

March 2019

# Inn Farm Private Day Nursery Newsletter



**World Book Day - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.** Each room will be planning lots of fun activities relating to books. It would be great if your child could dress up as a character from a book. The staff will be dressing up too! Please speak to the room staff if you have any queries.

**Red Nose Day 15<sup>th</sup> March -** We will be participating in lots of fun activities to raise money for the good causes highlighted by this charity event. The activities will include a sponsored event, which you should have already received a sponsor form for. Please speak to the staff if you haven't received yours. The children can dress in something red (as much or as little as you can find) and there will be a cake sale. The children will be finding out why they are raising money, learning about people less fortunate than themselves.

**'Healthy Body, Happy Me' - week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> March -** We will be learning about keeping fit and healthy by participating in different activities every day this week. The staff will be planning exciting activities relating to this topic and I'm sure the children will be passing on some healthy tips!

**Session Times -** Please can you make sure that your child is picked up by 4pm, or 6pm, depending on their session time. The nursery closes at 6pm, so please allow yourself enough time to vacate the nursery/pre-school by that time. Also please can I ask that you do not drop your child off before the beginning of their session time. Staffing is carefully put in place to meet the correct ratio of staff:children set by Ofsted, so arriving before the session begins could put us over ratio. If you need to extend your day on the odd occasion, please speak to Joanne, so she can re-arrange staffing levels where necessary. Thank you.

**Schools -** If your child is leaving us for 'big school' this year, could you please let us know which school they will be attending, so we can provide a smooth transition. We also have a number of events to organise and would like as many children as possible to participate.

**Healthy Eating Recipes -** As part of our healthy eating ethos we often cook with the children. This has many benefits for their development, including enhancing speech and language, improving maths skills and exposing their senses to new flavours and textures (especially fussy eaters). Each month a new healthy recipe will be available for you to take from the 'Being Healthy' display in the reception area. Please feel free to take one and enjoy baking/cooking at home.

**Suggestion Box -** We are always looking for ways to improve the service we give you. Your views and comments are greatly appreciated and we would be grateful if you would share them with us either verbally or through our comments and suggestion box located in reception. Alternatively please email me at [kate@innfarmdaynursery.co.uk](mailto:kate@innfarmdaynursery.co.uk)

**Easter bank holidays -** A kind reminder that we are closed, for the Easter break, on Good Friday (19<sup>th</sup> April) and Easter Monday (22<sup>nd</sup> April).

**Holiday bookings -** If you have any forthcoming holidays booked please would you let Joanne know to assist with forward planning.

*Kate and Joanne*

### Ladybirds

A big welcome to Betsy and Tabitha who have recently joined us. They are already enjoying the activities on offer! Over the last two months the babies have enjoyed lots of messy activities, such as making marks in crazy foam, painting with different coloured paint and exploring the texture. The babies have had great fun posting the shapes and balls into shape sorters and ball runner. Over the next two months we will be providing activities to encourage physical development skills, such as the walkers, tunnels and soft play equipment. At home you could encourage this by playing following and fetching games, rolling balls or wheeled toys away from reach to encourage movement and different ways of getting around. Over the next two months we will be celebrating Mother's Day, Pancake Day, Spring and Easter with a variety of messy play activities, sensory play, craft and music. The babies love to sing and I will develop this by singing with them and encouraging the use of the percussion instruments. The songs we will sing include 'Wind the Bobbin up', 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' and 'The Wheels on the Bus'. The babies love to look at books in the cosy corner and especially like the 'Mr Tumble' animal books. We will now be exploring lots of texture books and adding different textures to our daily activities.

*Emily*

### Bumblebees

We have had a wonderful half term learning about our families, exploring what makes us similar and different. We have also enjoyed having some of our pets to visit; Holly the parrot, Hank the tortoise and Simba the cat. Bumblebees loved reading fairy-tales and singing nursery rhymes and re-creating the characters during art activities. Have you seen our fabulous display about 'The Three Little Pigs'? Feel free to have a look! Throughout the next two months we will be focussing on the topic of maths, learning about numbers and shapes. The children have also shown an interest in 'Space and rockets' after some of the children visited the Space Centre recently. To incorporate the children's interest we will be doing lots of space activities involving counting and shapes. We will continue to look at fairy tales as part of World Book Day at the beginning of March. You could help with this by reading books at home and asking open-ended questions to encourage speech and language development. To develop the children's 'Health and self-care' skills further, please could you support your child in independently putting on coats, hats and gloves. Please ask the room staff to show you the simple trick to put coats on themselves! Could we also ask that the children come into the room with their shoes off and slippers on.

*Charlotte, Bev and Jess*

### Caterpillars

The Caterpillars have had a lovely time celebrating Chinese New Year, trying spring rolls, prawn crackers and chow mein! They have also enjoyed making lots of things for Valentine's Day. Playdough, flour play and painting has been a favourite as well as some lovely walks to see and feed the animals. We would like to welcome Archie and Magnus to our room. Stanley will also be transitioning from Ladybirds over the next few weeks. Lots of fun is waiting for them all! Over the next two months we will be concentrating on messy/sensory play, exploring with their 5 senses. We will be trying lots of new foods, investigating lights and sounds and getting very messy with paint, jelly, beans and flour! We will continue to sing our 'Good Morning Song' to welcome the children each day. We have introduced a selection of nursery rhyme cards to encourage each child to choose which nursery rhyme they would like to sing. It would be great if you could sing nursery rhymes at home and in the car too. To further support your child at home you could create some of your own sensory bags using natural resources. You could also encourage mixing and rolling by making biscuits or scented playdough. Please ask for the recipe-it is very simple and creates hours of fun! We will be celebrating Pancake Day, World book Day, Mother's Day and Red Nose Day, with lots of fun activities in store! We will be reading rhyming stories and the 'That's not my...'books, for sensory exploration. We will be singing 'Sleeping Bunnies' as it is their current favourite, changing it to different animals that they choose. We will also sing counting songs to encourage an awareness of numbers and counting e.g. 'Five Currant Buns'.

*Connie, Mona, Lorraine and Rebecca*

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### Fees

**Fees need to be cleared funds in the nursery account by 1<sup>st</sup> of the month or a £2.50 daily late charge is applied.** Fees can be paid by cash, vouchers or direct transfer. Those wishing to pay using childcare vouchers or to claim tax credits our OFSTED number is EY373261.

## Butterflies

Butterflies have enjoyed lots of role play activities, such as a baby clinic, doctors, hairdressers and a shop, encouraging positive relationships with new peers.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by making paper plate dragons and moon pictures using chalks. We also practised using chopsticks!

We used our hands to make or Valentine's cards, watercolour pictures, heart printing with paint and made heart shaped rocky road biscuits, which were yummy!

We have enjoyed lots of walks, at the children's request, which have included jumping in muddy muddles and going on bear hunts!

We have been experimenting with floating and sinking objects, in water play, and experimenting with apple and lemon juice to see what happened to the apples with and without the lemon juice on them. We will be experimenting to see if we can balance a coin on lemon in water!

We will be making leek and potato soup and creating daffodils to celebrate St David's Day on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

We are planning a teddy bears' picnic on Shrove Tuesday as the children have been thoroughly enjoying playing picnics in the home corner.

March will bring the start of our Spring activities; celebrating new born animals and the appearance of snowdrops and daffodils. We will be focussing our activities on new life including baby animals and life cycles, alongside lots of colourful crafts and messy activities. This will take us through to April which will also introduce us to Easter, which will bring a variety of cooking activities and fun arts, crafts and messy activities.

We will be reading stories including 'Bears on Chairs', 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes', 'Cinderella', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'

We will sing lots of number songs to encourage our maths skills, including '5 Little Monkeys' and '5 Little Ducks', as well as 'Round and round the Garden' and 'Old MacDonald'.

You can support your child's learning by involving your child in cooking; chopping, stirring, choosing what to add to recipes.

Bedtime reading is so important for helping to develop early literacy skills. Ask your child to choose a story, ask questions about the story and what they think might happen next.

The children are doing really well with their independence skills and are beginning to get the hang of dressing and undressing, washing and drying hands, using a knife and fork at mealtimes and cutting safely with scissors. With your support we are sure your child will master these skills very soon. Thank you for your continued support.

## *Abbey and Demi*

## Dragonflies

Well, what a fun start to 2019 it has been! It has been full of adventure, fun new topics and following the children's interests.

So far this term we have covered topics including dinosaurs, endangered animals, recycling, pollution, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Superheroes and healthy eating. We've been incorporating maths into our themes in a variety of ways including number songs, cooking-weighing and measuring, and shape match buildings as we made superhero cities.

These themes have been brilliant for providing us with a variety of books, including fiction and non-fiction. Favourite books have included 'The Dinosaur that pooped a Planet' and 'The Kitchen Disco'

Over the past few weeks we have started making story maps with the children. This helps them to sequence stories and identify events, characters and settings, alongside developing fine motor skills through drawing.

We've enjoyed exploring the changes in weather with our adventures outside. We've enjoyed getting stuck in the mud and discovered a variety of plants and flowers and noticed the changes in the trees.

We are having great fun participating in 'Hartbeeps', where April comes each week to bring us a new theme, where we dance, sing, and act out theme related activities. So far we have done disco, the jungle, teddy bears tea party and a bear hunt.

During these sessions children practise their listening skills, practise phonics by listening to and identifying sounds and they also have a good boogie!

As ever, singing has been a major part of our days. Particular songs include 'Everybody do This', 'Hello, Hello'. Every day the children are learning new signs so we can sign things such as animals and our names.

This term we have introduced 'Helping hands', where, each day, one child has the responsibility of changing the calendar, weather and timeline. All of the children will have a turn and they love the responsibility.

Over the next few weeks we will look at Shrove Tuesday, St David's Day, Mother's Day, the beginning of Spring and Easter.

We will continue to follow the children's interests for topics. It would be really helpful if you could let us know any particular interests your child has.

*Rosie, Julie and Julia P*