

## Dear Families

Hello! We hope that you are all enjoying your Christmas holidays. The children certainly have earned a bit of time to relax, as we had such a busy few weeks in the run up to the holidays. When we came back after our October Half Term, our theme was inspired by 'Halloween'. The children enjoyed coming into Kindergarten dressed up in spooky costumes, using hammers to tap golf tees into pumpkins, pumpkin carving, and making silky spider web paintings for their celebration books, using string to paint with.

The following week was Bonfire Night, where we practiced our 'junk modelling' skills to make fantastic fireworks out of tissue paper and tubes, and made delicious sparkler biscuits to eat at snack time. The children also began to explore the concept of 'colour' during this week and the weeks that followed, in many different ways, such as by walking around the block to see what different colours they could find, mixing colours and painting with marbles.

Over the next few weeks we started to learn about patterns, music, and rhythm, and the children practiced making their own 'square art' and spiral paintings. We all had fun dressing up in patterned clothing (intentionally, or not!). We put our junk modelling skills to use once more and made musical shakers out of old bottles. We sang lots of different Nursery Rhymes and counting songs and we had our first visit from the very musical Rachel, who led a music and movement session with the children.

Over the final few weeks of this term, we started to talk all about Christmas, and the children made their own cards, wrapping paper and special Christmas bags, among other things, to take home with them. Buddy the Elf also arrived in the Kindergarten, and the children all loved finding him in a new place each morning!



We have also said a fond farewell this term to Mrs Sarah Skeats, who went on maternity leave, and we welcomed Miss Alison Bower to our Kindergarten family. Thank you everyone for making her feel so welcome! We've collected donations for Children in Need, and for Crackerjacks, a huge thank you to everyone who helped us raise money for those less fortunate over the course of this year.

Towards the end of term we had our annual Children's Christmas Party with Magic Charlie, visited Hiltingbury School to watch their Christmas Nativity, and we even managed to take some children out on the Yellow Dot Bus to see real life Reindeer at Garsons Garden Centre. What a fantastic experience that was! Finally of course, at the very end of the term we had our own Christmas Nativity. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend, thank you to everyone who was able to make it, we hope you all had a wonderful time and enjoyed the show!

The Kindergarten will re-open after the Christmas holidays on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, and our theme for the first week or so will be reflecting on Christmas and the New Year, as well as looking at the seasonal changes and the first signs of Winter. As always, please do keep us informed about your children's current interests and experiences, so that we can plan relevant and engaging activities for them to enjoy!

Thank you for all of the gifts, cards and Christmas wishes we received from you before the break and we hope you loved your presents carefully made by your children

Kind regards,

**The Kindergarten Team**

