

Dear Families,

Welcome to February's newsletter.



The new year got off to a very busy start. During January we have been focussing on staying healthy both physically and emotionally. The children have also been exploring vegetables, fruits, breads and other carbohydrate groups to help them recognise foods for health and vitality.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us on our Open Evening. I do hope you were able to see how your child spends his/her time here with us and how much fun they can have on a typical day.

Annual fee increases will take place from 1st April 2018 and Sarah will be working hard to calculate your new fees during February. Fees will increase by 3% (on average 19p per hour) and the Meals & Consumables Charge for Grant funded children will increase by 4p per hour. This year we will be sending the new Fee Information to you by email. If you haven't received your email by 28th February, please let me know. Ideally we would like all our families to pay by direct debit. Please pick up a direct debit form from me next time you are in the Nursery.

Finally, we want our children to enjoy outdoor play and experiences whatever the weather. Please bring them in with appropriate clothing for the 'Great British weather'. To further support your child making the most of the outdoors, please may I ask you to bring in a pair of wellies/outdoor shoes and a pair of indoor shoes or slippers to change into. Outdoor shoes need to be suitable for walking, climbing and splashing in puddles whilst also keeping little feet warm (oversize or ill-fitting wellies can pose a hazard). Please remember too, to label all items of clothing, including footwear. Many thanks.

Best wishes

Catherine Clifton
Nursery Manager



Football Skills

Basingstoke Football Club youth coaches are keen to join Kindergarten and Transitions every week for a football skills session. This will focus on balance, spatial awareness, listening and attention as well as ball skills. If you are interested in your child joining in with this, please return your letter as soon as possible so we can get the ball rolling – no pun intended!



Dates for the Diary

- **Shrove Tuesday**
13th February
- **Valentines Day**
14th February
- **Chinese New Year**
16th February. (Year of the Dog)
- **Nursery Closed**
30th March & 2nd April

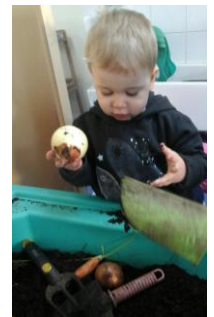
Babies

In January we welcomed lots of new families to the Baby Room and have had great fun making friends. We enjoyed exploring music and movement, having lots of fun singing along to the Boogie Mites CD and exploring the different sounds we can make by shaking various musical instruments. The Babies have also shown a keen interest in looking at reflections, both inside and out in the Garden, and naming body parts and so we shall be continuing this by looking at mirrors and shiny objects.



Toddlers

Throughout January Toddler Blue has focussed on exploring healthy fruit and vegetables and physical activity. The children were fascinated to dig up carrots and potatoes which the Team had buried in the garden for them to find. We also put lots of real food and containers in the role play area to help children make connections with their real life experiences. The children have been keeping active through music, movement activities and games which we will develop further this month. Toddlers downstairs have also been exploring different movements with their bodies. They have been painting with hands and feet to make different patterns and have loved exploring our obstacle course out in the garden, using the stepping stones, tyres and the bridge.



Transition

Transitions have started 2018 thinking about what keeps us healthy. The children have been exploring fruits and vegetables and investigating their seeds and what they taste like. We have also been focusing on physical and emotional development, with assault courses in the Garden and books about health, exercise and emotions. We are now opening the Yellow Dot Café as well as planting seeds to watch them grow.



Kindergarten

Children returned from the Christmas break talking about their New Year experiences. Our artwork in early January reflected the fireworks they had seen. From this we have also looked at light and colours, especially enjoying using torches. We have started our 'Out and About' trips with Matt and Carol from Yellow Dot Nature Nursery. The children enjoyed going to Salisbury Cathedral, looking at the vast height, spaces, shapes and patterns. We have also had a trial ball skills session. Following this, we have looked at healthy choices in regards to our food and activities and have prepared our own snacks and teas. We have also started to talk about our emotions; identifying them and discussing ways of coping with how we feel.

