



# Verwood Day Nursery

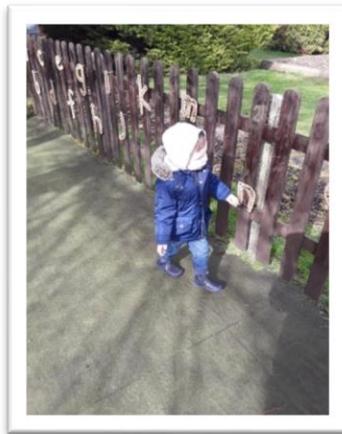
## March 2019



Welcome to our March newsletter

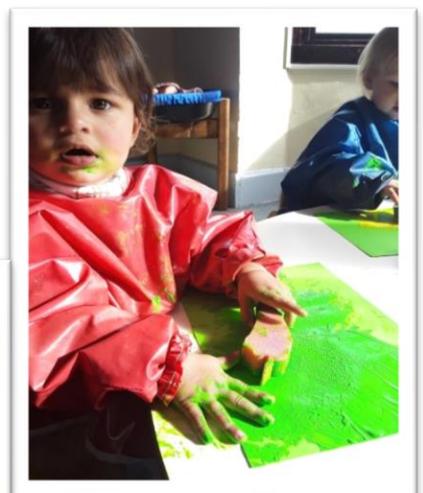
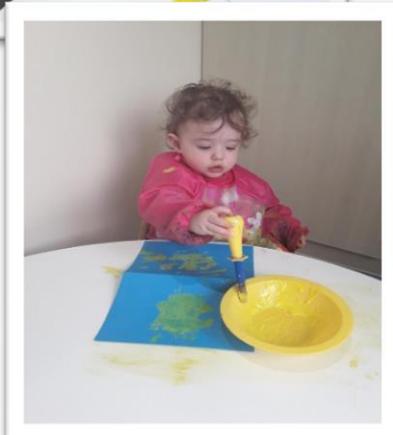
### News from The Nest

With the Spring sunshine comes more opportunities to be outside exploring and playing. This month the children have been out every day, several times a day and have enjoyed using the new trikes and developing their gross motor skills and coordination as they learn to move around in new and exciting ways.



### Making and creating

The children have been very creative this month and exploring paint has been a firm favourite. The children are becoming fascinated with the marks they can make by moving their hands and they are starting to connect the movements and marks together. They have made some beautiful pieces of artwork that you can see displayed in the room.





## Puzzles

The children love puzzles at the moment, they will concentrate for long periods of time, determined to make each piece fit and connect.

What are the benefits of puzzles?

Puzzles are self-correcting and twisting and turning each piece to try and make it fit is the way children learn to problem solve and develop critical thinking.

Puzzles build hand eye co-ordination. The ability to co-ordinate what the eye sees, the mind wants to do, and what the hands can accomplish takes a lot of practice.

Puzzles offer a fun way to develop fine motor ability. Children need to develop strength in the muscles in their fingers so that they can grasp things and hold onto them. This will later give them the ability to hold a pencil.

When a child works on a puzzle until completion the child is developing persistence. Once the puzzle is solved the child can feel a sense of accomplishment which boots independence and self-esteem.



## Current availability

In the Nest, our baby and toddler rooms we now have places available on all days throughout the week, however these are limited on some.

Downstairs for our 2,3 and 4-year-old children, we have limited places available in the mornings, but more places available for the afternoon sessions.

With the availability of the 30 hours funding, some of you may be considering increasing your child's time with us at some point in the future and our advice is that it's never too early and we don't want anyone to miss out on a place with us.

**Don't forget our £100 referral reward. Just ask the other person making the enquiry or booking to mention your name.**



## News from Apple and Plum rooms

### Celebrations

We celebrated Pancake Day and World Book day at the beginning of the month with opportunities to make pancakes and of course eat them too and on World Book Day we dressed up and celebrated stories with a huge variety of activities.

Thank you to everyone who sent their child in dressed in either a character t-shirt or costume and thank you also to the brave parents who came in and read some stories with the children.



### Two-year checks

Don't forget to let us know when you have your child's 2-year developmental check appointment through. We are required to provide you with a written summary of your child's development to share with the health visitor during the check.

We will complete this summary with you, so please just let us know and we can arrange a convenient time to chat with your child's key person.

## Willow House Activities

The Willow House is a very special place used by our big children and we are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful place to go.

The activities planned and accessed encourage the exploration of the outdoor environment and allow time to explore in more detail with small groups.

The children have enjoyed a scavenger hunt and collecting leaves for practising their cutting and snipping this month and explored concepts such as sinking and floating and simple 'chemical' reactions. They have also enjoyed bubbles in lots of different forms.



## Planting and produce

From next month we will be introducing a monthly focus on planting and eating seasonal fruit and vegetables and each month the chosen fruit and vegetables will be displayed by the menu board in the main hallway.

This will detail what we will be sowing both outside in the vegetable garden, in the green house or sending home for you to grow and enjoy at home.

We will be incorporating some of the seasonal food in the menu we provide for the children at meal and snack times and we may even use some in our activities.

The children will also use the seasonal produce to cook each month, making something yummy to take home and share.



During April and into May we are also hosting a Grandparent Gardening Week and for those who have expressed an interest please look out for your Pukka Herbs invitation.

### What do the children learn through gardening?

- *Responsibility – from caring for plants*
- *Understanding – as they learn about cause and effect (for example, plants die without water, weeds compete with plants)*
- *Self-confidence – from achieving their goals and enjoying the food they have grown*
- *Love of nature – a chance to learn about the outdoor environment in a safe and pleasant place*
- *Reasoning and discovery – learning about the science of plants, animals, weather, the environment, nutrition and simple construction*
- *Physical activity – doing something fun and productive*
- *Cooperation – including shared play activity and teamwork*
- *Creativity – finding new and exciting ways to grow food*
- *Nutrition – learning about where fresh food comes from*



## Employee of the month

As well as our employee of the year award that recognises a member of staff who has consistently gone 'above and beyond' we have introduced an employee of the month award. This award acknowledges and recognises a member of staff who has planned, resourced and provided inspiring, fun and exciting activities to provoke learning and engagement.



**This month's winner is Vicki from Apple room.**

Vicki has supported and developed children's understanding in a huge variety of ways this month, but especially during her time with the groups of children in the Willow House.

Her activities are always fun, different and spark curiosity in all the children who are eager to take part and share their experiences with others.

Well done Vicki



## Coming up .....

### April

- Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> April – Annual Easter Egg Hunt (personal invitations and time slots are being handed out so make sure you've had yours)
- Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> April – Grandparent gardening week

### May

- Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> May – parents and carer basic first aid course 2-5pm. Please let us know if you'd like to book a place.
- Parents evenings – please look out for more details next month

### Easter holidays

For all those children either on a term time or funded only contract the first day of the Easter break will start on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April and the first day back is Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.