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December 2 2022

Newsletter No 8 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

Just a short newsletter to say a huge thank you for all the support this term. Another big thank you for the kind messages and gifts sent in.



I would also like to thank the staff for their continued dedication and hard work. We have had We continue to work hard on our developments, and I am happy to report we have again met all the milestones. Happy holidays.

2 year old singing

On Friday 9th December our very youngest children held their Christmas singing event with their grown ups. The children were a little thrown at the start by the change of routine but coped really well with joining in the actions- they particularly enjoyed playing the bottle shakers they had made whilst singing jingle bells. A huge well done to the children and a huge thank you for the support from all the grown ups who came.



Jolly Jumper day for Luton and Dunstable Hospital

How lovely to see children in the festive spirit with Christmas outfits, jumpers and other accessories. Thank you to those people who donated to Luton and Dunstable Hospital. Staff also raised money as they donated and wrote on one Christmas card rather than sending individual cards. We raised £61.10



Library Prize Draw

The children who have borrowed a book from the Nursery library this year were automatically entered into a prize draw, with one prize for each class. Congratulations to the winners who each won a new book of the traditional Christmas song, the '12 days of Christmas'. Names are displayed at the entrance to school.



Raffle

Thank you to staff who donated the prizes for two lovely hampers, as well as other gift prizes and to Mrs Ghent, an old staff member for donating the first prize. Well done to all the winners whose names are displayed in the entrance hall. We raised a grand total of £155.57 between the raffle and Christmas stall. Thank you for your kind generosity. All proceeds will be used to buy new books to reinforce our vocabulary themes.



Christmas Party

What a wonderful day! Children enjoyed Christmas crafts in one class, party songs and dancing in another class and all enjoyed party food supplied by the Nursery in another class. The children all sat together singing some Christmas songs when Father Christmas visited!



The children were able to ask him a question or tell him something. One child asked for a toy, one asked 'How he got stuck in the chimney?' and another said 'Father Christmas, I love you.' Father Christmas brought each class a small gift and each child a gift too. The children were then able to give him a gift and card to go underneath his Christmas tree. We listened to the sleigh bells as Father Christmas left. There is a photo of Santa in the gallery. Pictures from the party will be displayed in the library area.

Christmas Playdough

Miss Muller has created a child's recipe for Christmas play dough which she used with some of the children. We thought you might all like to use it, so please see the recipe attached.



Home Learning Over Christmas

Penguin Writing Tray: This activity promotes fine motor skills and letter recognition.



What you need:

- Tray/large bowl
- Sugar
- Letters e.g. your child's name (only use capital letters for the first letter of their name)

What to do:

Fill a tray with sugar, and encourage your child to use a penguin, or another toy to make marks, draw pictures and create letters in the sugar. They could even use their fingers.

Write some letters on pieces of paper and see if they can copy. You can encourage them to try their name.

Winter Ice Play: This activity promotes language skills as the children will be talking about what they can see and feel. It also promotes understanding of the world, enabling children to understand changes of state.

What you need:

- Water
- Jugs
- Containers
- Food colouring
- Toy animals
- Winter animals
- Measuring cups



What to do:

Fill containers with ice and put in the freezer overnight. You could add blue food colouring if you wish to do so. Toy animals are also a great addition to ice. Once frozen, place the ice into a large container, and allow your child to explore. Add cups, measuring spoons and turkey basters if you have them, so your child can explore as the ice changes from a solid to a liquid.

Ice painting: This activity is great for exploring colour and different ways of painting and creating marks on paper. You can talk to your child about the different colours they are using, and why the ice is melting.

What you need:

- Ice cube tray
- Lolly sticks
- Paint
- Paper



What to do:

Mix paint with water and fill up some ice cube trays. Place a lolly stick into each cube. Place the trays into the freezer overnight. Your child can then create their own lovely picture as the ice melts on the paper.

Snowball Counting: This activity promotes number recognition along with counting. Children will be developing their fine motor skills when picking up the snowballs with tongs.

What you need:

- Cotton balls
- Cups
- Numbers to stick onto cups
- Tongs



What to do:

Number some cups, then encourage your child to use the tongs/tweezers to pick up the snowballs and place the correct number onto the cup.

Gingerbread Cookies: This recipe supports hand hygiene and talking about why we need to wash our hands before touching food. This is a great way to get children to develop their gross motor skills using large movements when mixing their ingredients together. Baking also supports children understanding about changes of state. Children also develop Maths skills as they help measure ingredients.

You will need:

- 350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for rolling out
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 125g/4½oz butter
- 175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
- 1 free-range egg
- 4 tbsp golden syrup
- Icing/ sprinkles etc. to decorate



What to do:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
2. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.
3. Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor.
4. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs.
5. Stir in the sugar.
6. Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together.
7. Tip the dough out, knead briefly until smooth, wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.
8. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on a lightly floured surface.
9. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them.
10. Bake for 12–15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling.
11. When cooled decorate with icing and cake decorations, if using.

Gingerbread Playdough Recipe: This is an activity for developing motor skills, storytelling and being creative.

You will need:

- 2 cups plain flour (all purpose)
- 1/2 cup salt
- 3 tablespoons any oil
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 cup of boiling water (added gradually)
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon



What to do:

Mix all the dry ingredients into a bowl. Add the oil. Stir in the boiling water and allow to cool briefly. Knead it into a workable dough on a floured surface using your hands. After a few minutes it should be soft, smooth and none should come off on your fingers. If it's still sticky then add more flour, one tablespoon at a time until it's just right!

Add gingerbread men cookie cutters and rolling pins and pretend to make real gingerbread men and “bake” them in a pretend oven. Use buttons, beads and googly eyes to add features to the gingerbread men. **Read** story of ‘**The Gingerbread Man**’ and retell the story as you play. Say the repeated refrain “Run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me, I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

Snow Cloud Dough: This activity promotes motor skills and exploring malleable materials.

You will need:

4 cups of cornflour

1 cup of oil. (Baby oil, but if you need a taste safe dough, use vegetable oil)

What to do:

Combine the ingredients in a bowl and ask your child to help you stir, stir, stir until you create a crumbly-textured dough. Cloud dough is different to a traditional play dough recipe. It's lighter, more crumbly, softer and a great sensory experience.

It's a wonderful work out for fine motor skills and hand strength. You can squeeze it together in your fist and it will hold its shape. Then use fingertips to make it all crumbly again. You can also smooth it out to get a soft, flat surface. You could add in some twigs and make snowmen.



Adult Support for Maths

Please see the attached Multiply – Course Information Booklet on Maths Skills for Everyday Life Money Management Money and Food



Crisis

If you are in crisis and need support with fuel debt, replacement white goods, food, bedding or winter clothing please speak to Mrs Collins.



Key Dates this Term

Friday 16th December- Last Day of Term

Tuesday 3rd January- INSET day (school closed for children)

Wednesday 4th January- Term starts for children