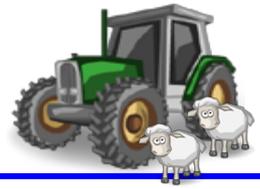


May 2019

# Inn Farm Private Day Nursery Newsletter



**Charity Events-** We hope you all had a fun time at our Eater Open Day. We have had lots of positive comments, which have been lovely to receive. Our raffle raised £25, with the proceeds going towards Rise Africa, which has been gratefully received. Thank you also to those who gave donations to Crackerjacks Children's Trust. We raised £30 for this charity through our recent pyjama day.

**Dragonflies-Sports Day and Graduation-** This year's sports day, for children in Dragonflies, will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. There will be races for both children and parents, so please come prepared. Sports day will begin at 2pm, followed by the children's graduation, after which you are free to take your child home with you.

**Summer clothing-** As the sun is starting to make more of an appearance please remember to provide your child with the appropriate clothing. It would also be useful to pack a warmer change of clothes in their bag if the weather changes. As the paddock area is now not muddy we will be wearing outdoor shoes in the paddock. Please ensure they have appropriate shoes for this, with a good grip. Black plimsolls are perfect for climbing on logs and not too expensive. Please make sure they are named! **Please also bring in a named sunhat.**

**Suncream-** Please remember to bring **named** suncream for your child if you do not want staff to apply our suncream, which is Nivea factor 50. Please apply suncream to your child before you bring them to nursery and we will re-apply during the day.

**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 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 out of ratio. If you need to extend your day 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 help 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)

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

**Bags and peg space-** As you may have noticed this term we are busy with more children. Please be mindful of the size/number of bag(s) your child has, so they can fit on the peg. Please also remember to take your child's bag home at the end of the day.

**Staff news-** We welcomed Linda Rush to our team last week. She will be mainly based in pre-school, but will also work in the nursery, on occasions, between now and September. Daria Sott joins us today and she will be based in pre-school. They are both fully qualified, with a lot of experience. We look forward to them bringing lots of lovely ideas and activities. Abbey will be going on maternity leave mid June. We wish her all the best and are looking forward to lots of cuddles with her little bundle of joy! When this happens, Charlotte will become Butterflies Room Leader and Linda and Daria will work in Butterflies alongside her. You will be notified of your child's new key person soon.

*Kate and Joanne*

### Ladybirds

Over the last few months we have had lots of fun enjoying lots of different celebrations. We enjoyed pancake day; where the babies really enjoyed exploring paint to make marks on pancakes. We have been celebrating Easter, exploring different textures using the Easter sensory tray, and painting with Easter colours.

In the upcoming months we will be learning and practising our gross motor skills, enabling the babies to sit up and move around more. We will be doing this through lots of tummy time, practising our sitting up with lots of interesting toys/objects around us. We will also be encouraging our communication through music and singing. Some of us are already beginning to say our first words and babbling. Please encourage this at home by babbling back, as this helps them to learn how a conversation works and try to decipher what they say, e.g. "bubba" when they see bubbles, you could say "yes, bubbles, pop bubbles"

*Emily*

### Bumblebees

It has been a busy month as we have said farewell to some Bumblebees heading to Butterflies. We have been happy to welcome Ivy, Trevor, Oscar and Tahlia into our room from Caterpillars. We also would like to welcome William who has just joined our room. They have all settled in really well and are keen to join in all our activities.

We had a fun packed Easter week; making chocolate Easter nest cakes and Easter cards. Easter pasta threading on sticks and string was a great opportunity to practise our fine motor skills. We have also enjoyed learning about new life; we have loved visiting lambs, some of us were lucky to see a lamb that had just been born a few minutes previously.

The children have had lots of fun exploring their senses, through a variety of activities such as herb cutting and mud play. This has enabled them to talk about what they can feel, smell and taste. The children have also been enjoying making their own soup. They play an active role in making the soup, which has been a great opportunity to practise their fine motor skills by using cutting tools. It has also helped to develop their sense of understanding.

This term our focus will be maths, where we will focus on shapes (tracing shapes), speed and motion (playing skittles). We will continue to focus on our group circle time, as they have gained lots of confidence, enjoying singing in front of their peers.

*Mona, Bev and Jess*

### Caterpillars

We hope you all had a lovely Easter and enjoyed the warm weather. Now it's getting warmer can we please ask you to provide sun hats, suncream and lighter coats.

We had lots of messy fun last term; using our senses to explore lots of different materials. The children enjoyed playdough, rice, pasta, ice and jelly. We've also enjoyed trying new foods and baking Easter treats. We hope you all had fun getting crafty and our Easter Fun Day.

We would like to welcome Wilbur to the Caterpillar room. This term we will be focussing on maths; using number songs and games with visual aids, number books, and building blocks whilst talking about big and small. This can be continued at home by singing songs such as '5 little ducks' and '5 currant buns'. It's also a great idea to point out numbers in their environments, e.g. house numbers. We will also be singing these songs at nursery. We shall also read books such as '5 Little Dinosaurs', 'One Ted falls out of Bed' and 'Barry the Fish with Fingers'.

We will be spending lots more time outside exploring the new sand pit and water wall, as well as going for walks to see the lambs and ponies. This term we will be celebrating Father's Day and a few other festivals such as Ramadan

*Connie, 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

March and April brought us lots of spring activities, learning about insects, baby animals and growing plants. We created crafts for our display boards and went on lots of adventures to the woods in search of insects. The children particularly enjoyed using rulers, metre sticks and a spirit level to measure each other, the room and a variety of objects in the garden; including a 17cm long worm! We read books including 'Up, Down and Around' and 'Mad about Minibeasts'. The children also enjoyed collecting real wool to make lambs and using stickers to decorate Easter eggs for our Easter display board.

During the next 2 months, we will be focussing on a particular interest of houses. We will plan activities across all areas of learning, learning about shapes, numbers, letters, and talking about our families and what homes we live in. So, please could you bring in photos of homes, gardens, rooms, and door numbers, family and pets. Please could you also bring in old envelopes and maps. Perhaps you could also teach your child their address! Whilst finding these, it would be great if you could please talk about the shapes of houses when you are out and about with them, encourage them to look at and identify house numbers and letters on addresses and on post.

We will be exploring a variety of tuff trays such as the '3 little pigs'. With summer finally arriving we will be doing a variety of summer activities such as picnics, visiting the seaside/holidays, growing plants and vegetables, and looking at forms of transport. June brings Father's Day, which we will create crafts and cards for.

These are some of the stories we look forward to reading over the next few weeks: '3 Little Pigs', 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears', 'A Squash and a Squeeze', 'Things that Go', 'Things I love about my Friends', 'You and me Little Bear', 'A Quiet Night in', 'You are all my Favourites' and 'Harry and his Dinosaurs go on Holiday'. We also look forward to singing a variety of songs including 'Peter Hammers with one Hammer', 'Bob the Builder', '10 in the Bed', '5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer' and 'Round and round the garden'.

*Abbey and Charlotte*

### Dragonflies

Spring has finally sprung in Dragonflies; this has led to lots of fun and many fantastic learning opportunities. We have loved getting back outside in the pre-school garden. It's not just been fun and games though; we have been busy de-weeding the vegetable plot. We have continued to follow children's interests in our topics. An interest in ocean animals, lead to a topic on transport. This was a great opportunity to get our technology minds into gear, as we loved finding out how engines work. It also provided an excellent opportunity to practise numbers; counting and recognising numbers as we made number boats for our display. We then had a fantastic Science Week; we carried out loads of fantastic experiments; including a skittles rainbow, elephant's toothpaste, using bicarbonate of soda to blow up a balloon, and an egg experiment. The egg experiment involved putting eggs in different liquids (milk, water, vinegar and cola). This provided lots of interest as to how the eggs changed, but also lead to a great discussion on what drinks were good and bad for our teeth. Our time in pre-school garden lead to an interest in minibeasts. We enjoyed learning about all the different bugs (what they eat, where they live, how many eyes and legs they have). They enjoyed sharing books from home about minibeasts too. They loved going on a minibeast hunt, we soon learnt where to find the best bugs! We also enjoyed celebrating Shrove Tuesday and Easter. There was a fantastic prop story from Julie, telling the history of the Olney pancake race, followed by playdough pancake tossing and we learnt the story of why we celebrate Easter. We also enjoyed lots of Easter activities, not only at the Easter Fun day, but also did lots of activities at nursery including making rabbits, Easter gardens and hot cross buns. Further digging work in the garden led to us finding lots of worms, and a keen interest in them! With this topic we have enjoyed digging for worms, making our own wormeries, and used tweezers to pick up spaghetti worms. We have practised lots of maths skills with this as we have compared lengths and measured worms with rulers and Unifix bricks. We shall be moving onto the lifecycle of a frog after Jude kindly brought in some tadpoles from home. We look forward to seeing how they grow and making lots of crafts to represent them. We shall also be celebrating Father's Day, and a few other cultural celebrations from around the world. Throughout all these topics we have continued to learn lots of songs including 'There's a Worm at the bottom of the Garden', 'Hello, Hello' and lots of shape songs. With these songs they have learnt some simple signs. The children have loved writing their names in Mothers day and Easter cards, and some are enjoying writing other names such as mummy and daddy. You can help foster their love of writing in many ways, such as encouraging them to write shopping lists, keep simple holiday diaries and have nature hunt tick sheets.

As this is our last term at Dragonflies ☺ we shall regularly be talking about school in a fun way, through books role play and discussion. If you have any worries yourself, or you feel your child is worried, please speak to us as we are happy to help. We shall also be in contact with your child's school, arranging them to come and visit us here. Please also join us in celebrating their achievements at the sports day and graduation.

With the sun finally making an appearance, please remember suitable clothing, a named hat, and named suncream. Please also remember to take water bottles home each day.

*Rosie, Julie and Julia P*