

NOVEMBER 2017



Welcome to our November newsletter...

We hope you have all had a lovely half term break; it is hard to believe that we have already completed our first half term of the academic year. The next half term promises to be a very busy and exciting time with lots of opportunities and experiences for the children; we will also be inviting you to meet with staff to find out more about your child's achievements and progress at Nursery.

*Spooky Stay and Play... it was lovely to see so many of you; we hope you enjoyed joining in with all the activities with your children. We are very grateful to **Alfie's Mum** who helped us to get some free pumpkins and spooky cupcakes for the morning visitors from **Sainsbury's** and also to **Gregory's Bakers and Delicatessen** in Bishop Auckland, who donated pies, quiches and cakes for the afternoon visitors. We were very impressed with everyone's carving skills... everyone has such big muscles now!*

Please could you take a few minutes to give us some feedback? Please complete an evaluation form at your earliest convenience and leave it in the box in our main reception area. Much appreciated ☺



We would like to wish a **Happy Birthday** to Grayson, Charlie, Ruby S and Joshua who are all celebrating their 4th birthdays in November and Lucas who is turning 3. We hope you all have a lovely time!

Supporting charities...

*We have received a thank you poster from **Macmillan Cancer Support** for raising £111.30 raised during our bake off week. Children and staff had a great time. Thank you for supporting us too!*

We appreciate that budgets are tight, particularly at this time of year on the run up to Christmas. If you can spare a few pennies this month we will be supporting 2 charities...

***The Royal British Legion** - we have a box full of poppies and other merchandise in the office. They are happy to take old pound coins so look down the back of your sofas and in your purses and handbags and donate them to this fabulous cause.*

***Children in Need** - During the week commencing **Monday 13th November** we will collect any loose change and on **Friday 17th November** we will face paint the children's cheeks for a donation of 50p.*

Ready, Sett, Read project

The children are really enjoying the focus books and all the activities to go with them. We are delighted to learn that some of you have been buying/borrowing the books and we are loving the emails some of you are sending us... keep them coming! acletclose@durhamlearning.net

The next books are: *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* (Judith Kerr), *Peace at Last* (Jill Murphy), *Elephant and The Bad Baby* (Elfrida Vipoint) and *How To Catch Santa* (Jean Reagan)



Our children who attended the production of 'A Square World' at Bishop Auckland Town Hall really did us proud. They enjoyed their adventure on the bus, loved the story and creative activity and then had fun playing in Auckland Castle grounds afterwards. Well done everyone! ☺

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On behalf of staff and children, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your voluntary donations to school fund. You have paid for the children's daily healthy snacks as well as Halloween/Autumn enhancements. Please remember to mark your donation off in the folder (to help us with auditing) next to the Mickey Mouse money box or ask us to if you are in a hurry.

School uniform...

is optional and available from Cre8tive (12 Peel Street, Bishop Auckland. Tel: 664097). You can call in the shop at your own convenience throughout the year. Business cards are available from the office. Our school colours are red or navy blue.

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 would also appreciate it if you could be mindful about our neighbours when parking.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Dates for your diary

- **Weeks commencing 6th and 13th November:** Parent consultations with key workers.
- **We have been invited to sing at Auckland Castle Christmas Fayre at 1.45pm on Friday 17th November.** Please see separate letter for information. Nursery will not be open to children that afternoon as all staff will be attending and children will need to be collected from there. Do come and see us! 😊
- The children's last swimming lessons for the year will take place on **Wednesday 6th December** and will restart on **Wednesday 10th January**.
- **Our Christmas themed Stay and Play will take place on the afternoon of Monday 11th December and morning of Friday 15th December, timings to be confirmed.**
- Our Nursery Nativity will be on **Tuesday 12th December** (not Wednesday 13th) at 11am. We are awaiting confirmation but it may be at Woodhouse Close Church. More details to follow.
- **Our trip to see Santa at Beamish Museum will take place on Wednesday 20th December.**
- Our Nursery Christmas party will be on the morning of **Thursday 21st December** at Bamboozles soft play. More details to follow.
- **We break up on Thursday 21st December (staff training day on Friday 22nd December). We return on Monday 8th January.**

GOVERNOR NEWS...

Refurbishment of the Nursery has continued with a make-over on the adult and children's sinks in the children's bathrooms and some more wooden panelling in our key worker spaces.

We were delighted to be nominated by one our families and then chosen to have a mini project completed by the **Prince's Trust**. (A brilliant charity that believes every young person should have the chance to succeed and work with young people to develop their skills). During half term the volunteers dug out overgrown bushes, trimmed shrubs, swept thousands of leaves, removed rubbish and painted some of our fencing.

In October Mrs Courtney and Mrs Toole attended our Spooky Stay and Play and Mrs Jago will be working with Mrs Jenkins this month to ensure all Safeguarding requirements are in place.

We continue to update our Nursery website and now have some lovely photos on there. Please do give us some feedback about what would be useful to you.

Please find attached a magazine called 'Digital Parenting'. It contains expert advice to help you to help your children to develop the skills and knowledge they need to use the online world safely and with confidence. We hope you find it useful.

**Please can you ensure that your child's name is in all of their belongings including swimming kit?
Thank you 😊**