

February 2014

2014



NEWSLETTER

Activities / Themes

This month the children are focusing on:-

Celebrations:-

Chinese New Year & Valentines Day

The learning potential is to:-

'Use our senses to explore what we smell, touch, taste in everyday life'

Important Notice

Amendment to holiday list:-

Playschool will close at normal time on Friday 2nd May and reopen on Tuesday 6th May

Dates for your diary:

Visit from Dentist - Thursday 20th February

Trip to Causeway Hospital - Wed 26th February & Thurs 27th February

Parent Interviews for preschool children - 3rd, 4th & 5th February

Parent Interviews for the younger children - list will be displayed in hall, please select suitable day and time.

Settling in reports for new starts (January) - 24th March
(If any parents have concerns / queries, please speak to a member of staff at the end of the session)

Owl Visit

We all enjoyed the visit from the 'owl man' at the end of the month, the children had a great time learning about and touching some of the animals he brought along such as owls, a bearded dragon, a snake and a huge beetle! It has to be said some (i.e. the children), were much braver than others (i.e. the parents)!!!

Entrance Arrangements

Our staff and committee would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the confusion about the entrance / exit arrangements last month.

Unfortunately our caretaker will no longer be present in the Peter Thompson Hall during playgroup hours. We will continue to use the top door for entrance / exit and no other users will be entering the building during playgroup sessions. Playgroup staff will secure the building at 9.15am each morning.

For this reason, and also for the children to benefit more from the welcome / discussion time each morning before 'play' begins, can parents please make every effort to have the children at playgroup for 9am sharp.

Thank you all for your co-operation on this matter.

Media Initiative for Children

Jenny was introduced last month, we watched a DVD and discussed kind and hurtful behaviours and how they make us feel, reinforcing the message 'if someone makes you feel sad, tell an adult.'

This month we will introduce Kim in line with Chinese New Year. Kim will share with the kids her Chinese culture, celebrations and foods.

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



Last Months Recap...

Last month the children listened to familiar fairy tales then used their imaginations to retell, act out stories (using props) and took on various roles.

Play was also extended by introducing porridge and water which has led to this month's focus on smell and exploring what happens when things are mixed together - 'What's that smell?' & 'I need more water, mine is too lumpy.'

Children have been using their imaginations to make 3D models - we have straw houses, castles and now a dragon which you can see displayed in the top room.

These activities have involved team work, problem solving & concentration skills along with - 'what do I need?' & 'how do I do that?'

We finished the month by having a Royal Ball introducing the children to dancing to music followed by some lovely buns which we created and decorated.



Lending Library

Taking into account parent's views, we have decided that children can keep their library book for a full week i.e. Friday - Friday.

Pre-pre schoolers - If your child does not receive a library book, please speak to a member of staff at the end of the session. They can also have their book for 1 week.



Fundraising Update

Just to let you know the final total raised from the Christmas card sales was £813 00
Thanks again to all who bought and helped with selling these cards.



Garden

Our playschool garden is now ready for use again, a new fence has been erected in compliance with the social services guidelines and recommendations.

Our shed got destroyed during the bad weather but we are very pleased to now have a new one in it's place.
Please ensure to send your child's coat and hat each day so that we may go outside and enjoy our beautiful garden.



Fee Payments

Can you please ensure that all fees are paid promptly on the 10th of each month as this assists the treasurer in completing the banking and reporting.

If you are experiencing difficulties in making payments then please do not hesitate to discuss the situation with Fiona. We assure you that all information will be dealt with confidentially.



Telephone Number 028 7084 8265

Available Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 1.30pm and Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm