

## Dear Families

Welcome to our March newsletter. Spring is on its way and we are seeing the signs of new growth everywhere. Let's hope the cold weather of this Winter is soon far behind us and we can look forward to some warm sunshine and blue skies.

Despite the colder weather the children in all rooms have been busy outside as well as inside with lots of walks and excursions in our local community. As well as this Kindergarten have had some exciting Out and About trips to Salisbury and to the Army Air Museum in Middle Wallop. The children in Transition used the Yellow Dot Bus to go to Charlton Lakes and the Toddlers have been out using the local buses. Wow!

Ball skills sessions for the older children have also got off to an enthusiastic start with Ruben and Aaron from Basingstoke Football Club putting the children through their paces. Thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In Team news we have welcomed Jess Stairmand who has joined us as a Modern Apprentice. Also Mandy Marsden and Claire Cook will be doing a parachute jump on 29<sup>th</sup> April in support of Naomi House Hospices. They are looking for sponsorship. If you can help they would really appreciate your support.

Best wishes

*Catherine Clifton*  
Nursery Manager



## Football Skills



## Dates for the Diary

- **Book Week**  
1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Raffle**  
26<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Egg Hunt**  
29<sup>th</sup> March
- **Good Friday**  
30<sup>th</sup> March
- **Easter Monday**  
2<sup>nd</sup> April
- **Ducklings in Nursery**  
23 April
- **Africa Week**  
16<sup>th</sup> April
- **Parachute Jump**  
29<sup>th</sup> April
- **Barnardo's Big Toddle**  
w/c 18<sup>th</sup> June

## Babies

This month Babies have been practicing lots of digging and scooping to support those learning to feed themselves. We have also enjoyed investigating the textures and colours of real foods in our role play kitchen! There seems to be a developing interest in cars and other vehicles so over the next month we shall be enjoying making ramps to roll them down, towers to knock down and using the wheels to create marks through paint and other textures. The Babies have also had lots of fun getting out and about; around Andover and next month we hope to find lots of new and exciting spaces to explore.



## Toddlers

Recently, the Toddlers have been exploring balance. They have been practising on our obstacle courses in the garden; Music and movement has also been exciting with the children investigating different instruments and playing along to Nursery Rhymes and Boogie Mites songs. Our interactive story board has supported “The Bear Hunt” activities and next month will be “The Hungry Caterpillar”. In Toddler Blue Room the children have helped sprinkle cress seeds and water them each day watching them grow until they were ready to cut. We went to the supermarket to buy the things we needed to make egg and cress sandwiches for our tea! The children enjoyed making them so much that they also made their jam and tuna sandwiches. Next month, we will be exploring all things Spring and Mothers’ Day related.



## Transition

Our focus has been the story of the Gingerbread Man. We have baked biscuits, made ginger scented playdough to decorate as gingerbread men, read the story and even acted it out in the local park with a giant gingerbread man. We have also started our football skills sessions with Basingstoke Town FC and talked a lot about our emotions and how we feel. We continue to observe our seeds and how, as we move into Spring, they are growing.



## Kindergarten

The children in Kindergarten have loved the “Out and About” trips to Salisbury Cathedral and the Army Air Museum in Middle Wallop. In Salisbury we looked closely at different patterns which inspired us back in Nursery to use parquetry to recreate them ourselves and we used our photos to inspire us in our construction area. We have now started some paper laying, continuing our examination of patterns like check, gingham and tartan. Also in February we explored Chinese New Year with food tasting and lantern making and have started our ball skills sessions which have proved very popular on Wednesday mornings.

