

Newsletter Spring Term February End of Term 2021



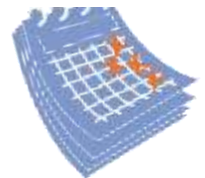
As we approach the half term break, I wanted to share the wonderful time we have had since the return at Christmas.

Even with all of the continual changes, another lockdown and several heavy snow falls, the staff and children have continued to have fun and experience new challenges.

We could not run such a happy setting without the support of the parents and carers for which we are very grateful. I have shared some comments below. If you have any questions regarding any area of the setting, invoices or if you have any ideas on celebrations or activities that you would like to see in the nursery please do not hesitate to contact me, your support and feedback is valuable to us.

Many thanks
Paula Wilson
Childcare Manager
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Our Important Dates this term are;



Friday 12 th February	- Nursery Closes for Half Term
Monday 15 th – 19 th February	- Holiday Club – open for nursery children 2-4 year olds (8am - 6pm) Booking required
Monday 22 nd February	- Nursery reopens with BC and OOSC for nursery children only awaiting further guidance on schools
Friday 2 nd & Monday 5 th April	- Closed for Bank holiday
Tuesday 6 th – Friday 16 th April	- Easter Holiday Club – details to be confirmed nearer due to government guidance
Monday 19 th April	- Breakfast club, Nursery and OOSC reopen – details to be confirmed
Monday 3 rd May	- Closed - May bank holiday
Friday 28 th May	- Close for half term – Holiday club TBC



I wanted to take the time to firstly **thank each and everyone of our staff**. It has been over a year since we began to make changes to the way that we operate due to the pandemic. Throughout this time the staff have continually proven their dedication and commitment to the setting and to the children. The way that the teams work, changes to the operation of the rooms, implementing continuous changes to policies and procedures, even altering their own working hours, has all come on top of providing outstanding care for all of the children and support for the parents and carers when you needed it too.

The trustees and I recognise that our team is outstanding, they are 100% committed to offering a high standard of learning and development in a setting that is secure, happy, fun and offers security and peace of mind. We are so very grateful and proud of them all.

I want to thank all of the parents who have taken the time to email in or tell us in person how outstanding the staff have been and how the setting remaining open, even in challenging times, has helped your families and given the children security they really do make a difference to us.

I just wanted to say how thankful me and my husband are, for how lovely all the staff have been, my son has absolutely loved it and it has been made easier for myself with how smiley, lovely and reassuring all the staff have been.

..... my husband could only say such positive things about you all as you tried to remain open.

Thanks so much for the email and the hard work during this difficult time. We really think the Room bubble is a great idea! Thanks for all staff at Shadwell for the effort looking after the little ones and keeping them as safe as possible.

Thank you, not just because you all have continued to support our children through these difficult times, but also can't thank you all enough for how supportive you have been. As a family we can't believe how settled and confident he has become and how he has come on and I am so pleased I made the decision to send him to your setting. Thank you all again for all the support

Thank you to Paula and the staff for all your hard work during these very challenging times! As parents we greatly appreciate it and know it's not easy.

Every time we come to drop off or collect our daughter we are always greeted by happy staff, regardless of what changes have just been announced. It is always reassuring to know she is happy and cared for and I can go to work knowing she is looked after; she would much rather be with you than at home!

Huge thanks to all the staff in Shadwell for providing great care for our youngest learners! My Granddaughter is always keen to come and gets a lovely welcome from whoever is on the door. To have such smooth transitions for the youngest children is a remarkable achievement!

I Just wanted to say thank you on behalf of myself and my husband. We would like to thank all the staff for your support, you have all been fantastic we couldn't be happier.

Online parent observations, updates and information

As many of you are aware, we use the Parent link to communicate your child's learning, development and observations. We also use this platform for sharing weekly blogs and recent topics. We would urge you to check the app regularly and use it to talk to your child about their day and let key staff know what they do at home.

Over the coming days you will receive an email with your child's journal in PDF format. This can be saved for your personal use and shared with siblings and grandparents. It will show the activities and observations unique to your child for the last term.

We will no longer be sending out paper copies after feedback from parents that online versions would be more useful.

We hope that you enjoy reading them, we are very proud of them and how much fun the children have every day whilst with us. If you have any questions regarding the journal or your child's learning, please speak with their key person or room lead. Please enjoy reading them.



Bluebell Room Update

This term the children have enjoyed participating in activities relating to our topic "Winter". We have looked closely at the effects of the wintry weather on our environment and understanding the world. The children have delighted

in exploring the different textures of ice and snow, even managing to make a snowman and have snowball fights!

The children have also learnt about the winter animals that live in the colder parts of the world and the changes in temperature that cause water to freeze and ice to melt.

We have frozen lots of different items and watched them melt, we even froze paint into cubes so we could do a HUGE painting on the floor and see what happened to the colours as they mixed together!

In the next coming weeks, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year by tasting lovely Chinese food using chopsticks and learning about the story behind this festival. The children will take part in making lanterns and practising writing their name in Chinese. We will have singing and dancing sessions where the children can dress up and dance to Chinese music learning all about rhythm. Usually, we would have families come in and share their stories and experiences which are always wonderful to hear, even though this year you can not come in to see us please send in photos or videos that we can share with the children, I know that they (and the staff) would love this.

As Spring is approaching soon, we will be focusing more on the outdoor environment. We will be looking at the seasonal changes and getting the children involved in planting and growing fruit and vegetables. We will find out about the animals born in spring time and the plants that start to appear.





Sunflower Room Update



This term has been busy for Sunflower Room, we have had lots of new children starting with us and they have all settled remarkably well. We are so proud of them.



Firstly, a thank you to our parents. We have noticed lots of our families have been sending photographs and stories in through the Parent Link app. It is so important for us to strengthen our parent partnerships, and this is a fantastic way of way of doing this. It is wonderful to see what you have been up to at home, and sharing these experiences is invaluable for our understanding of how your children are learning and developing at home. We value you, as parents and carers, as their most important "teachers" - so anything you can share with us, can contribute to their learning journals at nursery.

Over this half term we have been focusing on our children's next steps, providing fun opportunities for progressing their knowledge and understanding through play. Although the adverse weather has been tricky sometimes it has also provided some magical learning. From learning new words, exploring how ice or snow changes as the day goes on, problem solving how to rescue frozen animals, and exploring how paint reacted to the ice and snow. It is also a great chance to encourage the children to develop their health and self care skills - dressing themselves, changing shoes over and putting on their fiddly gloves. As always, we ask that you always give your children time to "have a go" at home too, to help their confidence build up.



I am sure you have all heard the children talking about the **Big Bad Wolf**.... In the New Year, we chose to follow this theme, as the children have loved these stories for a long time! We enhanced our Home Corner provision with new dressing up clothes, bricks, and new food props to extend their imaginative play. We saw lots of group play, literacy, and expressive arts as the children immersed themselves into the theme. It's amazing to see how much learning can come from one

storybook character.



The next child led trend was pirates and under the sea which sparked some fantastic maths and physical challenges. The cable reels and planks were a huge success, building bridges to pass over those crocodiles and sharks!



This final week we have been introducing Chinese New Year to the children, helping some of our Chinese families to celebrate and teaching others what it is all about. They've had so much fun in a sensory tray of chai tea, making money pockets and Chinese lanterns, painting with chopsticks and learning how to write some Chinese letters too!



After the half term, we expect to follow the world around us and begin to observe how the flowers begin to grow, and the leaves return to the trees. Thanks to Shadwell In Bloom, who we are working with to provide the children with an allotment. SIB are building lots of areas for us and will be helping us to plant in our own allotment in the front garden - so have a peek at home time! We may also have a new bug hotel!!



Staff announcements

Baby news

We are delighted to introduce Oliver, our newest team member born in October. He is a very happy, smiley little boy and we send our congratulations to Lucie, Tzon and Archie.



We also have exciting news for Lucy Butterfield and Lucy Wiltshire who are both expecting new additions in June! We are delighted for them both and it's been incredibly exciting to take part in their baby journeys. We know you will be as delighted as we are for them.

With the changes we have been exceptionally lucky to be able to expand our team and we have some wonderful news that the following staff will be joining us after half term.

New staff

Emily Handley

Upon meeting Emily, we were all very excited as we knew she will fit in with the team and our setting perfectly. She is a highly qualified leader with a happy disposition who is dedicated to children's development. Emily will be joining us on March 1st and working with Lucy Butterfield over the coming months and sharing her amazing ideas with the Sunflower team

Hannah Parmenter

Hannah has worked as a key person within a preschool nursery for several years undertaking observation and planning next steps for her children as well as being a level 3 qualified Early Educator with safeguarding, first aid and SEN qualifications amongst others. She is passionate about children's learning and is very proud to be part of their early stages of development. We are delighted she has chosen to join us.

Emily Rourke

For those who have been with the setting for a while you may recognise Emily as she completed her university placement with us. She passed her Early Childhood Studies degree with first class honours and moved back home to the North of England and has been working in a setting for several years since as a key person for 2-4 year old children. She is now relocating back to Leeds and we are delighted to have her back with the team where we have no doubt she will fill the room with fun and wonderful activities.

Snow announcements

Following the recent adverse weather it has been agreed that where snow falls heavily through the night breakfast club will not run until safety checks have been completed. This will also allow staff to travel safely. Messages will be confirmed by 7.30am for a 9am opening on such days.

Clothes named

Please can we remind all parents that clothing, boots, hats, coats and scarves MUST be named. It is increasingly difficult for staff to remember the items each child is wearing each day and to ensure that things are returned home to you. Thank you for your support.