

Newsletter: Spring Term 2018

We had been enjoying our 'Arctic' theme so much that we still had our 'Frozen' themed role play area in full swing as Spring crept closer...and just when we thought we were perhaps getting rather out of sync with the seasons....wow, it snowed - a lot... So, when we finally took the decorations down and the children went home with their icicles last week, we actually felt rather in tune with what was happening in the wider world!



Children playing in our 'Winter Wonderland'

We have had fun conducting science experiments and learning about the Arctic in our afternoon circle times, which included watching clips from David Attenborough's *Frozen Planet*, projected onto a radiator cover which made a perfect film screen. The polar bears did look impressive and through this medium, complemented by some new books on the subject, we learnt more about how they live and the threats to their survival. Did you know that Polar Bears can smell a seal 20 miles away - they are truly amazing animals. Now we have properly done Winter, we can move on to our next theme **'People who help us'** which we plan to make just as real and relevant as our last topic.

The small room is now set up as a Post Office come doctors/vets, which seems fitting

considering the fate of many small P.O.'s. The children are enjoying weighing parcels, selling stamps as well as looking after the various soft toy animals. As part of this project, we will make local visits to the library and dentists and invite visitors into nursery: doctors, fire fighters, guide dogs, postal workers and more. We plan to continue with this topic into the later part of the Summer Term and then focus on 'Transitions' hopefully with visits from teachers, as our older children prepare to start primary school.



Keeping cosy whilst watching Frozen Planet

Outside, we have made a 'sound wall' for the children to tap rhythms and explore sounds. We are continuing to recognise the seasons inside with our tree display blooming and the tadpoles we are feeding and watching grow. As Easter approaches, we will be having our annual Easter egg hunts in the garden.

Thank you to those parents who regularly add comments and likes to their child's Tapestry learning journal. The 'Tapestry children' who have been with us for one term will have a planning report for parents to read soon. Notification of this will be through a slip in your child's tray. Again, we do require your comments at the end of the report, as it shows how we are working together to support your child which is so important. If you would like to have a chat with your child's key teacher at any time please let us know. Please continue reading below, thank you for your support, Ruth and the staff team ☀

Staff news

Congratulations to Eloise for completing her Level 2 Apprenticeship, we wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her input during her time with us. We will welcome **Elise Gaudion** to our team in the Summer Term. Elise is a familiar face in Chagford, especially at the swimming pool where she has spent many seasons lifeguarding. We look forward to working with Elise who is a qualified teacher, retraining in Montessori early years practice.

New shoes

With warmer weather on the way please can you consider the shoes you choose with regards to making it easier for children to **change their shoes by themselves** – Velcro is such a wonderful invention and gives children confidence that they can ‘do it for themselves!’

30 hour funding

You can find out more and apply at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. If you're already using 30 hours, you need to confirm that your details are up to date every 3 months, through your childcare account.

Keep it cool!

Popping an ice pack in your child's lunch bag ensures the food stays fresh throughout the morning. Thank you.

Rabbit care

Looking ahead to the summer holidays, Paddington and Marmalade will need a holiday home once again. Please let us know if you would like to take care of them and which dates would be most convenient for you so we can work out a rota. We will provide everything they need. Thank you.

Hello sunshine

As the weather starts to warm up and the sun shines (hopefully!) please **apply sun cream before drop off** and supply a named hat. Thank you.

Just add names!

Naming your child's items is invaluable throughout your child's school life. www.wovenlabelsuk.com provide everything you need to keep track of your child's things. We thoroughly recommend that you get lots of labels!

Open morning

We are holding an open morning on **Saturday 9th June between 10am – 12pm**. You are welcome to come with your child/ren and spend time at nursery with them, bring dad along and/or grandparents and friends. It is a good time for **prospective parents** to come and view our setting, so please spread the word.

Your views count

Thank you to those of you who have already completed and returned your parent **questionnaires**. We would appreciate having as many returned as possible so that we can ascertain how we are meeting your needs and where we could improve further.

Term Dates 2018

Spring Term

Ends on Thursday 29th March

Summer Term

Monday 16th April – Thursday 24th May

1 WEEK HALF TERM

Monday 4th June – Thursday 19th July

Autumn Term

Tuesday 4th September – Thursday 18th October

2 WEEK HALF TERM

Monday 5th November – Thursday 20th December