

## Dear Families,



Welcome to our October Newsletter. I'm delighted to be able to say that all our new children have really settled well and I hope that you are finding your way around the Nursery? If you need any help, please come and see me and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Autumn is in the air and we welcome the fresh autumnal sunshine and the colourful changing leaves which we will soon see falling both in our garden and out and about in our community when we go for those wonderful walks. Over the coming months the children will explore this beautiful season and take part in Autumn experiences using all their senses. I am very much look forward to pumpkin soup.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday here at Otterbourne. This was a wonderful day rejoicing in our achievements and having a good old boogie to party music.

Also a great big thank you for all the support you have shown and donations made for our Macmillan Coffee Morning, we raised a fantastic £369.20 and hope you enjoyed helping us to eat cake!

Please sit back with a cup of tea and enjoy reading about and looking at what your children have been up to over the past few weeks.



*Lynne Carrigan*  
Nursery Manager

## Heuristic Play

Heuristic play is about giving young children, usually aged between 1 and 2 the opportunity to freely explore a wide range of everyday and natural objects uninterrupted by adults or an adult agenda. It is a great way for them to feel independent of adults and to do exactly what they please; obviously in a safe environment. Toddlers develop good hand-eye co-ordination along with concepts of shape and size. They also learn about the properties and textures of the materials that they are handling, for example, that fabrics do not make a sound when dropped into a saucepan, but corks do. Perhaps, most of all, heuristic play helps Toddlers to develop concentration and perseverance – life skills of untold importance!

## Diary Dates

- **Grandparents Day**  
13<sup>th</sup> October
- **British Summertime Ends (Clocks go back)**  
30<sup>th</sup> October
- **Diwali**  
19<sup>th</sup> October
- **Kindergarten Nativity**  
11<sup>th</sup> December
- **Christmas Closure**  
22<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm
- **Nursery Reopens**  
2<sup>nd</sup> January

### Babies

The Baby Room Team have been enjoying getting to know all the new Babies. The children have had many new experiences from seeing the sights of the local environment on lovely walks, exploring how cars move on ramps, playing with sand in the sand tray, looking at books in our cosy tepee to investigating different large sensory balls. The children have also been fascinated with heuristic play exploring metals, wooden containers and lids.



### Toddlers

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' has been a story the Toddlers have really been enjoying. The repetition of the story has helped the children join in with the words which has led to some lovely conversations. The children have settled very well into Toddler life and continue to enjoy the garden and most of all the sand pit, where many sand castles have been built and knocked down. Together we look forward to the new season and to enjoying watching the colours change. It's a lovely time of year to explore using all of our senses.



### Transition

The Transition children have settled into their new surroundings very well and are investigating all our different resources and the wonderful garden space. The children have been exploring 'All things round', our five senses and the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', which led to us using and developing our cooking skills to make porridge and crunchy rice crispy cakes. We have also been going out into the local environment, exploring the woods and fields around us. This month we will continue to explore the outdoor space, hunting for the 'Gruffalo' and going on a 'Bear Hunt'. We will also start to investigate the signs of Autumn.



### Kindergarten

Kindergarten children have been settling very well exploring new experiences that help to develop those early skills. The children have been exploring the work of the artist Paul Klee and looking at his collection of art. The children have also enjoyed starting to look at all the things Autumn brings and have enjoyed making crumble with the rhubarb they grew, picked, washed and cooked. It was a fabulous process for the children to follow. This lovely experience will link further to pumpkins and cooking with these. The Kindergarten Team hope you enjoyed our EYFS Evening and gained some knowledge of the way we will be guiding your children over the coming year.

