learning about The Kite Festival and Chinese New Year and will also be finding out about Valentine's Day and Pancake Day. We look forward to showing you the lovely things that we create.

It would be great if you could support your child's learning at home by singing nursery rhymes. We are singing these at nursery, so if you need some reminding of the words please ask. We are also singing action rhymes and encouraging the children to join in with the actions while singing.

Caterpillars will be taking part in sensory play, including crazy soap, ice, spaghetti, rice, cereals, water, sand and playdough.

Look out for the photos of your child engaged in this play.

Each morning the children will be encouraged to participate in our 'Good Morning' song, encouraging each child to welcome others by name.

Caterpillars have really enjoyed exploring the new books in the room, especially 'There's a Bear on the Chair'. We will continue to read these at group times, as well as introducing stories about feelings, talking about happy and sad faces.

Please can we have some up to date photos for your child's family book. Can we also remind you, kindly, to fill out a 'WOW' star, so that we can share in your child's achievements on our special board.

Please can you pack several changes of clothes in your child's bag, as despite every effort we sometimes we get a little messy during our play!

**Connie and Mona**

### Bumblebees

We are happy to have welcomed Harrison, Dylan and Arlo to Bumblebees. We are looking forward to lots of fun with our new friends.

With the cold weather currently upon us we will be continuing with our Winter theme and incorporating lots of Winter themed sensory/messy play including snow dough and ice play. Our Winter themed songs will be "I'm a little snowman" and "Incy Wincy" (Winter version) and we will be sending the words to these songs home so that you can sing these with your child, which will help build their communication and language skills.

We have just begun looking at colours and have introduced a 'colour of the week' we will of course let you know which colour we will be looking at each week and you can help your child differentiate between colours at home by going on a colour hunt with them to see how many items of each colour they can find around the house/garden.

We will be encouraging children to try and be a little more independent with dressing for example putting own coat on/taking own coat off, taking shoes off/on, which you could encourage your child to do at home also. We will also be working on helping the children understand their feelings by using our feelings pictures and the story "Marvin gets mad"

We have recently celebrated **Chinese New Year** by making Chinese lanterns, making our own dragon, using chopsticks to explore noodles and reading stories about Chinese New Year.

This month we will be celebrating **Valentines day** by having a pink theme, heart shaped printing and making heart shaped biscuits/cakes and **Shrove Tuesday** by having pancake tasting and having a go at flipping pancakes.

**Zoe, Laura, Bev & Becky**

### Butterflies

During last term the children particularly enjoyed outdoor activities such as ring games, ball games and building their own obstacle courses. They worked as a team in the main garden using construction materials such as tyres, pipes and plastic boards to produce courses testing their balancing, manoeuvring and turn taking skills. We also took time to regularly check on the chickens making sure they had water, clean bedding and food; Grasshoppers are experts in telling us what the chickens and animals in general need to stay healthy!

January provided lots of discussions on cold weather animals, winter weather and how to keep warm in the cold. We introduced an information book call 'Winter' and the children soon showed an understanding of the differences between information and story books. They all enjoyed learning about and making an Arctic Fox, we all wished we had a tail we could use as a blanket! Seasonal stories such as Winter Fox, Meet the Penguins, Otto the book bear in snow and Doxy bear and the secret of sleep were enjoyed by all the children as well as social stories such as 'Too shy for Show and Tell', 'Ruby's Worry' and 'I Don't Want to Wash my Hands' to promote health and well-being.

We have continued with book of the week and story maps; 'Stickman' provide to be very popular amongst the children and their story maps showed good recall and comprehension of the text. The younger children in our class enjoyed the rhyme in the story, their drawings of the stickman were fantastic.

Grasshoppers have enjoyed many maths activities. So far, this term, we have used physical objects to support counting and visual numerals for number recognition. We have read stories such as 'Percy the Park Keeper' 1,2,3' and 'Count to 10' with a mouse that incorporates counting and enjoyed number songs to further support their maths learning. We have a maths station in the room which allows the children to explore numbers, time, weights and measure freely in addition to supported activities.

Earlier this term we celebrated Chinese Year; we tasted Chinese food, made lanterns and dragons as well as enjoyed physical activities such as dancing and parades. Valentines and Mothers' Day are on the calendar so please do not worry if your child is reluctant to say what they have been up to in pre-school around those times .....it's a surprise! During a group chat the children expressed an interest in learning about whales, 'The Snail and the Whale' will be our book of the week, transport and farms; if you have any items, books etc which may enhance our learning, please send them in.

**Linda, Daria and Emma**

## Dragonflies

It might be a bit late in wishing you this, but "Happy New Year"! We had a fantastic time in the lead up to Christmas, with lots of tuff trays, crafts, stories and songs, and of course our Nativity. We hope you enjoyed the Nativity, we are so proud of the children, they put some much hard work into the performance, and I'm sure you will agree, they did a fantastic job.

When we came back from Christmas, we really enjoyed our topic on penguins. We looked at where they live in Antarctica, and found it at the bottom of the globe. We were interested to learn that they can swim really fast but they can't fly, and they have a thin layer of blubber to keep them warm. Austin shared with us his fact, that some penguins wear scarves (he had just watched Madagascar!). One of our favourite facts, was that the Daddy penguins feed their babies by spitting the mashed up fish into their mouths! We included phonics with our topic, fishing for sounds and feeding them to our penguins. We are learning our left and right through music and movement, flapping our wings accordingly! We learnt what the dots on the dice mean and then represented the numbers by thumb printing penguins. We continued developing our mathematical skills, by ordering the different breeds of penguin by height, and then measured ourselves against the life size penguins. Julia P has constructed an amazing igloo in our classroom, thank you for all your donations of milk bottles. The children are loving role playing inside it. We have also created some amazing penguins which the children have worked really hard on, penguin biscuits, pop up baby penguins and shape penguins to name but a few!

We are currently looking at Polar Bears, we are discovering how large they are, where they live, what they eat and what colour their skin is (it may surprise a few of you!). We have enjoyed making sock puppets, polar bear faces and biscuits.

We have loved having Emma join us as a new teacher, she is a fab musician and we have enjoyed learning lots of new songs. Our favourites include: 'Doctor Knickerbocker', 'A sailor went to sea sea sea' and 'the animal fayre'. Don't worry if they don't seem to make sense, they are often nonsense rhymes! We will continue to enjoy learning lots of new songs from Emma.

Our next topic is going to be 'Under the Sea'. We look forward to learn lots of new facts, exploring tuff trays, reading under the sea stories, and of course lots of songs!

We also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year (thanks already to Jaxon, whose grandad is Chinese and brought in some bits for us.). There is also Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Pancake Day on the horizon. We look forward to reading stories about why we celebrate these special days, and will make some beautiful crafts for our displays and to take home. We also hope to make (and more importantly eat!) some yummy food.

You can continue to support our learning through, reading lots of stories together, and encouraging the children to be independent, perhaps you could give them daily jobs to do, such as setting the table for dinner, unloading the dishwasher and ticking of items off the shopping list.

**Rosie, Julie, Julia P and Emma**