

Message from the Management Team

Welcome to our Final Newsletter of 2023! What an exciting month we have had filled with exciting festive activities. We also had lots of visits to the park and some of our rooms even had a trip into town to soak up the Christmas spirit visiting the Christmas tree and lights.

This month we had our Christmas Fair, a big thank you to everyone who attended. We have raised £170. The funds will go towards buying new tablets for the rooms. We also enjoyed a very delicious Christmas Dinner prepared by the amazing kitchen staff at our school. Throughout December the children have also enjoyed soaking up the Christmas spirit with lots of Christmas themed activities and creating their very own Christmas artwork and cards for their loved ones. From melted snowmen tuff trays, to making Christmas baubles the children have had a month filled with glitter and sparkles. Additionally, our children were very excited to have a visit from the Father Christmas at the nursery.

As the year comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous support throughout the year! We wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Auckland Management Team

Introducing Members of our Team –



I have joined Auckland House Team in September 2019. I was originally Lunch cover, went on maternity in 2022 on my return I have decided to complete the Level 3 Apprenticeship. Therefore, I am an early years Apprentice in the Daisy Room.

Important Messages and Key Dates for Diary

- **Nursery reopens – Thursday 4th January 2024**
- **Term time children return Monday 8th January 2024**
- **Week commencing 8th January 2024: Toiletries donations for homeless all week**
- **Burns Night 25th January children are welcome to come dressed in Blue and White.**
- **Please remember to pack plenty of nappies and wipes daily.**

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Buttercup

We have had a delightful December in Buttercup room! The room is decorated for Christmas and we have had lots of festive fun!

This month our activities have been inspired by the story 'The Snowman' and the song 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer'.

We started this month with a Christmas tuff tray filled with decorations, a magical snow globe and a very funny inflatable snowman who has now made himself at home in the sensory ball pit and seems to be having a great time! All of our tuff trays this month have had a festive theme, we have explored the colours red and green, had lots of fun with baubles and particularly enjoyed exploring new textures with tuff trays filled with magical tinsel and brown paper made to look like a reindeer. Our snowman tuff activities have used flour to replicate snow which has been rather messy but an awful lot of fun!

Thanks to our fantastic new snow suits we have been able to brave the chilly weather and have spent lots of time in the garden, taking our activities outside and playing with our favourite cars. We have managed a few trips to the park and this week even enjoyed listening to a busker singing Christmas carols for us.

It has been a month filled with Christmas crafts. We have explored mark making with different tools creating some fantastic snowball pictures printing with bubble wrap, red noses made by stamping with sponges and we experimented with using baubles to paint. There are some very funny looking snowmen on our display board made using cotton wool and we used paper plates to create Christmas wreaths. We have enjoyed getting messy with paint using our handprints to create Christmas trees and reindeer, and our footprints to produce some funny 'mistle - toes' cards for our families.

We have welcomed some new faces to Buttercup room this month and it has been a pleasure getting to know our new friends. An extra special mention must go to Freddie whose speech has improved incredibly and to Margot who has taken her first steps!

Daisy

This month we have had so much fun in Daisy room getting ready for Christmas.

Our story of the month was that's not my reindeer, the children loved using different creative tools to make their own reindeers. We painted our hands and feet to create our own reindeer which the children really enjoyed. We explored different textures through a reindeer tuff tray.

Our song of the month was when Santa got stuck up the chimney, the children really love this song and he excited when we sing it. We collected recycled materials to make our own chimney and the children helped to decorate it by painting it. We made Santa's legs through painting and gluing and sticking.

The children have loved joining in lots of different creative activities, we made reindeer food, all the children loved mixing the glitter together with the late ready to sprinkle on Christmas eve. We have made Christmas cards and wreaths by painting our hands and feet.

We have had lots of dancing to Christmas songs, we loved having our Christmas dinner and are going to have lots of Christmas fun this week on our last week.

We have enjoyed lots of fun in the garden and trips to the park this month.

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Snowdrop

We have had a fun December using lots of glitter and fake snow. We have done Mark making with our fingers and using glitter. The children loved The different colour glitters. We have also used paint to make our own Christmas tree, we got very creative and used a range of colours and glitters. We created stars using our hand prints for the top of our trees. We also created a Christmas tree using crayons and added colourful baubles on to it. We also made our own baubles decorating to take home for our Christmas trees.

We also enjoyed our Christmas dinner with all the trimmings from our amazing staff in the kitchen. We even enjoyed listening to Christmas carols in the park when we went out on our trips and we had a little dance. We were so excited when father Christmas came to see us and made us laugh.

Daffodil

This month we have had a lot of fun getting in the Christmas spirit, we have been reading "we're going on a sleigh ride" and singing "when Santa got stuck up the chimney " the children have loved taking part in the story and get really excited when we sing the song.

We have done so many Christmas activities, we have made our own snowmen using snowballs and pipe cleaners, we have made some snow globes, a chimney for our display and she candy canes too, we have made snowball cakes and decorated some decorations for the children to take home. We also loved our visit from Santa Claus and our Christmas dinner was delicious. Our song and story for January is going to be: Leo the Lion and Dear zoo.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Tulip

This month in Tulip we have had a lovely time celebrating Christmas by taking part in lots of different Christmas activities. We have been working on our fine motor skills by threading red and white beads to make candy canes. We also have made Christmas trees but exploring different materials such as glitter, glue and sequins. We have talked about what we want from Santa at Christmas at circle time and enjoyed listening to our friends. Our song has been when Santa got stuck up the chimney and our story has been an amazing snowman. For these we have made a chimney by painting cereal boxes together as a group. We also made hand print snowmen, baubles and Santa hats. We also enjoyed sensory tuff trays with snowman made from rice and pretend snow. We enjoyed learning new describing words and exploring the different textures.

Next month our song will be zoom zoom. And our story of the month will be Rapunzel.

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Sunflower

This month we have had a fun-filled festive month in Sunflower room. Our story of the month has been 'Christmas Angels' and we have enjoyed creating our very own angels, snowflakes, Christmas trees and snowmen for this. Our song of the month has been 'When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney' which we have enjoyed singing along to. We created our own chimney with loose parts and made Santa's legs to stick out of the top of the chimney! It was so much fun! We have painted presents and made Santa's sleigh. We have loved talking about Santa coming to our houses and we are so excited for Christmas!

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and we will see you in the new year, love Sunflower room x

Buttercup



Daisy



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Sunflower



Daffodil



Recipe: Red velvet brownies

Ingredients

170g salted butter, melted, plus extra for the tin

225g caster sugar

2 tsp vanilla extract

1 tsp red food colouring gel

3 eggs

40g cocoa powder

110g plain flour

1 tsp white wine vinegar

For the cheesecake swirl

250g soft cheese

1 egg yolk

STEP 1

Butter a 20cm square brownie tin and line with baking parchment. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Whisk the melted butter and sugar with the vanilla extract in a bowl. Once combined, whisk in the food colouring and eggs until the mixture is a vibrant red.

STEP 2

Sift in the cocoa powder and flour, and add the vinegar. Fold together using a spatula. For the cheesecake swirl, mix the soft cheese, egg yolk and sugar together, and set aside.

STEP 3

Pour most of the brownie batter into the tin and dollop in the cheesecake mixture. Pour the rest of the brownie batter on top and use a skewer to lightly swirl the two together. Bake for 30 mins until shiny on top. Remove from the oven and cool in the tin for 30 mins, then remove to a wire rack and cool completely. Slice into 16. Will keep in an airtight tin for five days, or frozen for up to a month.

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