



Verwood Day Nursery

February Newsletter 2017



Spring is in the air! February has welcomed more opportunities to enjoy drier weather and longer hours of daylight and the first signs of spring appearing in the garden

Baby and toddler news

This month I'd like to welcome Macie and Nathaniel to the nursery. I hope that they and their families have settled in well to nursery life!



We have a new name – **The Nest**

Our baby toddler unit has been renamed The Nest - a safe and warm place for nurturing and supporting our youngest children.

We have been reviewing what we offer the children in The Nest and some of you may have already noticed some lovely new resources especially for our youngest babies to explore.



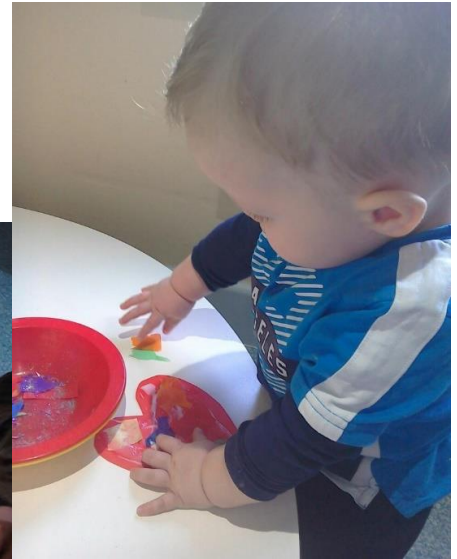
We have focused on sensory development providing lots of resources which stimulate sight, hearing and touch and encourage the children to investigate and explore.

Our new bubble tube and sensory lights have been a real hit with all the children and staff alike.



Babies use all their senses to explore the environment so we have provided lots of materials to touch, shake, roll, bang, look at, investigate and explore. Staff will continue to develop this interest with the children over the next few weeks focusing on sensory activities and introducing opportunities to taste and explore textures through tactile experiences.

We have had lots of opportunities to develop our fine motor skills during February. Valentine's Day brought opportunities to make special cards and our new display board showcases some very good sticking!



We have continued to develop the love of books and stories and also mark making with lots and lots of opportunities to explore our favourite rhymes and songs too.



The staff have introduced an Old MacDonald theme to the children using puppets to sing the rhyme and books to look at different types of animals and identify what noises they all make!

We have played animal games too matching pictures correctly and learning all the animal names.



The children are enjoying learning all the animal noises and names and staff will continue to develop this over the coming weeks and focus on language development with the children using animals as a prompt. They will also use vehicles such as tractors to make marks and develop their small world play.



If you have 5 minutes we'd be really grateful.

Apple and Plum room news



We started off the month with a visit from Verwood Library who came and shared stories and songs with us all about different animals.

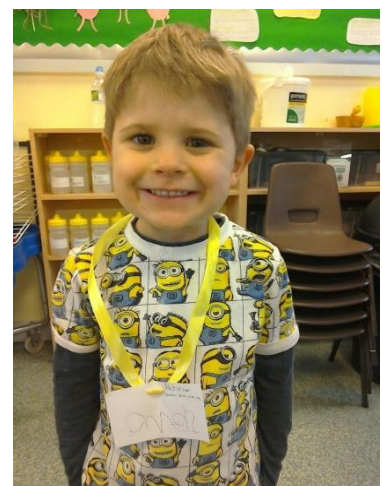
The children thoroughly enjoyed the visitors and listened nicely to new stories and joined in with the rhymes and songs.

Across both rooms the children have developed a real interest in our bodies, either learning about body parts or how we look after our bodies.

In Plum room we had a brand new doctors surgery where all kinds of injuries and ailments have been treated with waiting times being kept to a minimum!



The doctors and nurses all needed name badges and so the staff focused on handwriting skills encouraging the children to make their own labels to wear.



The children will be having a visit from a District Nurse next week who will talk to them about her role and also show them how to carry out tasks such as checking blood pressure. She will also talk to the children about keeping themselves healthy and the importance of washing their hands to keep the bugs at bay!



The staff are focusing a lot at the moment on mark making and developing pencil control for handwriting through a variety of activities focusing on those that require fine motor skills.



Our new outdoor resources have been a huge success and the children are thoroughly enjoying the 'open ended' opportunities that the equipment provides them.

We have seen lots of amazing balancing and some ingenious inventions for rolling cable reels and just yesterday heard chants of 'walk the plank'!



Over the coming weeks staff will continue to follow the variety of interest that the children have from construction, writing and mark making, role play picnics and parties, our body, cooking..... to name just a few!

30 hours funding at Verwood Day Nursery



Many of you will have now heard that Dorset has been chosen as one of four counties to pilot an early implementation of the 30 hours extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds.

Have you taken the time to login and register your interest in receiving 30 hours funding? All children born on or before 31/03/2014 will be eligible to receive the hours (depending on certain criteria).

Those of you who have will shortly be receiving emails from HMRC to enable to you to establish your Childcare Account with them, this will in turn generate an eligibility code. I will then need that eligibility code, along with a few other details to get your claim for the 30 hours underway.

Many of you will simply enjoy a bigger deduction of funding from your existing childcare costs but some of you may want to take advantage of the extra hours and are possibly thinking of increasing your child's time with us.

During the week of the 13th March I will be available on Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings from 4pm – 6pm and Thursday evening from 4pm – 7pm to meet with those parents who wish to discuss how we will be delivering the 30 hours and what the cost of the sessions will be etc. This is also an opportunity to enquire about additional sessions you would like to take up to take the full advantage of the extra funded hours.

I would urge all of you to take the time to apply for the extra funding as it is a fantastic opportunity to be part of the early implementation scheme in Dorset and we would be silly to miss out.

If you haven't yet registered an interest this is the link to use –

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/childcare/30-hours-free>



Some reminders



Coats and shoes

We ask that **ALL** children come to nursery with a sensible, **warm and waterproof** outdoor coat and shoes. There have been occasions where we have had to provide children with alternative outdoor wear or boots to allow them to access the outdoor areas during the day. We will go outside each day, in the cold and wet, sun and snow and we don't want anyone to miss out.



Health visitor clinic

Sharon Wallis from the Verwood Health visiting team will be at the nursery on **Tuesday the 28th March** from 4.15pm onwards. The clinics are an opportunity to meet with Sharon to have your child weighed or measured or discuss any concerns or seek some advice.

Anyone is welcome to see Sharon, she doesn't have to be your child's Health visitor and if you'd like to see her, simply pop along anytime from 4.15pm.

Coming up in March

- Invitations will be coming out to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Don't forget to RSVP.
- Health Visitor clinic on the 28th March at 4.15pm

Future events for 2017

Annual Easter egg Hunt – Saturday 8th April

This fantastic event will be taking place once again for all of the children and families.

Parents evenings – May (dates to be confirmed)

We will be offering 10 minute appointments with your Child's key person to chat about their progress and next steps.

Sports Day – Friday 21st July

The nursery will host its 4th sports day for all our 3 and 4 year olds on Friday 21st July.

Leavers party – Saturday 5th August

Our annual farewell party for all our 'big school' boys and girls

Photographer – Tuesday 29th August * new date *

Our annual visit from Concept photography

Parents evenings – October (dates to be confirmed)

We will be offering 10 minute appointments with your child's key person to chat about their progress and next steps

Pumpkin week – date to be confirmed

We will once again be hosting a pumpkin week with a pumpkin carving competition for children, parents and staff.

Children in Need – Friday 17th November

We will once again be showing our support for this charity by having a themed day

Christmas Fair – Saturday 9th December

Our annual Christmas fair for all attending children and their families