

February 2018



Children's Mental Health Week is between 5th and 11th February this year and the theme is 'Being Ourselves'. We will be talking to the children about what is similar and what is different about each other and what makes them special. This will also link nicely with talking about the Special Ladies in the children's lives as we approach Mothering Sunday in March.

We would like to invite any special ladies... Mums, Grandmas, Great Grandmas, Grannies, Nanas, Great Nanas and Aunties to come and join us for a **stay and play session on Friday 9th March at 10am or 2pm**. Please sign up (list on office door) before Wednesday 7th March so that we can arrange refreshments.

Working with partners

In preparation for World Book Day on 1st March, we will be having a **Scholastic book fair** in school from **Monday 5th - Friday 9th February** at the beginning and end of each session. Please find a £1 off voucher attached to this newsletter - it can be redeemed against any book priced £2.99 upwards. If anyone of you would like to help us out with 'manning' the stall, please let us know at the office.

Walk to School: the children are enjoying talking about their journeys to school (whether it be walking, biking or scooting) and we are collecting lots of stickers on the poster.

Easy Peasy App: Thank you very much to those of you that are finding the time to have a go at some of the suggested activities. It is amazing just how much the children can benefit from such a simple, short focused activity. Do let us know your thoughts - all feedback is much appreciated.

The children have been really interested in 'Space' over the last few weeks and have loved learning more. We were delighted to receive resources from **The Locomotion Museum at Shildon** including some giant posters and space food. We also loved the photos and information that some of you sent us when your families visited the exhibition... thank you.



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays this month. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Hailie-Marie, Wade, Leon, John-Joe, Laila G, and Jacob as well as Miss Thompson and Mrs Metcalfe! We hope you all have a lovely time celebrating.

#ShareAStory

Reading with your child for just 10 minutes a day is a great opportunity to spend quality time together and promote well-being. More importantly, it has a vital impact on a child's outcomes in life.

This year **WORLD BOOK DAY** is on **Thursday 1st March**. Our 3 and 4 year olds will be visiting Woodhouse Close library from 11-11.30am and 2.45-3.15pm. (more information to follow)

We would also like to collect as many selfies of the children sharing a book reading as we can... the wackier and funnier the better! Please email them at any time to acletclose@durhamlearning.net.

We will have prizes for all children/families that take part ☺

There are some free downloadable audiobooks available at worldbookday.com/worldofstories until 25th March. Some of the children's favourites are there!

January always seems a long month to stretch the family budget!
On behalf of staff and children we would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your donations to school fund. This month you have bought:

- Daily healthy snacks
- Cushions and a rug for the book area in our 2s room
- Ingredients to make gluten free playdough
- Soil to replenish our outdoor mud-kitchen



Please remember to tick your child's name - the folder is next to the Mickey Mouse money box

Chinese New Year...

This year Chinese New Year falls on 16th February, therefore the children will be learning about the celebration after half-term. They will be watching a short video clip about traditions and will 'paint' a blossom picture, be creative with red, gold and black paper, play in the Chinese restaurant and have the opportunity to taste Chinese foods including stir fry, noodles, bean sprouts, spring rolls and prawn crackers. If you have any resources we can use e.g. chopsticks, menus etc. please do bring them in for the children to play with!

Your child's safety is very important to us... please avoid driving down the approach to the school as this puts other children and parents at risk.

Please also be mindful of our neighbours.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Lingotots

The children really enjoyed their Spanish session with Joanna. Unfortunately, we didn't have a big enough response from families to be able to go ahead with an after school club; however, we are in the process of applying for a grant that would enable free sessions. We will keep you informed.

Safeguarding

Thank you for your understanding regarding 'picking up' times. We endeavour to open the doors promptly at 11.25am, 2.55pm and 3.25pm and minimise other times the door is opened so that we can maintain our high safeguarding standards.

We also ask you to finish mobile phone conversations before entering the Nursery - we are always willing to supervise the children for an extra minute or two if needed.

Dates for your diary

- Mon 5th - Fri 9th Feb: Scholastic book fair
- Fri 9th Feb: Break up for half term holiday (Have fun!)
- Mon 19th Feb: Children return to Nursery
- Thurs 1st March: 3 & 4 year olds visit to Woodhouse Close Library for World Book Day
- Fri 9th March: 'Special Ladies day' - please sign up

GOVERNOR NEWS...

Safer Internet Day is on 6th February this year and the theme is 'Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you'. We support and promote safe and responsible use of technology for young people. More information is available at: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-3-11s>

There are still some copies of the publication 'Digital Parenting' available in the Nursery entrance - please help yourself.

In January, Governors have been working with Mrs Jenkins on the paperwork that must be completed every financial year as well as the 'Supporting children with Special Educational Needs' Policy.