



## Wee Rascals Too Newsletter - March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

New Year seems like such a long time ago now. We are full swing into 2023 already and planning is underway for the upcoming adventures of the year.

We want to thank all the parents and children for the huge number of gifts we received over the festive period. It was so kind of you all and very appreciated.

### Staff Changes

We have two new members of staff this term. Kirsty Brown joins us in the Little Bunnies room and is working a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Kirsty is new to childcare and is very eager to learn and thoroughly enjoys working with children.

Amber Adam joins us on a Monday and Friday in the Cheeky Monkey room and a Tuesday in the Little Bunnies room. Amber is from a care background, having experience with the older age groups, however she is keen to make the move into childcare, showing a huge interest, with lots of questions already.

### Charity

In December, we raised a total of £150 from our Lucky Squares. A huge thank you to all parents who contributed during 2022. The money raised will support the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

For 2023, we have decided to raise money for Great Ormond Street Children's hospital. Further details will follow.

Suggestions of future fundraising ideas are always welcome!

### Training

Emma Wright passed her SVQ3 childcare qualification in November 2022, making her a fully qualified Nursery Practitioner. She worked very hard, and we are so proud of her achievement.

Stephanie Wood and Emma Rowell both gained passes in their recent units of their BA Childhood Practice Studies - Well done to both!

Leanne MacLeod continues to make progress in her studies for her SVQ 3 childcare qualification to become a fully qualified Nursery Practitioner, and has been receiving great feedback!!

Shauna Aitken and Claire Gilbert have just started their SVQ 3 qualifications.

### Learning experiences

#### Little Bunnies



Last term, the Little Bunnies wrapped up their Autumn theme, making hedgehogs from the playdough. The children helped to measure out the ingredients to make the dough and then used a variety of collage materials such as lollipop sticks, googly eyes and cupcake cases to transform the playdough into their very own hedgehog.

We are keen to involve the children in events in our lives, and in November we introduced them to poppies, talking about how they are used to commemorate Remembrance Day. Children participated in poppy related Arts & Crafts, such as manipulating and stretching red playdough and using black buttons and sequins to make the middle of the poppy. We also honoured Remembrance Day, icing our own biscuits and adding a chocolate button on top, which the children enjoyed as part of their afternoon snack.

All the children had a great time making Christmas crafts. We made an immense number of cards and special gifts, with lots of glitter used! Spatial awareness and caring for each other were big on the agenda during December as we reminded the children to share and be kind to each other. We all enjoyed the Christmas celebrations, and everyone loved the Christmas party with our special guest, Jo Jingles. The children had an absolute blast - dancing, singing, and shaking their musical instruments, before opening their presents.



The children returned from their Christmas holidays and managed to get straight back into the swing of things. With the snow pouring down, we have been able to explore different consistencies, and looked at cause and effect with the children, for example snow turning to ice and then back to water, understanding different temperatures. Children were keen to feel the cold touch of the ice.

Our cube slide in the room is always very popular, and helps the children with balance and co-ordination, as well as giving them an understanding of the importance of sharing. Children learn the importance of waiting for their turn, giving them an awareness of safety.

#### Cheeky Monkeys

The children created poppies for Remembrance Day using sponges and paint, and some children also chose to draw their own poppies using crayons. We spoke a little about the poppy flowers, where they grow, and we also watched a little video about them.

Christmas brought us lots of activities enabling us to get sparkly and glittery. The children were able to take part in their own baking, mixing, rolling and cutting dough shapes. With some support, they also wrote letters to Santa - and received replies! We had a big Christmas party and Jo Jingles joined us with lots dancing and party games, followed by some snack and a gift sent from Santa.



Returning to nursery after the holidays, the children were full of stories about their holidays, and it was lovely to hear all of their developing words. The children have loved expressing themselves, dressing up with some new hats, scarfs and glasses in our roleplay area. This encourages individuality, and of course lots of imaginative play.

The children have loved discussing pets, and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing the pictures they brought in of them. It was lovely to see the children developing their confidence whilst describing each pet and telling us their names.

Dinosaurs became a big focus as the children became engrossed in learning all about them. We looked at the history and names of the dinosaurs, making our own fossils and footprints. We observed their colours, and the children participated in matching games, which helped to develop colour recognition. During physical play, we asked the children to demonstrate "How does a Dinosaur do this?", and the children would Stomp their feet, give a Roaring sound, as well as a Flapping movement to mimic a flying Dinosaur!

### Busy Bees

The Busy Bees worked together to create a poppy wreath, learning about Remembrance Day. They also made poppies using tissue paper and lollipop sticks, with some children opting to make some to plant in the flower bed outside as well.

Children started to notice the leaves changing colour, and so we focused on Autumn. The Busy Bees enjoyed learning about wildlife and created hedgehog pictures using a fork to create the spikes.



The children thoroughly enjoyed Christmas, with excitement levels sky high! They made lots of Christmas pictures, particularly enjoying using their feet to decorate paper for the wall display, describing it as "cold," "slimy," and "sticky."

The children decorated the room with a colourful Christmas tree and lots of tinsel. They were interested in the shapes of the baubles on the tree, so using the lightbox, we explored 3D shapes and the children stated what each one was called. They also practiced their threading skills and made their strings of beads into Christmas decorations! Lots of the Busy Bees made patterns with the beads, which inspired them to paint patterns at the art easel.

Throughout all the Christmas excitement, everyone worked hard to learn the lines and songs for their Nativity. With only 3 weeks of practice, the children put on a fantastic performance, singing their little hearts out in front of their families! We're so proud of how well they did!



After returning from the Christmas holidays, the children commented on the trees having lost their leaves. We enjoyed learning about snowflakes and the shapes they have, with children working together to make sparkly playdough to create their own snowflakes. The Busy Bees have also enjoyed folding up paper and cutting shapes out, to create a beautiful pattern when unfolded! The children commented that the snowflakes they made "looked beautiful!" and that "it's symmetrical!"

Using a parent's suggestion, we made some bird feeders for the trees in the garden. The birds have been munching away at them, and the children have been excited about going outside in the morning to see how much they've eaten!

We have looked at magnets this term and how they work, using this knowledge to play colour matching and counting games using the magnets to pick up different pieces.

Wee Green space is in full flow as we experience the seasons changing from week to week. We have had wind, sun, rain and snow in a very short time period! The children loved making their own hut in the woods using the fallen branches. They all worked together to collect pieces and add them. They showed excellent imagination as they discussed what their interpretation of what they created was. Some of the suggestions included a castle, a fairy house and an invisibility hotel.

### **Holidays**

We would appreciate if you could please let us know about any pre-planned holidays as soon as possible.

### **Outdoor Clothing**

Can we please ask that you plan for the upcoming weather and any changes. Please ask your Room Leader if you are unsure of what is required.

Indoor and outdoor shoes are required for all children who can walk.

Kind regards

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