

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 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 Claire, our Cook, for making Christmas lunch 5 times so that every child was able to enjoy roast turkey with all the trimmings.

We are pleased that we have been getting out into the community a lot more with our first few visits to Sunnyfields House where the elderly are joining in with Carols and Nursery Rhymes. We have also been to Winchester Christmas Market, Itchen valley, St Catherine's Hill and another trip to the beach, The children love to be outdoors and experience new opportunities.

It was so lovely to see so many of you for our Christmas Sing Song thank you for taking the time out of your busy lives to share it with us.

The Team and I would like to extend seasons greetings to you and hope you all have an enjoyable break.

Kind regards

*Clare Ashton*  
Nursery Manager

## Supporting Literacy

Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if a child knows eight Nursery Rhymes by heart by the time they are four years old, they are usually among the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are in Year 3. The rhythm and rhyme of Nursery Rhymes helps children 'tune' into listening promoting the skills they will need to draw on when later learning to read and write.

## Diary Dates

- **30<sup>th</sup> January**  
Parents Stay and Play  
9-11am



## Babies

The Babies have been helping us to decorate the Christmas tree and we have been looking through the Christmas books and exploring Christmas objects. They particularly liked the lights, tinsel and beads. All the Babies have been exploring the paint using their hands and the palmer grasp dabbers to make marks that have been turned into Christmas decorations.



## Toddlers

The Toddler Room have been getting out and about into the community to visit lots of Christmassy places! Some of the Toddlers went to Haskins Garden Centre. We saw lots of lights and beautiful decorations. This prompted us to explore light play at Nursery. We used the torches and the fairy lights and created a den to play with these in! Some of the Toddlers also went to Garsons Garden Centre in Titchfield. We met some of Father Christmas' Reindeer and found yet more twinkly lights to look at! We are looking forward to hearing all about your Christmas in January.



## Transition

At the beginning of the month we read the Stick Man story, we took the children into the garden to collect sticks to make their own stick man. This led us onto looking at the wintery weather as we noticed ice cubes forming in the trays in the mud kitchen. The children noticed a change in the weather and the temperature at Nursery and in the Stick Man story it had been snowing. We have spoken about the winter weather and the arrival of the Christmas tree's and father Christmas at home. We decorated our tree with a range of lights and decorations that we created using glitter and sequins and threaded beads to make candy canes.



## Kindergarten

The Kindergarten children have been busy getting out into the local community this month. We have been singing at Sunnyfields Care Home, feeding the reindeer at Garsons Garden Centre in Titchfield and looking at Christmas decorations at Fair Oak Garden Centre. Back at the Nursery we have been helping to put up the Christmas tree and talking about what we put on them as well as making our own decorations. We enjoyed our performance of the Wiggly Nativity as well as our Christmas party. The magician surprised us with lots of amazing tricks!

