



# Verwood Day Nursery

## April 2019



Welcome to our newsletter a round up of everything we got up to in April

### Easter Egg Hunt



Thank you to everyone that came to our Easter event. This year we decided to utilise the facilities on our doorstep at Potterne Park, completing a scavenger hunt around the park and meeting the Easter bunny!

Back in the nursery, children made chocolate nests, planted sunflower seeds and made bunny fir cones before enjoying some of Danny's delicious homemade treats. Crème Egg cheesecake was the firm favourite.

Thank you to all the families that attended, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did?

# News from The Nest

## Edible sensory play

Research has proven that allowing children to explore foods with their senses, handling and squashing foods, encourages them to try new things.



Staff provide 'food' based activities where the children can explore such foods as cereals and noodles for example and if they feel the urge to taste it, they can.

Eating is about using all our senses and introducing children to food like this in a fun way, hopefully means they will enjoy the different foods when presented in a meal.



While exploring the food, the children have used a large variety of physical skills too.

- Picking up small pieces between finger and thumb
- Enjoying the experience of making marks with their fingers
- Carefully scooping food to fill and empty containers
- Using spoons to fill their cups or bowls

The children are also developing their social skills of turn taking and sharing as they play together at the tray.

## **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**

### **Stick insects and butterflies**

On World Book day in March, the children were given some tiny caterpillars. They watched the caterpillars eat all their food and grow into big fat caterpillars before then hiding away in their chrysalises. Both Apple and Plum rooms successfully released their butterflies into the

garden waving  
goodbye as they  
fluttered away.



In Plum room, the children have some stick insects, which they handle and help to feed and clean. Their names are: Bean, Sticks, Charlie, Blossom and Twiggy and their legs are very tickly apparently!



## Cooking club

Sarah kick started our new cooking club by making banana loaf with the children during April.



Not only will children learn more about how to use all the seasonal produce, but they are introduced to some many skills through cooking. Lots of discussion about weighing and measuring and the science behind cooking and how the ingredients change when cooked.



All the children will have an opportunity to participate in cooking with Sarah each month.

## 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.

## Progress summaries

The staff have all been working very hard throughout April to write the latest progress summaries for all the children in the setting.

This time the summaries will be displayed in a different format, making it easier for everyone to access.

All summaries will be available for families to read by Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. These will be in an 'observation' format that you are all familiar with and will contain the same information as the previous format.

## Maths and ICT

The children have been working very hard on their numbers recently. Not just counting but also recognition and identification of the written numerals.



Inside and outside, the children have been lots of opportunities to discuss and use numbers, to help build on knowledge and understanding.



We have also been using our new tablets with the children to increase their skill and understanding of ICT and how we can use it.

Children get the opportunity to operate equipment such as the photocopier or Beebot our robot to help them understand all the different types of technology and the various skills they need in order to operate them.



## Lost and Found

We have a hooded top missing from the Plum room. It is a Tesco top aged 2-3 years, bright blue with a zip. It is clearly named. Could you please check you haven't picked it up by mistake?



Do these belong to you?

These were found by the Plum room entrance and are currently safe in the office.



## Grandparent gardening week



Thank you to everyone that gave up their time to attend our first Grandparent Gardening Week event.

It was huge success, with lots of opportunities for the children to get hands on planting seeds and potatoes, helping to weed the garden and make bird scarers to stop the pesky birds eating all our seeds!



## **Staffing update**

Some of you will have already seen that the lovely Karen has returned to us. Karen left at the beginning of the year to take on a new role as a children's nurse, but sadly the role wasn't for her. We are so pleased to welcome her back as she joins the Plum room team.

Also coming back is Kaitie. After moving on to progress her career at a setting in Bournemouth, she realised that Verwood was where she was happiest, so she re-joins the Plum room team this week.

Welcome back to both Karen and Kaitie.

Sadly however, at the end of May, Vicky from the baby and toddler unit will be leaving us. Vicky will be taking up a term time only role at a Ferndown setting, which she hopes will make family life a little easier. We wish Vicky the best of luck in her new role.

## **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 Nicola**

Nicola moved from our baby and toddler down to Plum room at the beginning of April and at first, she admits she was a little apprehensive of the change. However, she has been simply brilliant and has very quickly found her feet and settled straight in. She's so happy in fact, she's asked to stay with this age group!

Well done Nicola



## **Coming up ....**

- Parents appointments with your child's key person. Please look out for more details coming soon.
- Transition meetings with local schools for our school leavers. Have you told us which school your child is moving onto?