

Newsletter Spring Term

January 2022



We hope that you all had a really wonderful Christmas and we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy 2022.

The children in our setting never fail to astound us. We have watched them return to nursery this term with big smiles and full of excitement. They have shown remarkable resilience as we adapted to manage staff; child ratios over recent weeks demonstrating how comfortable they are with all of our staff and how secure they are in the setting. Resilience is an incredibly important characteristic to have and we are so proud of them.

A very warm welcome to all of our new starters we are delighted that you have joined our nursery family and are sure that you will enjoy all of the fun activities we have planned for this term; from winter, Chinese New Year to life cycles of plants and animals!

Everyone will have received their child's report for the last term and also an emailed PDF file with their learning journal. They are such lovely keep sake documents sharing the wonderful activities they take place in each day and what your child is learning. If you have not yet reviewed them I would urge you to do so as they do contain information on your child's current development and how you can support them at home and they are also wonderful documents to share with family members such as siblings and grandparents.

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
p.wilson@shadwellchildcare.org

Our Important Dates this term are;

Wednesday 9 th February:	<u>OOSC closes at 5.30pm</u> for statutory staff update
Monday 21st Friday 25th February:	February Half term: (Holiday club open 8am-6pm, booking required)
Monday 4th - Thursday 14th April:	Easter break: (Holiday club open 8am-6pm, booking required)
Friday 15th April:	Nursery closed: Good Friday
Monday 18th April:	Nursery closed: Easter Monday
Monday 30th May - Weds 1st June:	May/June Half term: (Holiday club open 8am-6pm, booking required)
Thursday 2nd/Friday 3rd June:	Nursery closed: Bank holiday
Friday 22nd July:	End of academic school year
Summer club starts:	Monday 25 th July - Friday 26 th August
w/c Monday 29 th Aug	Nursery closed - reopen w/c 5 th Sept date TBC in-line with school start
Parents evening Sunflower room – Date TBC but we hope for February; more information to follow	
Parents evening Bluebell room - Date TBC but we hope for February; more information to follow	

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on the week commencing 1st February and Shrove Tuesday 1st March. We would be very grateful to any parents who are able to take the time to talk about Chinese New Year with the children as this always makes the celebration extra special.

Please contact the office or speak with a member of staff if you would like to share your celebrations or festivals with the children.



Story Telling Month



At Shadwell Childcare we **LOVE** reading and singing and so we could not be happier that it was National Story Telling month in January but will continue in coming months. We have so many amazing stories to read, from traditional tales to current favourites as well as activities the children can take part in to embed this learning. Our reading areas are cosy and engaging and books are in every area of learning. Children are encouraged to read their own stories, change endings of stories they love and predict what happens next. They also enjoy acting out stories, using puppets and props and becoming completely immersed in the characters.



Please send in details of your child's favourite story and photos of them enjoying it.
Further details on your emailed topic letter sent in January



Online Tracker System , Blogs and End of term reports

All parents are able to access their child's learning via the Parents First Steps app. We hope that you are enjoying using this and find knowing what your child is doing on a daily basis. We value our parent partnership and as a way to keep you informed of the activities your child takes part in we are sharing this information via a weekly blog and individual child observations and WOW moments. The blogs are a fabulous way to show you how the children have engaged in the topic of the week, this could be a specific celebration such as Chinese New Year or an area they find interesting such as creating a dinosaur world and can be seen under 'Parent Blog' on the app. Your child's individual observations linked to the EYFS and Development Matters can be seen under 'My Children'. The Key Person will capture photographs, tag the relevant EYFS / CoEL for each individual child and track progress and produce analytical reports for all areas of learning. This allows us to ensure the planning and next steps are tailored to the children's needs and interest.

If you have not accessed your child's parent link app we would encourage you do to so as we know you will find the information in it a wonderful insight into your child's day and learning.

Invoices

Invoice have now been emailed payment is due 1st February.

All invoice must be cleared in full each half term, please contact p.wilson@shadwellchildcare.org if you have any queries or would like a payment plan. Any 30 hours funded places are reminded that it is **the parents responsibility to ensure they refresh their code every 12 weeks** and advise us of the new expiry date. You are eligible for any charges incurred should your code expire.

Performance

We were still looking at options as to how we can facilitate the Christmas performance however we are now discussing a possible song and rhyme concert where our children sing all the lovely songs they have been learning since September. We are hopeful we can then invite parents to come along and watch the performance.

Holiday Club

Our Holiday club is always extremely popular and you will shortly be contacted regarding sessions for February half term.

Please note that payment is now required 48 hours from confirmation in order to secure your place. Failure to make payment will result in your place being offered to others on the waiting list. All terms and conditions are on the booking form.

Year round children do not need to complete the booking form

October half term club will run Monday 21st – Friday 25th February.



Learning of the week

To enhance our development, we will be continuing with the learning of the week – a letter, number, shape and book.

The list of what Jolly Phonics sound, number, shape and book we will be focusing on will be shared via the blog on Parents Link and is also displayed in the entrance area. You should have received the one for this term already and it's so exciting when children bring in items for the number or letter of the week to share with us all.

What you can do at home to extend the learning...

If you and your child can look for items relating to the learning objective and bring them in, the children have the opportunity to share these with each other. Examples could be:

Number of the week is number 2 – you could bring in two stones, a photo of your house number if you live at number 2, a colour...



Learning objectives in Sunflower Room this term....

The children have come back this term very happy and settled and back into our routine without hesitation and have been delighted to see their friends. We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned to support their learning and development and we can't wait to share them with you!



Learning objectives in Sunflower Room this term are all about building on our emotional, social and personal development and our communication skills.

The children are becoming increasingly independent and this is so lovely to watch as they learn new skills and take such joy in their achievements! This term we will be encouraging and supporting children to become more independent with their personal skills such as putting on their welly boots, putting on their coat and for some children as they progress into their toilet training stage. In regards to toilet training we are here to support you through this next step. If you are unsure if your child is ready or if you are feeling a bit anxious or simply have any questions then please have a chat with your child's key person who can discuss this with you. We have also attached a document of information that may provide some support and may be helpful for you as you prepare and transition through the toilet training stage.



This term we will be exploring special days like Valentine's day which is a great opportunity to explore different emotions and provide opportunities and activities for children to express their feelings but also consider and empathise with other children's feelings too. This also enables children to build their resilience and begin to learn the ability to self-regulate, learning new tools and strategies that can help them.

circle times.

We have also noticed how much our children's communication skills have progressed and will continue to focus on their communication and language skills this term including through song, reading stories and



It is National story telling week at the start of January, but we have decided here in Sunflower to extend it to a whole month and February! Our children love stories and are enjoying every opportunity to read stories with their peers and independently. We hope you can share some of your favourite stories with us so we can plan some activities around these and have a deeper understanding as we go on different adventures throughout the day during play.



We also have lots of singing and dancing opportunities like Pyjama Drama to help children use their rhythm, listening skills and imagination as they take on different experiences through drama. The children have loved our song of the week and we often hear different experiences and songs integrated through children's play- it has been very beneficial and lots of fun!



Chinese New Year is being celebrated and we will be transforming our home corner into a Chinese restaurant, learning different languages, exploring new cultures and traditions through stories and play and trying some new textures and tastes at snack time! We encourage families who celebrate this special occasion to contribute ideas, or even come to chat to children about it too.

As Spring is approaching we will be exploring our outdoor environment more getting ready to do some planting in the Rainbow Garden but also exploring nature and what changes have occurred with the change of seasons. We will also be learning all about the Spring time, some of the events that happen as the different animals and plants start to appear.

As we have such wonderful surroundings with the fields and many animals. We will be going on lots of walks to see the horses, cows and sheep, discuss the many birds flying over the fields and watch how the trees change over the coming weeks.



Bluebell Room learning objectives this term is....

Winter, plants and life cycles, stories and who we are!



This term the children have been enjoying participating in activities relating to our topic "Winter". A wonderful Artic wonderland has been created within nursery which is very exciting. The children have discovered the amazing Artic animals that were frozen in the ice and used lots of new words to describe the cold, hard and crunchy ice.

We have been looking closely at the effects of the wintery weather on our environment and the children have been delighted in exploring the different textures of ice and snow, even managing to make a snowman!

The children have been learning 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 which we have demonstrated through a range of experiments indoors and outdoors. Brrrrr!

We are also supporting and encouraging children to put on their own coats on and do the buttons or zips themselves, this is something that can be continued and supported at home.

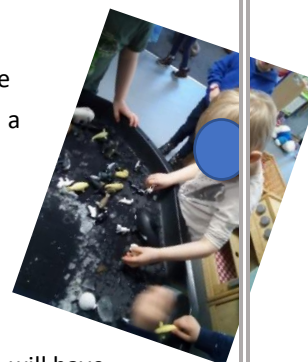
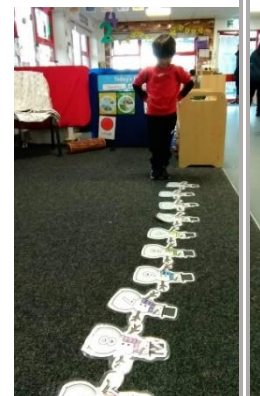


We are actively taking part in National Storytelling month in January and will be continuing through February simply because we LOVE stories and singing. The children will have the opportunity to explore a variety of books, writing styles and different texts from traditional tales to current favourites. We will let them learn a story so they know what next, anticipate what if.....??? They will be able to change the stories to make up their own versions which our imaginative children will really enjoy. Objects will be used to make the sounds within the stories – what makes a stomping sound, what is crunchy or sounds like wind?

In the next coming weeks, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year learning about another culture; we know that everyone will enjoy tasting lovely Chinese food and will enjoy using chopsticks. 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 and create their own Chinese dishes in the Chinese restaurant we will set up.

We will also be making Valentine's Day cards for the special people we love and care for and explore with the colours red and pink as well as practicing drawing the heart shape. We will talk about who we love and why and understand how all families are unique.

As Spring is approaching soon, we will be focusing more on the outdoor environment, looking at the seasonal changes and getting the children involved in planting and growing fruit and vegetables in the Rainbow Garden. We will find out about the animals born in Springtime and the plants that start to appear. We will go on nature walks to look at the changes in the season and look at different minibeasts, focusing on the story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" where we will learn how a caterpillar changes into a beautiful butterfly and release them into our butterfly gardens.





The topics chosen this term will cover all areas of learning and development in many ways but examples are;

Mathematics – We can talk and explore 2D and 3D shapes, making comparisons between objects as we look at size, length, weight and capacity. Our mathematical language will be extended as we look at position through words alone, let's place an item 'above' something else, or next to it. We will focus on making and following patterns from natural objects, counting items we have found. This can be tricky and will help us keep trying.

Understanding of the World- All of our senses will be used as we begin exploration of natural materials, talking about the differences between materials we find around us and their physical properties, hard, soft, rough, smooth.



We know that there are different countries in the world but we will talk about the differences, try different foods, wear cultural clothes and ask our friends to help us try to speak a different language; we will begin with Chinese New Year!

An exciting time for us is when our spring time greenhouse arrives and we plant seeds and care for growing plants, vegetables and flowers. We discuss the key features of the life cycle of a plant and we look at changes to animals when the tiny caterpillar eggs arrive and we nurture them into beautiful butterflies, releasing them into our new butterfly gardens.



Expressive Arts and Design- Exploring different textures is always fun, we look at ice melting, paints merging from ice cubes creating new patterns and colours. We extend our knowledge of flowers, plants and fruits as we draw them using different materials, making abstract artworks and collages. We can also use an object to represent something else even though they are not similar, specifically in our Chinese Restaurant where we can make new recipes.



Communication and Language- We are already enjoying listening to longer stories, remembering what happens next, looking at what might happen if and making new endings...sharing ideas about our stories with our peers, listening and taking turns.

Physical – We love to dance!! There will be lots of dancing taking place learning rhythm and different music styles, and this month especially for Chinese New year. We will also try to play different instruments to create new music and tap out new rhythms.

We will use one-handed tools and equipment, including chop sticks and practicing a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. We will practice our very tricky scissor skills to cut out people and costumes to make new characters for our new story books and cultural displays



Literacy – Engaging in our new stories and extending conversations about stories is always fun, our children have wonderful imaginations. We will learn new vocabulary and look to write some letters accurately, write some or all of their name including in Chinese! Draw and write in our own books, writing about ourselves, families or stories from our imagination!



Personal, Social and Emotional – Our children select and choose activities and resources they would like to use, with help when needed. They can choose items from the spring walks and discuss them with our friends using them in many ways. Our families are very important and we will discuss how our families are unique and how they vary, who we love and who is part of our lives and how this can be different from our friends. We will share photos, make our family books of our own families, listen to stories of our friends families and read stories to discuss who we are and why we are all special and unique.

