

## Highwood Summer Term News

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

It's hard to believe we are in May already!

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. We are available to talk to and share your thoughts via telephone 01283 565069 or email us on

[info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk)

Warm Regards

The Highwood Team x

**Highwood Day Nursery Summer term newsletter - let's start with some important dates for your diary:**



**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday June** - Half term. No funding for Nursery Educational Grant or Think2

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May** - The Queens Royal Jubilee party.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> / Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** - Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday - Nursery is closed

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June** - Parents Evening

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July until the beginning of September** - No funding for Nursery Educational Grant

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August** -Summer holiday club

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August** - Bank Holiday - Nursery is closed



**Happy Father's Day** to all of our Daddy's and Carers. We hope that you have a lovely day 😊



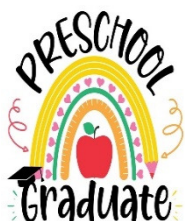
**Platinum Jubilee** - We are very excited to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne. This will take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and the children are invited to dress up like royalty, wear a crown or something red, white and blue. We will also be having a themed Jubilee Garden party afternoon tea and decorations to celebrate.



**Holiday Club Bookings** - We will be running a Big Kidz Holiday Club throughout the summer. Please see Vicki or Aimee for details and places available. The club is for those children who have started school. Come and join in the fun at Highwood's Big Kidz Club



During the summer months we are sure that you that you will be doing lots of exciting activities with your family..... We would like parents to send photographs of their child so that we can reflect on their summer activities/achievements/milestones from home. Please send them to us via Blossom Education app, these will go directly to your child's key worker so we can add these to your child's Learning Journey.



Graduation party is Monday 12th July 6.15pm-7.15pm the theme is "Rainbows". This celebration is for the children who are starting school in September.



The Highwood Team would like to wish all our children and families who are moving onto school and a new adventure, every success for the future. We are very proud of them all and will miss their smiley faces. If your child is leaving us this summer, could you please let us know their leaving date, this is to ensure their transition records are ready to pass on to their new setting

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE WERE  
MAKING MEMORIES, WE JUST KNEW  
WE WERE HAVING FUN



## Oral Health



During the Early Years Foundation Stage, a child's first experience with oral health can impact on the rest of their life. That's why it's so important to teach them all about their mouth and healthy eating. Helping children develop healthy habits to care for their teeth while they are young is important. These habits can set the stage for good oral health care throughout their entire life. They can avoid many of the problems that result from poor oral health, including gum disease, cavities and tooth decay.



**Nursery car park** - Please can you drive slowly, carefully and with great caution when entering and leaving the nursery car park. We have a number of families who travel to nursery on foot and unfortunately, we do not have a dedicated pathway to run alongside the driveway. We cannot emphasise enough how important it is to drive with due care and attention. Thank you for your co-operation.

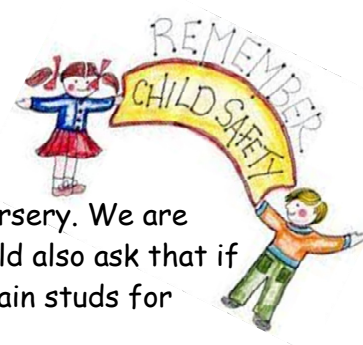


**Change of Details** - Please remember to inform us of any change to your personal details such as mobile phone numbers, home telephone numbers and your address or place of work, thank you.

## Health and Safety -



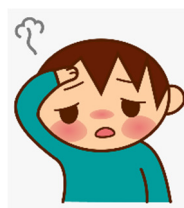
**Jewellery** -For safety reasons we prefer if jewellery is not worn at nursery. We are unable to take any responsibility for injury, loss or breakages. We would also ask that if your child has their ears pierced, please could you ensure they wear plain studs for nursery.



**Weather** We would kindly ask that you send your child in appropriate clothing for when we are playing outdoors. As the weather gets warmer, we would ask that you apply 8hour sun cream to your child before they start their session. If your child attends all day then sun cream will need to be provided in order for staff to reapply after lunch in hot weather. Please ensure the sun cream is named and that you have signed our sun cream procedure form. Please ensure your child has a coat with them every session and we discourage children wearing flip-flops and crocs for safety reasons.



**Illness:** Please, please DO NOT send your child to nursery if they are unwell. We also ask you NOT to bring your child to Highwood if they have taken any medication in the morning. If they have suffered from diarrhoea or sickness, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. This also applies to those children who have started a course of antibiotics.





**Childcare savings** – There are several options to help parents with childcare costs, whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support. You could be entitled to..

- 2-year-old funding 15 hrs
- 3+4-year-old funding 15 hrs
- 3+4-year-old funding up to 30 hrs
- Tax free childcare 0-11 years
- Tax Credits 0-15 years
- Universal credits 0-15 years
- Childcare voucher 0-15 years
- Support while you study

Please have a look on [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to check what you may be entitled to and apply. As a nursery we offer funding for eligible 2, 3- and 4-year olds, 15 and 30 hours a week, term time only or stretched over the holidays. We also accept Childcare employment vouchers and signed up to the government tax free childcare payments.

### **School Readiness**



As we prepare to say a sad farewell to our older children, we thought it would be beneficial to reflect on how, at Highwood we help to prepare the children for school and how you too can help them at home. At Highwood we promote your child's independence, within our supportive environment, your child is encouraged to think and act for themselves.

**Toilet independence:** Once your child is fully toilet trained, they are encouraged to use the toilet and maintain their personal hygiene independently.

**Personal Belongings:** Your child is encouraged to look after their own belongings. They are encouraged to hang up their own coat and bag and to collect them at the end of their session.

**Getting Dressed:** Your child is encouraged to dress themselves. Taking off and putting on their own coat and shoes and will practice this through various dressing up and role play opportunities. (Please try and purchase shoes for your child that they can manage themselves).

**Free flow:** Your child is encouraged to explore their own interests and are given the opportunity to access a variety of resources to support their learning.

**1 to 1 Reading sessions:** In the term before your child starts school, they will be introduced to 1 to 1 reading sessions with their key person.

**School Role Play:** We will be creating our school role play area at Highwood, so that the children become more familiar with book bags / Lunch bags and uniforms that they will be encountering in their new schools.

**Lunch Time:** The children will have lots of opportunities to practice eating their lunch independently in a social situation.

**Liaise with local schools:** We maintain close links with local schools and annually review transition arrangements.

**Teacher Visits:** We invite the local schools to visit Highwood to meet their new intake in their familiar environment. This also gives your child's key worker an opportunity to discuss their individual development and wellbeing.

**Top Tips for Starting School:**

- Involve your child in the process of buying uniform and other necessities for school.
- Encourage your child to dress and put on their shoes and coats independently.
- Encourage your child to manage their own personal hygiene after using the toilet such as teaching your child to wipe their own bottom and hand washing.
- Talk about starting school together BUT don't refer to it as starting 'BIG' school as this can prove intimidating. Instead use the schools name or refer to it by the colour of its uniform.
- Read books about starting school together. The following web links provide information and advice on developing the key skills your child needs to be school ready.

Pacey - Steps to Starting School Poster

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/PACEY%20general/Steps-to-starting-school.pdf> nurseryresources.org - School Readiness Poster

<https://www.nurseryresources.org/product/school-readiness-poster>



### **Caterpillar Room**

The caterpillars have been learning about spring by exploring sensory trays with real flowers and insects. We have planted sunflower seeds and have taken them home to watch them grow. We have created spring pictures as part of our spring display.

We will be updating our sensory display board so the caterpillars will be exploring a variety of materials and textures on our sensory trays linking to our themes throughout the month the zoo animals and number/action songs.

**Understanding the world- 0-3-explore materials with different properties.**



To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, we will be getting creative and painting a flag and decorating a crown. With support and guidance from carers the caterpillars will be making sandwiches for a tea party.

### **Physical development- 0-3 -develop manipulation and control**

We will be learning about colours and the rainbow song and getting creative making rainbow pictures to update our display board.

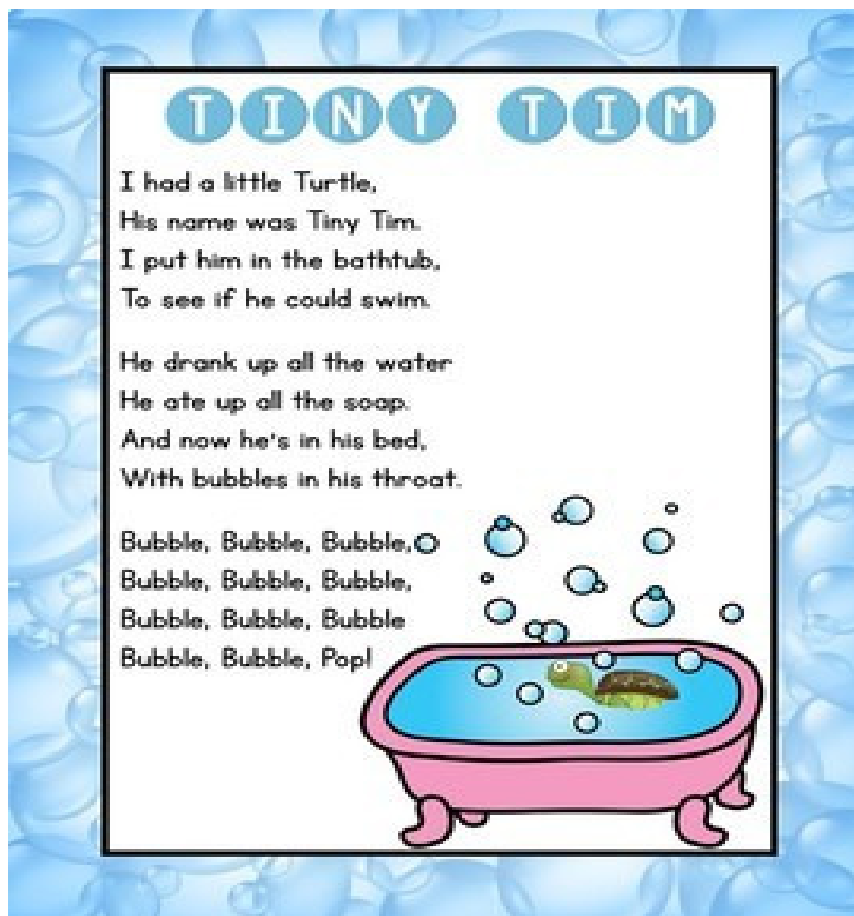
### **Communication and language-0-3- copy your gestures and words**

**Expressive Arts and Design-0-3- Explore paint using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools.**

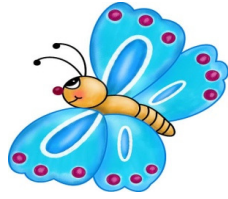
We will be making something special for Father's Day.

We will be exploring the sea life and under the sea and talking about Summer exploring Summer themed sensory trays and craft.

### **Understanding the world-0-3- explore natural materials indoors and outside**



## Butterflies



In celebration of Astronomy Day and Star Wars Day we are having a space themed week. Throughout this week we will be exploring a range of different sensory trays and feeling different textures. We will be investigating moon sand, shiny rice, slime and shiny treasure. To link in with this theme we will be singing five little men in a flying saucer to promote counting and joining in with number songs.

**0-3 Mathematics- Develop counting- like behaviour such as making sounds, pointing and saying some number names in sequence.**

We are going to get creative to make something very special for our loved ones for Father's Day. We will enjoy small group time talking about people who are significant in our lives and special to us.

We are going to be introducing the season- Summer, we are going to be exploring lots of summer themed activities that help us talk about what summer is as well as discussing the change in the weather and what we need to wear.

We will be creating a summer display with the help of children's wonderful art work they create.

We are going to be updating our golden rules display and discuss what our golden rules are linking this to emotions and feelings. We will be making an emotion tray complete with the golden rules puppets so the children can become familiar to them.

**0-3- personal, social and emotional development**

**"safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories"**

## Ladybirds



Over the past weeks the children have enjoyed exploring and focusing their attention on the lifecycle of a butterfly. In our investigation area we have enjoyed watching the

process of our real caterpillars change in our investigation cube. We have waited patiently whilst they were in their Chrysalis station.... But now we have 5 beautiful butterflies. The children are enjoying observing them on a daily basis and once the butterflies have strengthened their wings, we will set them free.



The older children will have opportunities to paint their new school uniform to get them ready for September. Conversations linked about going to school will held in our "Conversation Station".



**Literacy- 3-4-Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.**

In preparation for school there will be a school linked display showing school logos, different colours of uniform and routine. We will be incorporating themed stories based on experiences of going to school. Our Role play area will change into "a school" enabling the children to explore with friends and engage in conversation and enjoy pretend play together.



Personal, Social and Emotional-3-4-Play with one or more other children, extending and elaborating play ideas.

The children have been introduced to the mood monsters this has enabled them to be involved with self - regulation and understand feelings and emotions knowing how they feel themselves and use experiences which may explain why they feel that way.

Personal, Emotional and Social Development-3-4-Talk about their feelings using words like 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' or 'worried'.

Mood Monsters-



In our new learning environment, we have opportunities to vote for a story we would like to read together. We have the choice to take ourselves away into our cosy book nook area with added fairy lights to help us relax.



We have used our listening ears to demonstrate understanding of focusing on hearing environmental sounds around us in our natural environment whether it be indoors or outdoors? - what sounds can you hear at home? Please send us a photo on Blossom of all the new exciting sounds you are able to hear.

Communication and Language-3-4- Use a wider range of vocabulary

### Expressive Arts and Design-3-4-Listen with increased attention to sounds

The children are very busy enjoying loose parts in their play. We have introduced them to simple everyday objects which can improve creativity and enhance their social development. "A loose part toy is open ended and children may use it in many ways to combine with other loose parts through imagination and creativity"

Loose parts promote language development when children use them as props to engage in rich conversations and storytelling with peers and adults. Describing the items, they manipulate children are able to enhance their vocabulary and increase their critical thinking skills.

### Expressive Arts and Design-3-4- Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them.

If you have any spare everyday items such as cotton reels, curtain rings, beads, buttons, washers, screws, springs, bangles or pegs and would you like to kindly donate them to us please speak to Aimee or Vicki.

We are enjoying a variety of "Funky Fingers" activities these are implemented daily these are a series of fun activities for children to build up their upper body strength, gross motor using their finger and hand muscles. Through improving fine motor skills children develop independence in things such as buttoning/ zipping up their coats or opening their own packets

To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, we will be finding out facts about Queen Elizabeth who is she? How old is she? and using paints to create a portrait of what we think she looks like. We will be developing our hand eye coordination to cut and spread creating our own "Cucumber sandwiches"

### Understanding the world-3-4-Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos

We will be enjoying conversations about people who are significantly special to us and creating special cards to send home for Father's day.

In July the children will be learning about the importance of sun safety. We will be enjoying conversations about holidays and transport we use to go on holiday. We will also enjoy opportunities of sorting out a suitcase with clothing suitable for a Summer Holiday and designing our own passports and luggage labels in the mark making area.

