

November  
2019

# Inn Farm Private Day Nursery Newsletter



**Mobile phones-** Please can I remind you that you are not permitted to use your mobile on the nursery premise. This is to safeguard the children. Please can I ask you to deactivate your phone, or leave it in the car, at drop off times.

**Nursery Cook** - Claire our wonderful nursery cook is retiring on 20<sup>th</sup> December. I would like to thank her for her outstanding service over the last 9 years. She will be sorely missed by the staff and children alike. If you know anyone who might like to join our team please let me know.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**- Thank you for your support. We raised a total of £72 towards this worthwhile charity.

**Parents' Evening**- This will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 6pm-7pm for babies and nursery and 6.30-8pm in pre-school. Please see your child's key person to make an appointment, or contact Joanne, who will be happy to make an appointment for you. Joanne and I will also be available on the evening should you wish to make an appointment with either of us.

**Children in Need (15<sup>th</sup> Nov)** - The children will be participating in sponsored events during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> November. Watch out for your child's sponsor form, which are being handed out now. Lots of other fun activities will be taking place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, including a cake sale and dressing up in pyjamas! Further details will follow. Thank you, in advance, for your support, in raising money for this good cause.

**Shoebox Gift Appeal**- It's that time of year for the 'Operation Christmas Child'. If you wish to participate please follow the instructions on the form carefully as there have been some changes to items allowed due to import restrictions. Please bring your shoebox into nursery no later than Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.

**Pre-school Nativity** - This will take part at Melchbourne Village Hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. More details to follow.

**Staff news-** Charlotte will be going on maternity leave on 29<sup>th</sup> November. I am sure you would like to join us in wishing her and her family all the best. We are looking forward to lots of cuddles with her new baby. When Charlotte leaves Linda will become acting Room Leader in Grasshoppers.

**Cold weather**- Please could you ensure that your child brings a warm coat/all in one, gloves, hat and scarf. PLEASE could you name ALL of these items so they can be returned to your child's peg if they are found elsewhere in the building!

**Spare clothes**- Please can you make sure your child has a change of clothes in their bag, including socks.

**Christmas 2019-** Although it is a little while away, just a polite reminder that nursery will be closing at 4pm on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December) and will be closed on the bank holidays over Christmas, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. If your child is going to be absent from nursery at any point over the Christmas period, please could you let Joanne know, so the catering can be altered accordingly. Many thanks.

Kate and Joanne

## Ladybirds

Ladybirds have all settled really well in our new room. We are very much enjoying our new space. We have had lots of our babies learning to walk and they are exploring the undercover garden more now. The babies have had lots of messy fun exploring coloured spaghetti, jelly, crazy foam and paint. We have enjoyed lots of walks in the local environment- going to see the animals in our paddocks and observing the changing season.

We have also enjoyed lots of singing and dancing and the babies now join in with 'Wind the Bobbin up' and 'If you're Happy and you Know it'. We are sure if you sing these at home too you will be very impressed!

Over the next two months we will be doing lots of activities relating to Winter and Christmas. This will include messy play, baking, craft, sensory activities, singing, dancing and storytime, to name but a few. We will be using percussion instruments to sing and dance along to some jolly Christmas music. We will also be making lots of surprises for you to enjoy!

Emily, Lorraine, Rebecca, Sallie and Julia H

### **Bumblebees**

Over the last two months we have been doing lots of Autumn activities, exploring various Autumn treasure, collected by the children and staff. Through this we have incorporated maths activities and we are developing our counting skills. The children have experimented making sounds using percussion instruments and singing along to rhymes with Autumn themes. October saw us celebrate Diwali, the Indian festival of light. We all had great fun dressing up, making chocolate burfi sweets, dancing to Indian music, exploring brightly coloured glittery play dough and listening to a story about Diwali from Mona. Halloween offered an opportunity for all the children to participate in sensory activities, carving pumpkins, making pumpkin faces, spider painting, making and tasting Halloween apples, going on a spooky Halloween hunt and enjoying a party. The children's costumes were great! Thank you for your support.

During November and December we will be exploring and celebrating various events, such as Bonfire Night, Children in Need and Nursery Rhyme week. Rhymes, songs and stories highlight the importance of rhyme and rhythm in children's language and literacy development, so continuing this at home would be really helpful.

In December we will do lots of Winter and Christmas activities as well as celebrate Eid. The children love singing songs and listening to favourite stories. They love to hear the same stories repeatedly which helps to develop their listening and recall skills as well as their communication and language skills. With this in mind we would please ask that parents read stories at home. It is part of a good bedtime routine and teaches skills at the same time. Remember to talk about the things they see and hear. You may be surprised at what your child can tell you!

**Connie, Bev, Mona and Jess**

### **Grasshoppers**

The Grasshoppers have had a very busy and fun half term: the new children into the preschool building have settled well and we have all enjoyed getting to know each other and making new friends! We first began with the topic 'All about Me' and liked creating our self portraits to create a portrait gallery. We have also enjoyed learning about autumn; going on lots of autumn walks and collecting natural objects, exploring autumnal colours and finding out about hedgehogs. This led onto learning about harvest and farms, where we have enjoyed creating our very own scarecrow and joining in with games such as musical scarecrows and singing the song 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'.

We have also covered Diwali: Mona taught us some amazing dance moves and we enjoyed dressing up in sparkly costumes and sampling tasty (but spicy) Indian snacks. The half term has ended with celebrating Halloween and having a yummy Halloween tea party in our fancy dress costumes! We have made lots of spooky crafts this week, one of our favourites was our spiders where we practised threading and counting their eight legs. We have also engaged in lots of sensory play including frozen jelly gloves and playing with 'pumpkin guts' and seeds!

Our next topic will be bonfire and fireworks, where we plan to learn about light and dark, different colours and do some fun science experiments. We will also cover Remembrance Day and make our very own beautiful poppy flowers and Children In Need where we will do a special challenge each day! Following this, our next big topic will be introducing the season of winter and begin the Christmas preparations, including our nativity! We have lots of winter stories to read including 'Say Hello to the Snowy Animals' and 'Fearne's First Winter' and will be singing lots of different Christmas songs including the favourites 'Jingle Bells' and 'Rudolph the red nosed reindeer'.

The Grasshoppers have really enjoyed creating story maps for our book of the week and we will continue to do these each week. If you have a book at home that links to our topic that could be our book of the week please send it in as the children love sharing their books from home. Similarly, if your child has something relating to our topic they can bring it in for show and tell ☺

We have enjoyed leaning some early phonics skills through singing phonics, action songs, musical instrument activities and various other listening games. With these activities we are learning to differentiate between different sounds, and are beginning to pick out the sounds at the beginnings of words. At home you can help us practice these skills with lots of singing (change it by singing in different voices and adjusting speed and or volume), and also identifying noises in the environment (whilst on walks, trips to the supermarkets etc.)

**Charlotte, Daria and Linda.**

### **Session times and charges**

Please ensure your child is picked up before the end of their session time, so staff have time to give detailed feedback about your child's day. If you arrive after 5.50pm the feedback about your child will be less detailed than we would like.

The staff work shifts according to the ratio needs of the nursery. If you are late picking up you will be charged as per your terms and conditions, which is £15 per 15 minutes, or part of.

If you need to upgrade your child's day on occasions please speak to Joanne or Rosie prior to the day in question, who will ensure enough staff are on duty to maintain our ratios.

Please be mindful of the fact that the nursery closes at 6pm, which means the nursery should be vacated by that time.

**Thank you for your support**

## Dragonflies

Well, that has been a busy few months! We have enjoyed welcoming lots of new faces into our room, some completely new to Inn Farm, and a few more have joined us from Bumblebees. We have enjoyed getting to know each other, and sharing with others what makes us special. As part of this, we also enjoyed making some paper plate faces- please look at them on our board and see if you can guess which one I am!

With all the lovely changes outside happening we enjoyed a topic on Autumn. We enjoyed going on a walk to the forest to collect leaves, twigs and other Autumn bits, which we explored in a tuff tray. Some of the leaves were used to make some fantastic leaf crowns and leaf people. We also made the most of all the lovely blackberries around us. Whilst picking the blackberries we practiced using a pincer grip (a fab skill which helps develop our finger muscles for writing). With these blackberries we made paint and a rather yummy crumble.

This led on to a topic on Harvest. We enjoyed learning about tractors and what wheat is used for. Thank you to Oscar for bringing in some fantastic pictures of his daddy's tractor (which he got to ride too!) We enjoyed using a pestle and mortar to grind up some wheat, we learnt that you need a lot of wheat to make a loaf of bread! At the end of the week we made our very own bread, in hedgehog form! We enjoyed learning a song about a combine harvester- see if I can still sing it to you!

We have just enjoyed a topic on farms, as our interest in harvest and tractors continued. We have enjoyed pretending to be shop keepers in our role play area, which we turned into a farm shop. We even had real fruit and vegetables to buy and sell! We also enjoyed exploring lots of different tuff trays with farm animals and food in, creating some lovely stories to tell alongside our explorations.

You may have seen some scarecrows in the local villages. We have decided to join in, and made Gavin the scarecrow- we hope you like him! Alongside this we have enjoyed reading 'The Scarecrow's wedding', a lovely story about finding items for a wedding, which almost ends up in flames!

We enjoyed learning about Diwali. We listened to the story of Rama and Sita, dressed up, created some diva lamps and made some Rangoli patterns. We also had lots of fun celebrating Halloween through songs such as 'dem bones', carving pumpkins, and having lots of sensory fun with the innards of pumpkin, witches potions and gloop.

Throughout all these topics we continue to enjoy lots of books. Our lovely adults regularly visit the library to get us books on these topics (plus lots of others too!). We have a book of the week, which we read every day; creating story maps and other activities based on these books. If you have any books you would like to share with us, please feel free to bring them in as we love to read new books.

Our topic is dependant of children's interests so let's see what will be learning about the next few weeks. However there are lots of cultural celebrations over the next few weeks, such as fireworks night, Remembrance Day, Eid and of course CHRISTMAS!!! Please bring in any photos or memorabilia from these celebrations, so children can talk about them in show and tell time. Within these celebrations we will be using stories to learn about why we celebrate these special times, learning some new songs, and will create a variety of crafts such as poppies and fireworks pictures. Over the next few weeks we will also be practising the infamous nativity!! This year it will be called 'Shine Star Shine'. We shall let you know more details shortly, and I'm sure the children will soon start singing the songs!

We have enjoyed leaning some early phonics skills through singing phonics, action songs, musical instrument activities and various other listening games. With these activities we are learning to differentiate between different sounds, and are beginning to pick out the sounds at the beginnings of words. At home you can help us practice these skills with lots of singing (change it by singing in different voices and adjusting speed and or volume), and also identifying noises in the environment (whilst on walks, trips to the supermarkets etc.)

Just a reminder, as the weather is getting colder (and wetter!), please bring in warm coats, hats, gloves and scarves.

**Please can they all be named.** Also please bring changes of clothes (including socks) in case we get wet! Also, please take your water bottle home to clean every night, and ensure it is named as several children have the same type!

Rosie, Julie and Julia P