



# Newsletter

September 2018

## Explorer Suite

Over the last few weeks we have said goodbye to many of our firm friends as they begin their next chapter moving on to school. It has been emotional, but we are very excited about the coming year ahead.

Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about ourselves. We will be getting to know new friends and reminding ourselves of our core values. Through the story of the Enormous Turnip we will be reflecting upon how we can help others and ask for help when we need it. We will be talking about the kind actions of our friends and learning how we can include one another in our play.

Our Explorers are going to be taking on the mantle of being role models now that they are our oldest children. We will be practising how to tidy away resources where they belong as we develop respect for our environment. Children will be supported to take responsibility for the routines of the day as well as their personal possessions. We will be working on putting clothing on pegs where it can be kept safe and clean; setting the table for meal times with our friends; dressing ourselves and asking our friends to help us to fasten aprons, coats and velcro shoe straps to name but a few.

Through our story we will explore the concepts of size and quantities, become story tellers and even try some turnip tasting!

## Baby Suite

This month in Baby Suite we have really enjoyed reading our book of the month 'The pig in the pond'. The children got excited using animal masks and props to read the story and make the sounds animals make. We are changing our book to "Sometimes", a wonderful book that shows the babies you love them no matter where they are or what they're doing.

Alongside this we have been focusing on action songs and our favourite rhymes. The babies have thrived hearing the repeated sounds and actions so much that many have begun to point out their own body parts such as their nose and eyes. We have made a great display that shows the babies facial features and pictures of friends pointing out different parts of their bodies.

We have had a variety of sensory activities out such as sticking, painting and chalking on large paper. We have been messy in the garden too- the babies enjoyed using rollers, sponges and paint brushes to make marks with paint from large trays. Finally, we have also begun making plans for our winter activities and are collecting milk bottles to build the babies a fun igloo to play in during the winter.

## Toddler Suite

Over the last few weeks we have had lots of our Toddlers turn three, this means we have had lots of our children transition next door into Explorer Suite. They have all settled well and have made lots of new friends with both children and adults.

In addition to this we have had some new toddlers transition downstairs from our Baby Suite. They have all made new buddies and friends. We are enjoying getting to know them and their families and having lots of fun!

The toddlers have really enjoyed reading 'The Three Little Pigs'. We made our own pig feet in the mud and our very own pig faces! Following children's interests we have turned our role play area into a baby clinic, and our toddlers have loved looking after the dollies! All our children have had so much fun participating in our activities.

Our next key story will be the 'Little Red Hen'! We will be thinking about helping others and learning about how wheat can be used to make bread. We also have a hen visit us this week.

## Welcome to our new staff

We would like to introduce and welcome some new members of our team to the nursery...

Dannii- Hello, my name is Dannii and I have started working full time in the Toddler Suite at Sweet Peas. I am really enjoying my time here. All the staff are so kind and welcoming! I have a level three qualification in CACHE. I am excited to develop further within Sweet Peas.

Ellie- Hello, my name is Ellie and I have recently joined the team at Sweet Peas, and I am based in Toddler Suite two days a week. I am currently level three qualified but am also studying an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Studies. I am really enjoying my time at Sweet Peas and can't wait for lots more fun and opportunities to see all the children learn and grow.

Victoria- Hello, I am Victoria and I have just moved up to Leeds from Epsom in Surrey. I am going to be joining the team in the Explorer Suite full time. I have a level three in children's care and development. I am excited to meet everyone and get to know the children and families. Fun fact- I have two kittens called Dory and Nala (I am Disney obsessed!).

We hope you enjoyed your summer, and the beautiful weather. We are looking forward to the next few months at Sweet Peas, there are going to be lots of exciting things happening!

Please can we ask that all parents refrain from allowing their children to bring toys in to nursery from home. Unfortunately, a few toys have been mislaid and it would be a shame for any further toys to be misplaced going forward. Within setting we have selected a wide abundance of age appropriate toys and therefore there is no need for the toys from home to be brought in. Part of children's personal, social and emotional development is to learn how to share. This is, understandably, extremely difficult for children to do with their own toys as opposed to our shared resources.

Please note, this is **not** inclusive of toys that are used to comfort your child at sleep time etc which children are welcome to continue to bring. Thank you for your assistance with this.

### **Grandparents day...**

Our Grandparents day was a great success. We had Garforth in Bloom planting bulbs and potting plants with us. We had a fun range of activities in each of our suites as well, such as decorating biscuits, creating family trees and painting canvases. The children all had a lovely time.

### **MacMillan Coffee**

#### **Morning...**

Please look out for details coming soon for our Macmillan coffee morning event, this will take place during the last week of September. There are sure to be lots of delicious cakes being baked.

### **Zoo Lab....**

Zoo Lab are going to be visiting Explorer Suite on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, bringing all types of different animals/ insects for our children to see, and we are sure they are going to love this! We will post some photos on our Facebook page, so please look keep an eye out for this.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Our children have really enjoyed a beautiful summer of outdoor play. As we reluctantly begin to think about the change in season and weather we would like to reaffirm our approach to outdoor learning. We are passionate advocates of our children's right to access the daily outdoor opportunities promoted by the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework. We provide development opportunities in our Nature Suite every day irrespective of the weather. We believe that there is no such thing as 'bad weather' only inappropriate clothing!

When making purchases for the Autumn/Winter wardrobe please be mindful that children will be invited to play in wind, rain, snow and sunshine. Children will need safe footwear to run, climb, pedal and slide. We would like you to be aware that our children will be accessing activities such as outdoor: painting and chalking; utilising sand and mud; transporting and manipulating water and a great many other fun, messy opportunities.

Please monitor the weather forecasts to ensure that your children are sufficiently dressed. You can further support your children by encouraging them to be aware of their clothing and becoming more involved in: taking responsibility for these items, dressing and undressing at age appropriate levels. We cannot stress strongly enough the importance of having names in all items of clothing – especially in preparation for the volumes of gloves that will be entering our cloakroom areas soon!