



## Twechar Early Years Centre October Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter!

### **Staff news**

We are pleased to welcome Alison to the team. Alison will be a keyworker to the rainbow group and has been enjoying getting to know all of the children, families and staff.

### **Important Dates**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Halloween Parties - 9.30-11am and 2.15-3.45pm.

W/C Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Christmas Order Forms available (from foyer)

W/C Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Raffle tickets on sale (from foyer 8.30-9.30am)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Photographs

W/C Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Stay and Play

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Order Forms and payment to be in

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert 10-11.30am

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party 9.30-11am

### **Halloween Parties**

Our Halloween Parties will take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 9.30-11am and 2.15-3.45pm

If your child does not attend on a Wednesday, feel free to join at 9.30-11am.

### **Christmas Photographs/Gifts**

Kerry will be taking photographs of the children on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November which will be used for some festive gifts we will be selling including calendars, Christmas cards and tree decorations. Order forms will be available from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, in the nursery foyer, where you will also see a few examples. You will also be able to order reindeer dust, sweetie and hot chocolate cones. Orders need to be in and paid for by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December to allow Santa's elves to get to work.

### **Christmas Concert/Fayre**

Look out your Christmas jumper and get ready to sing your heart out on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 10-11.30am. Our groups will be taking to the stage for a special sing-along.

We will have our Christmas Fayre there too which will have a fantastic raffle (tickets on sale from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November) where you can win a variety of gifts including a large hamper and we will have our bottle tombola. Any donations of bottles, toiletries, etc would be greatly appreciated 😊

### **Christmas Party**

Our Christmas party will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.30-11am.

If your child attends only in the afternoon, please see Tracy or your child's keyworker.

If your child is absent on a Wednesday, they are welcome to attend for the party.

There may be a special visitor!

**Cold weather**

The weather is getting a bit chilly so please ensure children have warmer jackets, hat, scarf and gloves and suitable footwear for outdoor play - wellies are great, and please provide a pair to keep at nursery if you can - as we want to be able to enjoy going outside.

We would advise that your child's name is written on all items of clothing as many children have the same make/character on them.

**Free Flow lunches**

We have been continuing with our free flow lunches encouraging children to use their self-help skills, promoting their independence and ability to make their own choices. This is going well and the children are enjoying it.

**Floor Books**

Every child has their own floor book which are located in the Sunbeam cloakroom. We kindly ask that the floor books stay in the cloakroom for the time being - further information will follow regarding taking these home at certain times to share what the children have been doing with friends and family. If you ask a member of staff, you will be able to have a look within the Nursery.

**Wednesday morning Foyer**

Kerry will be in the Nursery foyer every Wednesday morning 8.30-9.30am for any help or information you may need. This will be handy for any forms needing to go out/come in or to hand in Treat Fund contribution, this can be paid weekly or monthly, anything will be greatly appreciated. Lost property is also located in the foyer.

**Stay and Play**

Stay and Play sessions will commence week beginning Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 10-11am and 2-3pm.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Rainbow (Debbie) and Moon (Sandra)

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Sun (Shannon) and Lightning (Arran)

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Jupiter (Judith) and Rainbow (Alison McD)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Star (Alison McG)

Daisy Room could you see staff to arrange your Stay and Play.

Any questions, please see a member of the team 😊



## What have we been learning?

### The Daisy Room

In the Daisy Room, we have been exploring the season of Autumn. We have developed our knowledge of our local community as we have been going for walks around Twechar to spot any changes caused by Autumn.



We have developed our early numeracy skills whilst exploring a variety of pumpkins of different shapes, sizes and colours.

We have developed our curiosity as we have explored a variety of natural Autumn resources.

We have been developing our early literacy skills as we have been exploring the Dear Zoo story using a variety of props and role play resources.



Some of our Daisy room children are making the exciting move through to The Sunbeam Room alongside Arran. We can't wait to see the children develop, grow and thrive on their new adventure!



## What have we been learning?

### The Sunbeam Room

We have had a busy couple of months with lots of fantastic learning going on. Fraser Bear has been helping the children to learn about the Vision, Values and Aims of the Nursery. In particular he has been helping the children to understand about the importance of being kind, looking after property and keeping safe. The children have responded very well to Fraser Bear and he is now firmly part of the Nursery. We have also been using the story of The Colour Monster to help understand feelings such as happy, sad, angry, scared and calm. At Welcome Time the children have been posting a lollipop stick to show how they are feeling and are able to explain why they are feeling a particular way.



The children have been introduced to Talk4Writing and have engaged really well with this. Talk4Writing is a programme which provides children with the skills to become confident story tellers and story writers by using well known stories as a framework. Our first focus story was "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" which proved to be very popular, with lots of different activities on offer e.g. puppets, small world figures and craft relating to the book. The children particularly enjoyed learning actions to the story and using a story map to help them retell the story. The children are currently voting for the next Talk4Writing story and it's between The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears or Little Red Riding Hood so watch this space .....



The children have also been taking part in Word Aware sessions with Concept Cat. Word Aware is a programme which is used to expand and enhance children's vocabulary through direct teaching of words. The words were selected from the Talk4Writing story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", namely wavy, long, shiny and narrow. The children took part in lots of different activities to reinforce their understanding of the words and they were encouraged to use the words in the correct context during their play.



It was Maths Week Scotland from 25/9/23 to 1/10/23 and the theme this year was Maths in Motion. We watched a story called JoJo Gnome and the Shape Map which was all about a Gnome who went on a shape



hunt and created a map to show all the shapes she had found. This inspired us to go on our very own shape hunt in the Quad where the children used the iPads to take photos of the shapes they found - we were surprised to find so many shapes all around us! We then used the photos to help us draw our shape maps, making sure that we drew the shapes in the correct order. Afterwards we put all our work together to create a big book of Shape Maps.