

Dear Families,



So many exciting things have been happening at Ampfield, the children embraced the Easter spirit, making cards and Easter nests, weaving baskets and making Hot Cross Buns which the whole nursery were able to enjoy for snack.

With the glorious weather we have been having the opportunities to be able to use our woodland has been greater with many of the children being able to explore the huge range of wildlife there. Examining mini beasts, looking at the flowers especially the wonderful carpet of bluebells and finding tracks from wild animals that also use the woodland as their home. Though the most exciting thing for the children has to have been the field of long horned cattle who have been watching us watching them.

With this beautiful weather can I remind parents to provide us with named appropriate clothing to allow us to go on our adventures and also sun cream for your child.

Sadly we are saying good bye to Kostas our Chef who will be moving on from Yellow Dot. Although he has been with us a short while he has made a big impact on our children and we will miss him and wish him well with all his future endeavours.

We say hello to Sam in Transitions who is our new Room Manager in there. Sam has worked for Yellow Dot in the past and is returning to support us, bringing with her a wealth of experience and knowledge. I know you will join me in welcoming her to the setting.

We will soon be having a number of improvements to the fabric of our Nursery; including a new fire alarms system and doors, hand rails and external works to the gardens and areas around the nursery. To reduce impact for our families the majority of the internal works will be completed while the nursery is closed at night, however there may be some contractors around during the day also. Once I have definite dates I will let you know.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes

*Jennie Pethick*

Nursery Manager

## Our Spring Experiences



## Babies

Babies have had a lovely month, enjoying our Spring provocation. We have been getting creative with messy sensory painting, using their hands and fingers to mark make on paper as well as using different objects to stamp and create patterns for their beautiful Easter cards. Babies enjoyed tasting some freshly made hot cross buns for snack kindly made by our Chef and the children in Kindergarten, they were very yummy. We have been outside exploring the garden in looking at the different creatures that are now appearing and even held a few. We have been having lots of fun joining in with song time too, our focus song for Spring is "5 little ducks". For the coming month, our provocation will still remain Spring however we are now going to branch out with 'On the Farm'. Looking at various animals and the sounds they make, focusing on the children's next steps of speech and language. We will be exploring and sharing animal stories and continue with our messy and creative fun, looking at how things grow and planting some seeds to create our own Baby Room growing garden.



## Toddlers

The Toddlers have been enjoying nature and exploring the signs of Spring. We took a walk through the woods looking at the early Spring flowers and found some animal tracks. On our decking area we have been listening to the birds singing in the trees and trying to spot them. We have been investigating the Hazel catkins and mixing them up in bowls and have noticed all the leaves developing on the trees. As the weather has been so lovely we have been able to play outside more, using planks to develop our balancing skills and as roadways for cars and trucks learning about big and small.



## Transition

This month we said goodbye to Becky and welcomed Sam. Sam has previously worked for Yellow Dot for many years, so we are confident she will fit right back in. We have been making beautiful Easter cards. Some with flower stencil stamping, while others have been painting daffodils or blossom trees, using cotton wool buds. We also continued our weaving provocation by weaving Easter baskets and making clay eggs to sit inside them. Our sunflowers are growing fast and we have been measuring them to see how tall they now are. Everybody enjoyed hearing lots of stories about our Easter holidays and adventures and seeing pictures on Tapestry. Other things we have been up to are looking for mini beasts in the soil with magnifying glasses, making lots of pictures with circles and creating a bear cave in the garden for the bear hunt!



## Kindergarten

Kindergarten have recently been looking at a wasp nest, observing the feel, smell and shape, the children then drew around hexagons to make our own pattern like to one we could see, and went on a shape hunt in the woods, finding the same shape in nature. We made hot cross buns with Kostas and shared them with the whole Nursery. We have started looking at and talking about Jack and the Beanstalk. The children have been making beanstalks using playdough, constructing a castle with boxes and using picture props to re-tell the story. The children have also been playing chasing games in the garden saying "Fe Fi Fo Fum". Katie and Beth are hoping your Mothers Day flowers are growing well and would love to see pictures of them on Tapestry.

