



## Highwood News - August, September & October

### General News

- Jo is now back from maternity leave - she is working 2 days a week with our lovely Caterpillars in the Baby room. Welcome back Jo!!
- Sam will be joining us on a part time basis from October. She has a level 5 degree in childcare and is also level 3 Forest School trained. From October she will be running sessions for all children in our very own Forest School!
- Holiday club has been successful this year - We are currently making plans for October half term so let us know if you wish to book in.
- Pre school uniform - From September purple polo shirts will be available to buy from the office at £5/shirt. Although optional we would like all children to have a t shirt as it will not only save their clothes it will help prepare them for 'school life'.
- The weather is still very changeable at the moment. Therefore, please can you ensure that children come to nursery with water proof coats, hat and sun cream so that they are prepared for any weather and can still enjoy the outdoors. Please can we also remind parents and carers to clearly label these with your child's name to avoid any mix ups. On warmer days if you can apply all day sun cream to your child(ren) then we can access the outdoors a lot faster.
- Illness Policy - whilst we realise that it is difficult for parents/carers to take time out of work we would appreciate your support in adhering to our illness policy, where we follow strict guidelines, in order to prevent cross contamination. Thank you for support with this.
- Please, please, please can you return ALL spare nursery clothes to nursery as our 'spare clothes' supply is now depleted!!! Also if any of you have any clothes that your child(ren) have grown out of and would like to donate them to nursery - we would be extremely grateful.

- **Parent Observations** - As all parents will be aware, we complete extensive developmental work on each child in our setting. As part of this developmental work we are always really keen to have as much parental input as possible as you are the most knowledgeable people when it comes to your children. With this in mind we would like to remind parents that we welcome parental observations from home and we have sheets for this available in the hall way or alternatively please email the information to us at [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk). We do not expect this every week, just as and when your child/children does something special in their development. Also if there is anything that you would particularly like us to help develop have a chat with your child's key person or send us email or note. Together we can help your children thrive.
- The Government have introduced additional funding for some 3 - 4yr olds (Early Years Pupil Premium). If you are given a letter could you please fill it in and return it to Vicki as soon as possible so that the nursery can claim this extra funding which will be used to improve Pre school provision here at Highwood.
- No nursery grant funding during October Half Term - W.C 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Dates For Your Diary**

- **Bank holidays.** Nursery will be closed on:
  - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August
- **7<sup>th</sup> September - Start of the Autumn term**
- **13<sup>th</sup> September - Grandparents Day.** We will be holding special events this week for Grandparents to attend the setting. More details to follow.
- **18<sup>th</sup> September - Jeans for Genes**
- **WC 26<sup>th</sup> October - Half term.** We will be running a holiday club if anyone requires care for their older children let us know
- **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Halloween party** - please bring your child dressed up for this day.

## **NEW NEW NEW FOR OCTOBER 2015**

### **Forest School**

"Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees" (FSA)

Forest school sessions will begin in October. They are a programme of sessions that the children attend each week learning new skills, having new experiences and being able to take risks in a safe environment. Forest School provides children with an opportunity to freely express themselves, to overcome fears and anxieties, to play outdoors and develop independence as they learn new skills.

The children will be engaged in a range of activities including den building, bug hunting, learn about fire safety, toast marshmallows and make hot chocolate! They are provided with a magical environment to ignite their imaginations as they look for the Forest School Fairies and develop their own stories.

Forest School is an ideal opportunity to engage children in learning in a fun and magical way, linking all areas of development to the activities whilst developing them as individuals.

All ages will participate in the sessions which will be adapted accordingly. The sessions will be run by Sam who is a level 5 qualified nursery nurse and Level 3 qualified in forest school. We will seek parental permission for your child to attend these sessions before they begin in October.

## Room News



### Caterpillar Room

We would like to welcome our new caterpillars into the setting - Mya, Alex, Lenny, Sophia & Connor. We hope you all settle well into our room and have lots of fun!

We have enjoyed spending lots of time outside over the recent weeks, making the most of the sunshine when we can! The children love playing on the bikes and digging in the mud. Could we ask that the children are sent into nursery with a light jacket and shoes please as the weather is constantly changing.

We have also had lots of fun exploring different types of messy play. The children have had the opportunity to get messy with frozen shaving foam, gel, jelly & hay.

We hope you are all enjoying your lovely holidays and breaks away over the summer. We plan to create a seaside display with the children relating this to their recent experiences. Any holiday photos would be very much appreciated to be part of this display or for our family tree. These can be printed off and handed to one of the Caterpillar room staff or emailed over to [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk).

The children love song time and are very good at joining in the actions to them. We will be creating a '5 little ducks' display down the stairs, getting very messy with lots of painting and sticking. The children will also be taking part in lots of water play with the ducks and counting games. Please look out for numbers around the nursery and count along with your children.

We will also be saying goodbye to some of our caterpillars over the next few months. We wish Jessica, Mia, Adriana, Lydia lots of luck as they move into the Butterfly room. We will miss them LOADS but know they will have lots of fun on their new adventure!



## Butterfly Room

We would like to welcome all our new butterflies - we hope you have lots of fun during your stay with us!

In the butterfly room we have been busy making pictures for our summer display. If you are going on holiday we would love to receive a postcard to put on our display. Don't worry if you have already been on holiday you can always bring in some photographs - we would love to see them.

Here at Highwood we like to establish good health and hygiene practices from a young age so we have been talking about being safe in the sun wearing our sun hats, putting on our sun cream and making sure we drink lots especially when it is hot !!

We will be exploring different messy play, encouraging the children to explore different textures and develop the use of their senses through play. We will be taking lots of photographs and linking these activities to a new " malleable play" display.

In September, as the season changes, we will be going into the garden to collect fallen leaves to make collages and paint the leaves to create prints and patterns. We will also be introducing autumn colours to the children when carrying out other craft activities.

The children will be making lanterns to celebrate Diwali " The Festival of Light" with bright coloured card and paints.

As we will be having new starters in September we will be continuing to look at families so please bring a photograph of whoever is significant to your child e.g Mummy, Daddy , brothers/sisters etc.

In October we will be talking about harvest and doing vegetable printing. We will also be making lots of spooky pictures in time for Halloween.

Finally we would like to wish all the butterflies who have recently moved into the ladybird room good luck - we are sure that you will have a great time. ☺



## Ladybird Room

The ladybird room has seen the big children leave for school and we wish them all the very best of luck for September. We had a lovely prom in July for all the leavers and had lots of fun!

Over the summer holidays we have planned some 'theme weeks' for both the pre school and holiday club children, which have been very successful! Following on from a 'Beech week' in July we have a 'cooking Week', 'Animal Week', 'Sport Week' and 'Princess and Pirate Week' throughout August with lots of fun and messy activities planned!!

September marks a brand new term in pre school and a time when we will be welcoming some new children. Our initial focus, therefore, will be on 'Me Myself and I' where the children will be encouraged to talk about themselves and their families to their friends. This not only provides an opportunity for the children to develop their communication and language skills but is also a nice way for the children to get to know each other. In order to enhance this area we will be creating a Family Display board so if you could send in a family photo, for use on this board, we would be really grateful!! Our role play area will be a 'Home corner' which, hopefully, will allow the children to develop their imaginations by imitating significant roles to them.

Numeracy is a key area for pre school children. If you have any coloured bottle tops at home please could you bring them in as the children love to sort items and group items together thus developing their numeracy skills. We will also be looking at measure and length, using the new tape measures to see how tall they are and look at measurements of different objects in the environment.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the beginning of a brand new season - 'Autumn'. We will be discussing change with the children and what happens at this time of the year. The children will also be involved in making a scarecrow as part of our harvest theme, using fruit and vegetables to explore sequences.

Linked to the above theme and to enhance the children's literacy skills we will be reading a new story - 'Olivers Vegetables', which also links to our Harvest

topic. The children will also be able to taste our home grown produce that they have been tending to over the summer months.

Finally we will be starting our very own forest school sessions which provide fun, risk taking activities for the children to achieve and enjoy as well as learning in a safe outdoor environment. The boys especially thrive off this kind of activity as the majority of their learning is through games and exploration. The girls love the magical aspect of the fairies and following the fairy dust trails. .. More information and consent forms to follow.