



MONKEY PUZZLE AYLESBURY DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



A WARM WELCOME!

The festivities for Christmas can be seen all around us, in the shops we go to, in the windows of homes and in the nursery too. The children have all been talking about Santa and telling us that he will be bringing them presents if they are good. Whilst Christmas is a very publicised holiday, the children will also be exploring another celebration that happens this time of year...Hanukkah (starting 12th December). Hanukkah is a Jewish festival centred around the 'Celebration of light'.

We have sent the gift boxes off to help children in third world countries so they too can receive gifts for Christmas. A huge thanks to Katherine Simon for arranging this. We hope you will all join us in taking a moment to think of those less fortunate than ourselves at a time of year that can be very testing for individuals experiencing difficulties.

Please ensure your children are brought into nursery with appropriate clothing and shoes. Whilst it is important the children have access to the garden area it is also important that whilst exploring in the garden that they are kept warm. We request the children have warm winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves and appropriate footwear. Please could parents be reminded to label their children's clothing.



CELEBRATIONS/DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday 13th Dec @ 3.30pm – Christmas production, parents are invited to join us. We would ask that you arrive 10minutes before to be seated. We also request that the children wear something Christmassy for the production. The children will also be having their Christmas dinner on this day!

The nursery will close from 6.30pm on Friday 22nd December and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd January.

REMINDERS / NOTICES

- 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
- 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 for more information.
- Thank you to all parents for adhering to our request of not allowing anyone into the nursery when entering and leaving the premises. The safety of our children is a top priority and your support is very much appreciated.



MONTHLY THEMES

LADYBIRDS (Babies)

The Babies will be exploring the festivities that December brings and will learn about winter and Christmas in a variety of ways. These will include decorating Santa's, making Christmas crackers, creating artwork for Christmas cards and making decorations too. They will have access to a range of resources such as pom-poms, paint, glitter and sticking materials to make their art work extra special.

They will be encouraged to engage in a new way to explore paint by 'Making footprints in the snow', they will be putting Wellington boots on and walking on top of lining paper, the staff will then encourage the children to count how many footprints they have made.

The Babies will also be making their own calendars for 2018, practising their Christmas songs for our production on the 13th December, exploring pretend snow and cooking up some treats in the shape of mince pies!

The staff have requested that the children are brought in with warmer clothing now the weather is getting colder as they would still like to be able to access the garden.



- 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.

MONTHLY THEMES

HONEYBEES (Toddlers) & BUTTERFLIES (Pre-school)

The Toddlers and Pre-school have already started their preparations for Christmas and have their tinsel up to make the room look more festive. They will be using a range of junk modelling to make some decorations to hang around the room. So far we have made some glittery crackers and wreaths and we will be decorating strips of paper to make some colourful paper chains.

The children will be making angels using paper doily's and cardboard roll centres, Christmas cards with Santa's or Christmas trees and personalised baubles to hang on the Christmas tree at home. The home corner has recently been transformed into a Santa's Workshop and our little elves have been playing in there making toys for children all around the world.

They will also explore the Jewish festival of lights – Hanukkah. They will decorate Menorahs (Candle sticks) and watch a video on the interactive computer detailing how children in Jewish families celebrate this festival.

We will be encouraging the children to explore ice and snow, as well as discuss how it is formed. We will practise our phonics in a variety of games that incorporate the sound of the letters. For example, we will play a game called 'Over the river' where the children will be given an array of items and the carer will call out a phonic sound "Buh" (for B). The child will then need to decide if their item begins with the sound, if it does, they can jump over the river. We will also be supporting the children with their maths skills and planning activities that help the children to link numbers with quantity and recognise numbers.

Toddlers and Pre-school will also be making some tasty Christmas pudding cookies and Mince pies.

