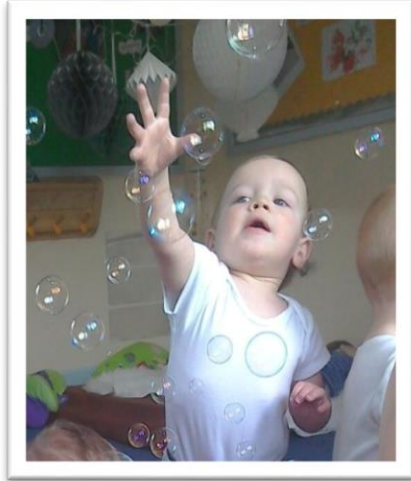




# Verwood Day Nursery March Newsletter 2017



## News from The Nest

The children and staff in The Nest have continued to enjoy exploring all the wonderful new resources that we have.

Opportunities for exploration using their many developing senses are being enjoyed every day and the rooms have a wonderful calm and homely feel more than ever now.

## Mark making and messy play



The interest in making marks with various materials continues and the staff are providing lots of opportunities to incorporate children's interest in things such as cars and tractors into the mark making and messy play activities. Driving cars and trucks through paint and noticing the patterns left by the wheels is mesmerising for the children and brings about that early wonder and fascination in mark making.



**If you have 5 minutes we'd be very grateful.**



The children have also had opportunities to engage in messy activities where they can choose how messy they want to get!

Helping to mix a giant bowl of shaving foam and porridge with either their hands or a spoon means the children could choose how involved they wanted to be and helped staff encourage those that really don't enjoy getting their hands dirty, to join in.



## Encouraging independence



The drive for independence starts at a very early age. Young babies rapidly make decisions about what they play with, what they like to eat and who they prefer to be with. Toddlers will thrive in a healthy environment where they have opportunities to do more and more for themselves.

Meal times provide lots of opportunities to master the art of carefully transferring food on a spoon to their mouths without it all falling off the spoon on the way and carefully drinking water from a sippy cup with it coming out too fast!

Staff use every opportunity to support and develop early independence in all the children and mealtimes really are a pleasure to watch.



## Nurturing a love of books

At just a few months of age, an infant can look at pictures, listen to your voice, and point to objects on a page. By guiding children to point to the pictures, and say the names of the various objects and by drawing attention to pictures and associating words with both pictures and real-world objects, your child will learn the importance of language.

Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. When the rhythm and melody of language become a part of a child's life, learning to read will be as natural as learning to walk and talk.

## Apple and Plum room news

This month I'd like to welcome Louis to the nursery. I hope that together with his family he is settling well into nursery life.

## Our visit from a District Nurse



We were incredibly lucky to have a visit from a District Nurse last month (aka Chloe's mum)!



Together with her colleague Michelle she chatted to the children about her role within the community and the type of things she does and why.

The children then had the opportunity to use stethoscopes, thermometers, bandages, gloves and syringes (full of water) and chatted about the importance of washing our hands correctly to keep away the germs.

The visit had been arranged by the staff to support the children's interest in role playing doctors and learning about their bodies.

## Busy in the garden with Ben



Ben has been busy in the garden with the children as the new growing season gets under way.

They have pulled up the last of the parsnip crop but they were no longer any good for eating so the children have used them for printing with instead!

They have also helped Ben to plant out the potatoes that they had earlier chitted and carrot seeds have also now been planted too.

## Our bodies



Across the whole nursery the interest in our bodies seems to be developing at the moment and with the visit from the district nurse it has fired more curiosity and drive to learn more.

We have some amazing new puzzles that show the different parts of the body going from skin, to veins, muscles, the organs and then the skeleton. The children have enjoyed learning the names and functions of some of the organs and have wanted to draw their own pictures to record what they learned.

We have also used this as an opportunity to talk about feelings and emotions as learning to deal with ever growing and changing emotions can be really overwhelming at times.

Using mirrors, the staff have encouraged children to carefully look at their facial features and make different expressions in the mirrors, talking about what those expressions mean and why they may feel like that.



## Food glorious food



Plum room children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring another interest this month – food!

Kelly has provided opportunities for cooking activities and the children helped Colin prepare the vegetables for lunch one day. We have had lots of role play chefs and playing with food too!



The food theme has provided endless opportunities to focus on developing maths skills as staff discuss weights and measure, quantities and capacity.

Children have had the opportunity to use scales in their role play and have been heard using words such as more, less, heavy and light.



Help us collect  
Active Kids vouchers

[activekids.sainsburys.co.uk](http://activekids.sainsburys.co.uk)  
#ActiveKids



## 30 hours funding at Verwood Day Nursery - URGENT



We have been asked by Dorset County Council to urge any parents who haven't yet expressed an interest in claiming the 30 hours funding to do so immediately.

The Dorset system for parents will stop on **19<sup>th</sup> April 2017** and any applications after this date will be for the Autumn term and cannot be applied to any summer term hours.

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

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

If you have completed an application but haven't yet received your code, please contact HMRC on 0300 123 4097 as a priority.

**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.**

**We do have some spaces available for the summer term if there is anyone wishing to increase their sessions in order to take advantage of the additional funding.**

### Lost property

We have an ever increasing amount of lost property in our garage and would ask you all to take just 5 minutes to look through it and see if anything belongs to your child/children. **Anything unclaimed by the end of April will be donated to charity.**

All of these tops and coats etc. have no name in them and it's increasingly difficult for staff to know what belongs to whom. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** label your children's jumpers, coats and tops to help us keep our lost property to a minimum.

Thank you!



### Coming up in April

Our Annual Easter Egg hunt takes place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Have you had your personal invitation with time slot?

We look forward to seeing you all there.

## Future events for 2017

### **Annual Easter egg Hunt – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Childs key person to chat about their progress and next steps.

### **Sports Day – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

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

### **Leavers party – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

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

### **Photographer – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> November**

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

### **Christmas Fair – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Our annual Christmas fair for all attending children and their families



Enjoy the Spring sunshine

Rachel, Craig, Dean, Donna and all the team.