



Spring term 2017

Welcome back, and a Happy New Year to you all.

Welcome to all the new children who have joined us this term, all are settling in well and enjoying the fun activities our fabulous staff have provided so far.

A Fun Activity to Try At Home

If your children were lucky enough to get some smarties, buttons or other yummy treats in a tube this xmas, why not recycle and make your own rainstick!



What You Do: Remove one of the circular pieces from the ends. Ask your child to pour some beans into the tube. Try shaking the tube up and down a little to hear how the beans sound inside the tube. Let your child add more beans if desired.

Next, seal the tube off using the plastic end it came with. Seal both ends tight with tape. Let your child turn the tube upside down and let the beans fall through the tube. Try turning it over slowly, and then quickly to hear the difference in the sound it makes.

In order to get a different sound, you can open up the tube and place a few pieces of crumpled aluminium foil into the tube. This will slow down the beans as they move through the tube.

Next you can decorate the outside of the tube with the coloured markers to complete your rainstick!

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 28th January- Chinese New Year- Year of the Rooster.

Tuesday 14th Feb- St. Valentine's Day- lots of **LOVE**ly activities!

Mon 20th- Fri 24th Feb- **HALF TERM**. Open as usual, Holiday Club open for school children- please email to book.

Tuesday 28th February- **PANCAKE DAY!** All groups will be cooking and tossing!

Thursday 2nd March- **World Book day- FANCY DRESS**. Dress up as your favourite book character and donate for Crackerjacks Children's Charity.

Friday 3rd March- **Bags for School Collection**. Please bring in your bags by 9am

Monday 10th - Friday 21st April **Easter Holidays**. Holiday Club Open. Nursery will be **CLOSED** on Good Friday 14th, and Easter Monday, 17th.

A few reminders:

Winter Clothing- Please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves for every session they attend nursery so that they do not miss out on the outdoor activities. Wellies and Waterproofs are a must too!

Indoor Shoes- All under 3's departments are **NO SHOE ZONES**, please can you provide your child with either slippers or shoes that are only worn inside, thank you.

Session times- Please can we remind you to be aware that staff are deployed according to the sessions that each child attends, therefore if you have chosen for your child to attend a session within the full day (eg 9am till 3pm), we are unable to accept children before the session start time, and children must be collected by the session end time.

Anti-biotics- a gentle reminder that children must have been on antibiotics for 24 hours before they return to nursery. For sickness and diarrhoea, children must not return to nursery until they have been symptom free for 48hours.

Staff updates!

We have said 'Goodbye and Good Luck' to Sian from the baby room who is due her baby boy in February- we can't wait to meet him!



Emily is therefore stepping up to run the baby room in Sian's absence- we look forward to her new ideas.

After a trial period, Katie is now going to be running the Saplings (big tots) department. We know she will do a fantastic job!

News from the departments-

Seedlings- 2017 has got off to a busy start as we welcome lots of new babies into the Seedlings department. We are getting to know them well, and they are slowly but surely getting used to us! We would like to ask parents to bring in a couple of photos of their child's family members for our Family Photo Board.

We have been getting creative, making some fish for our under the sea scene, and looking at Safari animals with the children. We have said goodbye to Snowy the Rabbit, who has gone to keep Sian company on Maternity Leave. We have been outdoors lots, walking to the farm to feed the chickens and pigs- what fun!!

Upper Seedlings- So far, the Little Toddlers have looked at 'Winter', exploring with lots of messy play such as shaving foam, magic snow, flour play and Play dough.

Each month, we will be having a 'Taster Week' where we will be trying new foods from around the World- take a look at Tapestry to see which foods your child has tried.

Saplings- There has been more of an emphasis on smaller group work in Big Tods so far this year, and it is working well. A 'rising three's' group has been created where children who are approaching 3yrs are grouped with a familiar member of staff spending time in the Play Barn and preparing them for the move to Pippins Pre-School.- they seem to be enjoying the new environment and it is boosting their confidence!

Our Role Play is a Doctors Surgery as children have shown an interest in this.

We have also been looking at 'Winter' doing lots of fun activities, exploring the Frost, Ice Cube play and winter walks around the Orchard. We have talked about what to wear in the cold weather.

Pippins- Our Topic this term is 'People who help us'. We have a new role play area which is a Doctors Surgery and the children have loved playing in it. We are hoping to have visits from the local community officer and some firefighters with their engine!! Keep checking our Facebook Page and Tapestry for upcoming events.

We will soon be issuing the new rolling rota of activities which tells Parents/Carers when Forest School, Football Club and Show and Tell are each week. All other activities such as Write Dance, Cooking, Drama and Farm walks will still be alternated on the staff planning, to ensure all children benefit from these fantastic experiences.

As we are getting some chilly weather, please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing for outdoor play- a warm coat, hat, and gloves. Spare clothes are also very useful including lots of socks as they can get very muddy even inside their wellies!! Please return any spare items of clothing your child has borrowed- and if you have any to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

Sound of the week has now re-started, please see the board outside of Pippins to check what letter we are learning, and we love your contributions to our Sound Box so keep it up!

Orchard Explorers Out of School Club – We are currently gathering information from each of your child's school to ensure we are aware of Topics and Themes they are doing. If you have any information we could have it would be much appreciated. The children are showing an interest in fairytales including castles and Harry Potter! Therefore we are going to be making a Fairy Garden, doing some Fantasy Drama and a visit to a castle in the Holidays- an activity planner will be sent out shortly for the February Half Term holiday club.

News from the Farm- We welcome our new butcher, Jonathan who is settling in well! Please come and visit us in our lovely refurbished coffee shop. Keep an eye out for info on our Easter Fayre and Wassail event coming soon!!

Many thanks for your continued support! Little Blossoms Team x