

MAY 2017



We hope you all had a lovely Easter break!

A big thank you to everyone who came to our Easter stay and play - if you took part and didn't complete an evaluation - please collect one from the office - we endeavour to make improvements to our practice wherever we can. We are over the moon with the feedback we did get... Thank you very much!

The Summer Term is probably the busiest in the school calendar with lots of lovely opportunities for the children...

Hall Hill Farm - 10th May

On 10th May, our 3 and 4 year olds will be visiting Hall Hill Farm. As part of the children's 'follow up' work we hope to hatch our very own ducklings. We are awaiting a date confirmation from Krafty Kritters from Darlington who are a reputable company who will ensure the ducklings go to a good farm when they are older. This experience will allow for lots of new learning opportunities for children and staff!

Harry's Farm - Date to be confirmed

Our 2 year old children will visit Harry's Farm in Ramshaw, just up the road. It is a much smaller farm and not so far for our youngest children to travel. All the necessary paperwork is currently being completed - we will confirm a date as soon as we can.

Zoo Lab - Wednesday 3rd May

Zoo Lab visited us on 3rd May... the children loved holding all the different animals... we have lots of photos and some fabulous art work up on the wall - do pop in and see them.

Dads and Lads/Dads and Lasses - Friday 16th June

Our next stay and play will be for our Dads, Step-Dads, Grandads and Uncles. It will be a session of constructing/building and will take place at 10.30am and 2pm. Please sign up on the office door!

Swimming - Wednesdays

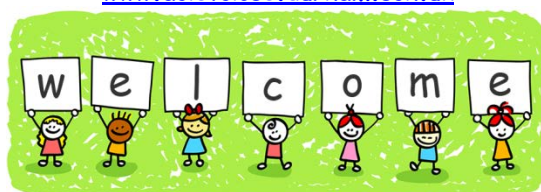
The children loved their first session of swimming. We will continue to evaluate these sessions to ensure the children get the best outcomes from the sessions. Unfortunately, we did have a 'mix up' on our first week with the changing rooms resulting in the morning children being very late back to Nursery. Thank you for your patience - this issue has now been resolved. Parents of girls - apparently the swimming baths sell the hats cheaper if you explain it is for school lessons - certainly worth a try as it is one of their requirements.

Nursery School leavers 2017

This year we will be saying goodbye to 31 children who will start Reception class in primary school in September! Our mini graduation will take place on the morning and afternoon of **Wednesday 19th July**; timings to be confirmed.

We work very closely with our partner schools to promote smooth transitions for the children. Some Primary schools have been in contact/already visited to see the children play and to talk to staff to find out about their attainment and progress.

Mrs Staines will be holding a parent/carer workshop at 9.10am and 12.40pm on Tuesday 6th June.



A very warm welcome to Jaxon, Wade, Evan who will be joining our main nursery for 3 & 4 year olds and Robyn who is joining our 2 year olds. Well done to Lexi, Laila and Caleb who have now moved up to our main nursery.



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays this month. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Izabella, Oliver D and Jack O, who will all be 4 years old as well as Hallie, Alexis and Daniel who will be 3 years old.

On behalf of staff and children, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your donations to school fund last month. As well as providing the children's daily healthy snacks, you paid for Zoo Lab to come and visit us and subsidised the trip to Hall Hill Farm. We also bought some resources for our camping/den area and more soil for the mud kitchen! Please can you help us to keep records for auditing purposes by ticking your child's name on the sheet? (Mickey Mouse money box black folder in main nursery for 3 & 4 year olds and tin and sheet for 2 year olds)

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. (We have an agreement in place for you to use the Aclet Public House car park)

Thank you for your continuing support.

LOST PROPERTY...We have some items of lost property in our box in the office. Please ask if you would like to have a look.

30 hours free funding for eligible families... from September 2017 working parents of 3 and 4 year olds will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare/education per week.

I have sent letters out to current families that responded to our 'demand survey'. If you think you may be eligible, please pop in for more details or log on to: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk The main criteria is that both parents are working (or sole parent in one parent families) and earning the equivalent of approximately £116 per week.

Dates for your diary...

- Hall Hill Farm for 3 & 4 year olds on **Weds 10th May**.
- We break up for half term on **Fri 26th May**. We return to school on **Mon 5th June**.
- **Nursery will be closed to children for polling day on Thurs 8th June.**
- Our stay and play for Dads, Stepdads Grandads and Uncles will be on **Fri 16th June**; timings to be confirmed.
- Our mini graduation for July 17 Nursery School leavers will be on the morning and afternoon of **Weds 19th July**.
- School breaks up for Summer on **Thurs 20th July** (Training day on **Fri 21st**) we return on **Tues 5th Sept.**

GOVERNOR NEWS...

Last month Mrs Courtney supported our Easter Stay and Play session.

In May Mrs Courtney and Mrs Dransfield will be supporting our trip to Hall Hill Farm.

In May Mrs Jago will be working with Mrs Jenkins on safeguarding and the school website.

Governors are delighted to inform parents that Mrs Buttle, our office administrator, will be returning to work on phased return in June after a long term sickness absence. We have really missed her. Thank you for your patience with all things office wise!