



Learn

Enjoy Flourish

Auckland House Day Nursery

Monthly Newsletter

March 2023

## Message from the Management team

Welcome to this month's newsletter. In March children have taken part in a wide range of activities to support their interests, future learning and current celebrations and festivals. Across the nursery we celebrated Saint David's Day. Everyone was invited to wear something yellow in nursery. The children explored with sensory play with many yellow tuff trays, they designed their own daffodils and displayed fantastic artwork.

This month we have also celebrated World Book Day. For this we have organised for everyone to come dressed in their pyjamas and bring in their favourite bedtime book. It was such a lovely day, reading many different favourite stories and books with our children. Furthermore, we have also celebrated St Patricks Day by dressing up in green and taking part in a variety of activities and tuff trays that involve green coloured resources. Last, but not least during March we have celebrated Mother's Day. Our children enjoyed carrying out some lovely craft activities and designing something special for their mums.

With Spring finally arriving, we have planned yet again for the Eggsploring experience to come to our nursery. Our children, their families and our team enjoyed watching the eggs hatch. Our children even had the opportunity to hold the baby chicks and learn first hand about the life cycle of a hen.

We would like to thank all the parents who attended our Parents Evening. It was lovely seeing our parents spend some time with the key person and discussing children's progress and development. We would also like to thank all the parents who took part in the recent parent survey, we have reviewed any suggestions for improvement and will be informing you of any changes that are put in place very soon.

This month we have said a fond farewell to Natasha from Daffodil room, who is pursuing a career with the Zoe's Place. We would like to thank her for her contribution, and we wish her all the luck for the future. We are currently recruiting for her replacement, and we will inform you as soon as this is complete.

As you are aware we are currently in the process of a very exciting nursery development project, and we are all looking forward to the completion of this project by the end of the half term break. Once again, on behalf of the team we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and positive feedback.

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My name is **Gabrielle Robinson** and I am an Early Years Apprentice in the Daisy Room.

I have joined Auckland House Team in June 2022, I have decided to complete the Level 3 Apprenticeship. Therefore, I am an early years Apprentice in the Daisy Room.

### Important messages

Reminder for parents to bring in nappy and wipes

- Easter weekend Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (Nursery closed Friday & Monday)
- 21<sup>st</sup> April (St. Georges day celebrations) wear red or white.
- w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> April Easter themed activities,
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April Easter Bonnet competition.

## Buttercups

This month in buttercup room we have been reading "dear zoo", the children have loved making the cages using boxes and different coloured paints, we also coloured in different animals to go with the cages using crayons and other mark making resources. For our song we have chosen "Peter rabbit" the children loved getting their hands painted to make the rabbit ears and also loved making marks on the burrow for the rabbit. We have also had lots of fun celebration different celebrations such as st David's day and St. Patrick's day.

### Daisy

The song we focused on was miss Polly had a dolly, the children loved learning about doctors and nurses through a variety of different role play, dressing up as doctors and texting out the doctor's equipment. We made our own nurses through different mark making activities and even used recycled materials to make the hospital beds.

Our story was 10 little caterpillars, the children loved listening to this story and will often sit independently with it. We used a variety of different creative tools such as painting, gluing and sticking to make our own caterpillars and butterflies. We also went for a minibeast hunt in the garden to find our own caterpillars.

We enjoyed a spa day for mental health week, the children loved having their feet soaked and massaged as well as doing baby yoga. We celebrated mother's day by making our families some flowers using our hand prints, we spoke about family and people who love us. We have been so excited to get a visit from the chicks, we have been able to watch them from eggs to chicks and have loved stroking them.

### Bluebell

We have had so much fun this month in Bluebell room. We have read The Very Hungry Caterpillar with our friends many times and enjoyed creating caterpillars and butterflies out of card, felt, paper plates and more! We even tasted some of the fruit the caterpillar ate. We loved the book so much that we decided to adopt our very own caterpillars and you'll be pleased to know they are all growing big and strong! We have also enjoyed our song of the month, Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer. We have done many space themed activities and decorated our own planets and stars, as well as space suits and helmets! We have been practicing counting our numbers 1 to 5.

This month we have also celebrated Mother's day and created beautiful cards for our grownups. We wore green for St Patrick's Day and also celebrated the start of Ramadan with some fun activities.

We can't wait to spend another month learning and growing!

### Snowdrop

Snowdrop have had a marvelous march hilled with lots of fun! This month we focused on the song "twinkle twinkle little star" and book of the month was "Dig bear little bear!". We have done many star themed crafts including making tin foil stars and little moons. Big bear little bear inspired lots of animal tuff trays with different texture such as: Sand, foam etc.

We were lucky enough to get some snow this march which we brought inside for some snowy play. The sunnier days we have taken trips to the park and spotted many different animals.

March brought with it St.Davids day, Mother's day and St.Patricks day. Our celebration board is now full with lovely crafts made by the children and we sent home Mothers day cards to all our mummy's.

This week we have started our Easter celebrations early and looking forward to all our eggs off the Easter bunny.

## Sunflower

This month we have been focusing on the story 'A Squash and A Squeeze'. We have explored different materials to create our own animals, houses, fences and characters from the story. We have created animal masks, explored animal tuff trays and even engaged in animal hunts in the garden! We have explored different blocks to create our own houses from the story and worked on talking about simple concepts such as big and small. Our song of the half term has been 'Baby Finger' and we have been exploring puppets, using our fine motor skills to draw around our hands and we have made our own finger puppets. We have celebrated Red nose day and St Patrick's Day, we created cards for our wonderful mummies for mother's day and we enjoyed exploring different stories for World book day!

## Daffodil

This month Daffodil have had lots of fun exploring The Very Hungry Caterpillar book and Humpty Dumpty. We explored different themed activities associated with the hungry Caterpillar. We explored exploring different colours and learning the different colours. This led us to exploring healthy eating, we explored fruit kababs, food salads. We also created our own caterpillars through messy play and mark making activities. We also enjoyed exploring Humpty Dumpty as our song of the month, we created a 3D humpty dumpty he was a bit scary but lots of fun too. Throughout the month we have celebrated different celebrations such as Mother's day, St. Patrick's day and St. Davids Day. Also this month we were really excited when the chick eggs arrived and we got to watch the chicks our teachers were more excited than us shhh.

## Tulip

This month Tulip has had so much fun reading The Very Hungry Caterpillar and singing 5 little speckled frogs. We have done lots of themed activities with water, picnics for the caterpillar as well as lots of arts and crafts making our own caterpillars, butterflies, frogs and ponds. We loved talking about healthy eating during April and took part in a healthy eating activity where we tried different fruits that the Hungry Caterpillar ate in the book. We have been exploring lots of sensory activities such as foam, cereal, slime, gloop, sand and water which was so messy and lots of fun!

## Policy of the month

### Health & Safety

We believe the risks in the nursery environment are low. To maintain the maximum protection for children, staff and parents the nursery:

- Ensures all entrances and exits from the building, including fire exits are clearly identifiable, free from obstruction and easily opened from the inside
- Regularly check the premises room by room for structural defects, worn fixtures and fittings or electrical equipment and take the necessary remedial action
- Ensures that all staff, visitors, parents and children are aware of the fire procedures and regular fire drills are carried out
- Has the appropriate fire detection and control equipment which is checked regularly to make sure it is in working order
- Ensures that all members of staff are aware of the procedure to follow in case of accidents for staff, visitors and children
- Ensures that all members of staff take all diseases and wear protective gloves and clothing where appropriate.
- Ensures there are suitable hygienic changing facilities reasonable action to control the spread
  - Ensures staff wear protective clothing when cooking or serving food.
- Prohibits certain foods that may relate to children's allergies, e.g. nuts are not allowed in the nursery



Cooked by our  
Chef Claire

## Recipe of the month – Home made toffee apples

### Ingredients

- 8 Granny Smith apples
- 400g golden caster sugar
- 1 tsp vinegar
- 4 tbsp golden syrup

### Method

1. Place the apples in a large bowl, then cover with boiling water (you may have to do this in 2 batches). This will remove the waxy coating and help the caramel to stick. Dry thoroughly and twist off any stalks. Push a wooden skewer or lolly stick into the stalk end of each apple.
2. Lay out a sheet of baking parchment and place the apples on this, close to your stovetop. Tip the sugar into a pan along with 100ml water and set over a medium heat. Cook for 5 mins until the sugar dissolves, then stir in the vinegar and syrup. Set a sugar thermometer in the pan and boil to 150C or 'hard crack' stage. If you don't have a thermometer you can test the toffee by pouring a little into a bowl of cold water. It should harden instantly and, when removed, be brittle and easy to break. If you can still squish the toffee, continue to boil it.
3. Working quickly and carefully, dip and twist each apple in the hot toffee until covered, let any excess drip away, then place on the baking parchment to harden. You may have to heat the toffee a little if the temperature drops and it starts to feel thick and viscous. Leave the toffee to cool before eating. Can be made up to 2 days in advance, stored in a dry place.

