

February 2020



Children's Mental Health Week is between 3rd and 9th February this year and the theme is 'Finding your brave'. We will be watching 'The Colourful Coat' and reading story books about being brave. There is a link to the short video on our Nursery Facebook page.

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in teaching your child or young person how to manage their feelings. More information is available here:
<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/>

Our new children have settled well in to Nursery life and a very warm welcome to Billie-Jo and family too. ☺

It is that time of year when we like to treat our special ladies! 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 (and a cuppa and a cake) on Tuesday 17th March from 1pm-2.30pm or Thursday 19th March from 10am - 11.30am.** Please sign up (list on office door) before Friday 13th March so that we can arrange refreshments.

Working with partners and the community

Last month some of our older children really enjoyed working with Laura from **Mini-first aid** - did you see us in the Northern Echo?

We also has great fun working with Alice from **OASES** to plant sapling trees in our Secret Garden - this is great legacy for us for lots of future children to enjoy!

Now that our new children are settled we will be starting to go out and about in the local community.

Our children accessing swimming lessons at **Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre** continue to make amazing progress... we are so proud!

In March some of our older children will ride on the bus to Bishop Auckland to pick up our free books from **WH Smith** using our World Book Day tokens.

Our Special Ladies are invited to our stay and play sessions, here at Nursery on Tuesday 17th March and Thursday 19th March.



The following children will be celebrating their birthdays this month. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Marni-Rae, Ava, Harry G, Bailey and Riley as well as Mrs Metcalfe!
We hope you all have a lovely time celebrating.

Absence/illness...

Over the last few weeks, lots of children and families have been hit with winter bugs and infections as well as some cases of chicken pox. We follow **Public Health Agency guidance** to maintain the highest hygiene standards and help to minimise the spread of infection to the other children and families.

If your child is ill, please can you give us a quick call to let us know? This is for 2 reasons, the first is so that we don't worry about your child and the second is that if we have lots of children off for a particular reason, we can seek additional advice/latest guidance from the Public Health Agency.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

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
- Playdough ingredients
- Creative 'bits and bobs' including shaving foam and Valentine/heart resources
- Taster foods to celebrate Chinese New Year



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

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.

Coats, bags and belongings...

We have invested in some additional trolleys for the children's coats and bags - we hope things appear less crowded now. Please make sure all of your children's belongings are named. On the odd occasion, children will take things home by mistake - if they are named, we are more likely to be able to return them to the right child. We also ask parents and carers of our 2 year olds to provide a bag with a spare set of clothes. Thank you ☺

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, if needed.

Dates for your diary...

- **Friday 14th February:** School breaks up for half term
- **Monday 24th February:** School reopens after half term
- **Thursday 5th March:** World Book Day
- **Monday 9th March onwards:** Parent/Carer consultations - an opportunity to meet with your child's key worker to find out about their progress
- **Monday 23rd March: Morning:** Zoo Lab in school
- **Friday 3rd April:** School breaks up for Easter break

- **Monday 20th April:** School reopens after Easter
- **Friday 8th May:** School closed - Bank Holiday
- **Friday 22nd May:** Schools breaks up for half term
- **Monday 1st June:** School reopens
- **Friday 17th July:** School closes for Summer break

GOVERNOR NEWS...

Governors and staff are delighted to officially welcome Mrs Steggle to our team. Her official days will be Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and she is able to work Mondays and Tuesdays when staff are out of school on training and when we have extra children in school.

Safer Internet Day is on 11th February this year and the theme is 'Together for a better internet'. We support and promote safe and responsible use of technology for young people.

More information is available at:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2020>

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, which is now on our school website.