



## MONKEY PUZZLE AYLESBURY OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



### A WARM WELCOME!

Autumn is here and the children and staff have a very busy month ahead. The children will discuss the importance of harvesting food due to changes in the weather as well as exploring healthy eating. We will be learning all about the Hindu festival of light known as Diwali, dressing up for Halloween and celebrating Monkey Puzzle Aylesbury's 1st birthday!!!

We regret to inform you that Gaby Grosz has decided to leave Monkey Puzzle due to commitments concerning her family life. We are sure you will join us in wishing her all the very best for the future. Also, sadly Victoria Sweet will be leaving us on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. We have a new member of staff starting with us called Daniella Fonea who is Level 3 qualified in Childcare, she has over 10 years experience working with children. We also have a selection of candidates that we will be interviewing and discussing start dates with for the coming months.

As I am sure you are aware we recently had our eagerly awaited Ofsted inspection and the feedback we received was extremely positive. We are overwhelmed and extremely thankful for all the hard work and support the whole team has put in. Therefore we would like to invite you all to join us in a joint celebration of our Ofsted report, our 1<sup>st</sup> birthday and Diwali on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October between 9am-11am. We will have a range of fun activities, music and will also offer something yummy to eat.

We have recently helped to raise money for Jeans for Genes day and would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions. We raised £50.00 in total, which will help support research into a range of genetic conditions. Soon, we will be requesting our parents and the children to donate tins of food to the nursery for harvest, which we will be donating to a local food bank to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

We have also had a local community officer visit the nursery in his police car, which the children thoroughly enjoyed... (especially sitting in the front seat bibbing the horn!) They asked him some questions; tired on his police hat; listened to his sirens and looked at all the very important gadgets he has in order to keep everyone safe.

### CELEBRATIONS/DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October –  
Diwali, plus our Ofsted/1<sup>st</sup>  
birthday celebration 9am-  
11am

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October –  
Halloween (dress up day)

Please could parents donate a tin of food to the nursery, so that the children can then donate it to a local food bank in relation to Autumn Harvest and helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you ☺

## MONTHLY THEMES

### LADYBIRDS (Babies)

This month the babies will be exploring lots of different celebrations which include Harvest, Diwali and Halloween. For Harvest, they will create art work using potatoes, leaves and paint to mark make and print onto paper; they will use a range of resources to decorate and make their own tractor/combine harvester pictures; they will explore the sensory aspect of flour and use it to make some delicious home made rolls.

For Diwali, the babies will use tubes of paint to explore how they can make some Rangoli patterns; they will explore the texture of rice and will colour it using powder paint and food colouring; they will be painting fireworks using sting that has been soaked in paint which the children will be able wiggle around on the paper.

The children will learn about Halloween by using materials to decorate some scary masks; they will explore pumpkin carving and use their hands to scoop out the pips and pulp; the staff will fill some gloves with a range of spooky materials that the babies will be able to explore; the babies will be supported to make some trick or treat baskets to collect some goodies in.



## MONTHLY THEMES

### HONEYBEES (Toddlers) & BUTTERFLIES (Pre-schoolers)

The toddlers and pre-school have enjoyed taking part in a local outing to the new Budgens store across the road that has recently opened - they even bought some yummy fruit. They will be very busy this month creating a range of different types of artwork which correspond to the different celebrations we will be learning about for October.

For Harvest, they will be making tractors and combine harvesters out of giant cardboard boxes that they will help to decorate using paint and sticking materials; they will help to research local food banks we can donate our tins of food to and help to log the different types of food tins we are given.

The children will be learning about Diwali and why Hindu's celebrate the festival; they will make Diva's using clay which they will then decorate using paint and glitter; they will look at different types of Rangoli patterns and then be able to use mark making materials to create their own Rangoli patterns; they will use the interactive computer to research how children in India help their families to prepare for the big celebration.

For Halloween, the children will be taking part in a team pumpkin carving competition where they will work together to decide what design they would like to use on their pumpkin, they will also explore what is inside the pumpkin and have messy play with the seeds. They will be accessing a range of craft and junk modelling materials to make some spooky bats, skeletons and witch decorations to hang around the room.



## LEARNING BOOK

- You can access the observations at any time on your computer or phone, and see the learning, activities and fun experienced by your child.
- All observations are linked to the Ofsted 'Early Years Foundation Stage' framework which provides guidance in planning learning activities, observing and assessing 'what' and 'how' your child learns and develops.
- Some parents are already interacting with the nursery by uploading photos, providing comments and sharing activities from home, we would love to see more of what the children do at the weekends so please do upload any photo's that you may have that we can use with the children.
- If you would like some guidance on using this tool please contact us and we will be more than happy to help.



## REMINDERS / NOTICES

- Please can parents collect conkers, leaves, yoghurt pots and toilet/kitchen roll cardboard tubes and bring in for the children to use for activities.
- Please be aware that you can now apply for **eligibility codes** for the extended funded hours in readiness for next term (January 2018). You can check eligibility and apply for this via [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)
- We have signed up to the new government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme which you can use to pay your fee's. For every £8 a parent pays into their childcare account, the government adds an extra £2 to the account of eligible parents. Refer to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) for more information.
- Keep an eye out for the developments we have made to our website! Some of these developments are still in train and so we will be sending your unique password for the parents area via a separate email.
- We would kindly ask that children are brought into nursery with the appropriate clothing to accommodate all weather types. Could parents also please label their children's spare clothes.
- We have noticed that parents are adhering to our request of not allowing anyone into the nursery in order to help secure our safeguarding practises. Thank you for understanding this request and please do continue to put all the children's safety as top priority!