

Dear Families,



Happy New Year! We look forward to starting this 2018 journey with you. I hope you all had a lovely break over Christmas. We can't wait to hear all about what the children have been up to over the festive period and would love any photos you may have to share on Tapestry! Christmas time in the Nursery is the most magical time of year and the Team and children have thoroughly enjoyed all the festive experiences they have had, from festive baking to Christmas card making and so much more! Although Christmas has been and gone for 2017, we will continue to revisit this over January so that the children can remember and talk about their own first hand experiences of the festive period.

Thank you for all of the gifts, cards and Christmas wishes we received from you before the break and we hope you liked your presents too!

A **very big thank you** to Kay, our Cook, for making Christmas lunch 5 times so that every child was able to enjoy roast turkey with all the trimmings.

We were bursting with pride during Kindergarten's Nativity Play; what a fantastic and energetic performance they showcased. My thanks to the Team for their hard work and special efforts. The children certainly showed us the spirit of Christmas. I'm sure you will all agree we have lots of little actors in the making!

Welcome to our new families who have joined us on their exciting Yellow Dot journey.

Winter is here and as it gets colder please provide labelled hats, gloves and scarves as well as a nice warm coat

Warm regards

*Maryanne Strickland*  
Nursery Manager

## Chatting with children at mealtimes

Effective communication is the basis for developing healthy and mutually rewarding child-to-child relationships and adult-to-child relationships. Mealtimes can be an important time to encourage communication. Think of mealtimes as a communication time, a time when you can converse with, nurture, and obtain feedback from children. Consider removing distractions around meal time and eat with the children.

When adults eat with children they can:

- Serve as role models by their food choices.
- Protect children from safety hazards such as cross-contamination and choking hazards.
- Encourage conversation at mealtimes.

## Dates for your diary

- **National Story Telling Week**  
27<sup>th</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- **Pancake Day**  
13<sup>th</sup> February
- **Valentines Day**  
14<sup>th</sup> February
- **Chinese New Year**  
16<sup>th</sup> February

## Babies

Over the past month the Babies have enjoyed exploring our Christmas sensory tray, especially the tinsel and the baubles. They have also enjoyed Christmas stamp painting and using glue and glitter to decorate their baubles. The Babies have been looking at Christmas books and singing Christmas songs. They also enjoyed seeing Father Christmas at the Library and listening to him read stories. The Babies have also enjoyed exploring their light up sensory tent.



## Toddlers

Over the past month we have been exploring all things Christmas! Toddlers went on a fantastic visit to see Santa's Reindeer at Garsons Garden Centre and even sat on a Christmas Train! Toddlers have been looking at the season of Winter where they have been exploring ice play, winter crafts, winter small world areas and lots of frosty wintery walks. The Toddler Team made a fantastic Winter/Christmas interest table where the Toddlers used their senses to explore the items available, a favourite has been cinnamon in little bags. Throughout December Toddlers were also lucky enough to have had a wonderful Christmas grotto in the room which caused excitement all around!



## Transition

Over the past month, Transition have been exploring all things to do with Christmas! The Transition Team made a Christmas exploration tray which included the Nativity set, which the children have been intrigued to explore. Transition have enjoyed listening to different Christmas stories to do with Nativities and have been down to watch Kindergarten's Nativity practice to link in with this interest. Throughout December, Transition have been able to make and create their own Christmas decorations to decorate the room, as well as taking a visit to the Post Office and making their very own postbox to post their cards through!



## Kindergarten

In Kindergarten during the past month we started practicing our Nativity, singing the songs and also using our costumes to dress up in exploring the characters in the story. The children also made some trips down to the St Martin in the Wood Church to take a look at their venue for the Christmas Nativity which provoked some interesting conversations. We have also been making Christmas cards and invitations for our Nativity which we delivered to the Parishioners of the Church. Kindergarten have also been busy with Christmas crafts making their own wrapping paper, and decorations.

