

Tiddly Winks Newsletter

May 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our May Newsletter, and as always, we would like to welcome our new families who have recently joined us.

We are looking forward to another exciting and fun filled month! To find out more, please read on...

All the best

Louise and Amelia

World Turtle Day

Thursday 23rd May was 'World Turtle Day', this is celebrated throughout the world to help celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of protecting turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats.

Abbie from Little Oaks kindly brought in her tortoise 'Slow Farah' to come and meet the children at the nursery. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to hold and stroke the tortoise, as well as spark conversations about different pets that we may have in our homes.

Interacting with animals is a fantastic way to support children's understanding about the world around us, and empathy for others. Slow Farah was very popular across all of the rooms and we look forward to welcoming her back next year!



Sunny Weather

With Summer just around the corner, please ensure your child is attending nursery with a labelled sun hat in their bag every day.

We ask that parent's keep an eye on the weather forecast daily and apply a layer of 24-hour protection sun cream to their child in the morning before their nursery session, should sunny weather be predicted. We will apply an additional precautionary layer of 50+ suncream after lunch time for children that are booked to stay for the whole day.

Ofsted Big Listen Questionnaire

The National Centre for Social Research is carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ofsted. They are interested in the views of parent's regarding Ofsted, including Ofsted's inspection, regulation and reporting services. They would love to hear from a wide range of parents, even if you don't have strong opinions of Ofsted or had any previous experience with them.

Please click on the following link to find out more or to take part in the survey:

survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen

Dates for the diary:

1st June- International Dinosaur Day

8th June- World Ocean Day

10th- 14th June- Healthy eating week

16th June- Father's Day

24th- 30th June- Insect week

Parent messages:

Door Security- If you are sending someone to the nursery to collect your child who does not have a key fob, please ask them to ring the doorbell and wait at the door for a member of staff to let them in. Please do not give out your key fobs or the door code as this compromises the security of all of the children and staff at the nursery.

DSL - Your nursery Designated Safeguarding Lead is Louise . We would like to share with you our confidential email address to forward any safeguarding concerns you may have - dsl@tiddly-winks-nursery.co.uk



Tiddly Winks Nursery

News from around the rooms.....

Acorns:

Acorns had their very own Nursery Rhyme week, exploring some of their favourite rhymes in a variety of different ways such as:

- Old MacDonald - Using paint and animals
 - Wheels on the bus- Attaching pencils to the vehicles to create marks
 - Miss Polly- Using the Doctors kit with the babies in the home corner
 - 5 Little Ducks and Row your boat- Using the ducks and boats in water play
- Rhyming is important for speech development as it helps the children to learn about words, sounds and letter formation.

In celebration of World Sun day, the practitioners in Acorns created their very own beach for the babies to explore. The children adored feeling the different textures with both their hands and feet.



Little Oaks:

The children in Little Oaks have enjoyed planting their own cress seeds. This is a great way to support children with their understanding of the world as they develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time. The children were able to watch the different stages of growth as the seeds developed into cress!

Little Oaks have also been developing their fine motor skills as they used the wooden hammers to smash into the ice to free the dinosaurs! This activity was a fantastic way to develop the children's communication and language skills as they spoke about size, colours and textures of the materials involved.

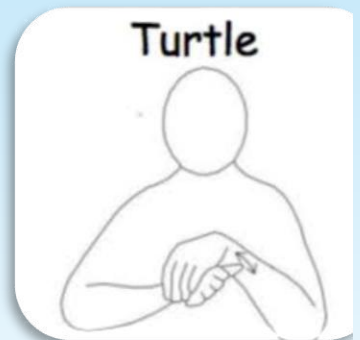


Policy of the month

Our policy folder is available in the front entrance for all parents and visitors to look through.

In addition, this month we will be refreshing ourselves with our **'Managing Extreme Weather'** policy which is attached to this newsletter.

Makaton sign of the month



Junipers:

The children in Junipers have been thoroughly enjoying learning some Spanish words from the lovely Laura! This has become so popular that the team have decided to introduce the Spanish word of the week to broaden the children's vocabulary and understanding of this fantastic language 😊

One of the children in Junipers asked if they could make a smoothie! This was a fantastic way to scaffold children's learning as they created their own shopping lists developing their fine motor and mark making skills. They went onto carefully cut the fruit before blending it and tasting!



Preschool:

Pre-school have enjoyed using their imaginative skills as they have been showing an interest in Pirates. The practitioners have scaffolded the children's learning by giving them the opportunity to make treasure maps, go on a treasure hunt, and create their own pirate ships as they look at sinking and floating experiments.

We have been having fun in the garden taking part in running races and sack races as we develop our gross motor skills and spatial awareness.



Staff Updates:

We are excited to welcome **Georgia** back from maternity leave as she makes a phased return to work over the coming months. She is very excited to see you all again and can't wait to be back with all of the children and staff.

It is with a heavy heart that we prepare to wave goodbye to **Amelia** at the beginning of July. Amelia is moving onto the next step in her career and is joining Surrey, in the North West quadrant, as an Early Years SEND advisor- a role that she truly deserves.

Amelia will now be able to share her passion and expertise with multiple settings and families and we couldn't be more proud of her. Amelia's last day at Tiddly Winks will be **Friday 5th July** and I am sure that you will all join me in wishing her the best of luck in her next adventure.



Dish of the month

Pepper, tomato and Basil pasta



Ingredients

- 3 peppers, red, yellow or orange
- handful cherry tomatoes
- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- large bunch basil
- 400g/14oz pasta shapes
- salt and pepper

Method

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. Halve the peppers lengthways, trim out the seeds and membrane. Lay them in a fairly large roasting tin facing upwards. Halve the cherry tomatoes and place them inside the peppers. Finely slice the garlic and tuck them in with the tomatoes. Drizzle the peppers with olive oil, season, to taste, with salt and freshly pepper. Bake in the oven while you get on with the basil oil.
3. Set aside a few sprigs of basil and blend the rest in a food processor with 3 tablespoons of olive oil and a little salt until you have a bright green basil oil.
4. When 30 minutes or so have passed and the peppers and tomatoes are beginning to soften, pour over the basil dressing. Return to the oven for a further 20 minutes or until the vegetables are slightly charred around the edges. Lift the peppers and tomatoes out of the tray with a slotted spoon and set aside.
5. Cook the pasta in boiling salted water according to the packet instructions. Drain.
6. Tip the cooked, drained pasta into the roasting tin, and stir well to scrape up any caramelised peppers stuck to the pan.
7. Serve the pasta in bowls, tearing in the remaining basil. Spoon the roasted peppers and tomatoes on top.

