

Message from the Management Team

Welcome to February's newsletter! We have had another fun filled month with lots of exciting activities and celebrations. We have started the month by celebrating Chinese New Year. To support this our staff team have planned and delivered lots of Chinese themed activities and tuff trays, including messy play and food tasting activities. The children had the opportunity to learn about and create Chinese lanterns. Some children also shared their pictures and experiences from attending Chinese events across the city, which was so lovely to see. Thank you to all the parents who have shared these special experiences with us.

Another celebration during February was Pancake Day. For this special day, across the nursery, our staff team have planned a pancake tea party at snack time which our children enjoyed. As a little treat for all our children we have offered each child a mini pancake pack to take home and enjoy with their family. We hope you have all enjoyed sharing these with your little ones. On 14th February we have celebrated Valentine's Day. To commemorate this day, the children decorated lots of valentines themed cards, paintings and gluing and sticking their own creations to give to their loved ones.

Following our previous communication shared, sadly Dawn the Nursery Manager will be leaving us next month her last day with us is Thursday 14th March 2024. Dawn has completely enjoyed getting to know you all and being part of you and your child's journey during their time in the nursery. We would like to thank Dawn for all her commitment and support that she has offered during her time at Auckland House Day Nursery.

During February we have also worked with the staff team to enhance learning areas across to the nursery creating a more stimulating environment for our children to explore. Next month, we look forward to engaging in a range of activities and learning experiences related to St David's Day, World Book Day, Mother's Day, Comic relief and towards the end of March we will be preparing for Easter celebrations.

Introducing Members of our Team



My name is Laurie Dooley-Keating I have joined Auckland House Team in October 2022. I am an early years Apprentice in the Tulip Room.

As a key person I will help your child to become familiar with the nursery and to feel confident and safe within the Tulip Room. It is my responsibility as a key person to meet the needs of each individual child and respond sensitively to his/her feelings, ideas and behaviour. parent/guardian on a regular basis to ensure that your child is being appropriately cared for.

Important Messages and Key Dates for Diary

1st March – St David's day – wear yellow

Thursday 7th March World book day, dress up as your favourite book character

10th March Mother's Day

Monday 11th March – Arrival of the Chicks

Friday 29th March – Good Friday Nursery closed

Monday 1st April – Bank Holiday Nursery Closed

All rooms are re-vamping their family walls can you please send in family photos.

Also please ensure nappies and wipes are sent in daily.

Contact aucklandhouseadmin@aucklandcollege.com

Phone: 0151 727 0083

Email: aucklandhouseadmin@aucklandcollege.com

Buttercup

Inspired by the story of the month "Elmer" and the song of the month "Zoom Zoom Zoom," our activities have been bursting with colour and excitement. From sensory-based tuff trays exploring the vibrant colours of the rainbow, to engaging in animal and safari-themed adventures with toy elephants, our little ones have engaged in activities that supported their imagination and discovery.

One of the highlights of the month was the introduction of our galaxy sensory bags, providing a fantastic mess-free sensory experience filled with bubbles, foam and glitter. While we engaged in this new sensory adventure, we have also planned and delivered other messy play and mark making activities, creating beautiful artwork for our display board. We have created giant moon and planets from paper plates, as well as rockets made from our footprints.

Our Elmer display is filled with colourful collages, paintings created with elephant toys stomping through paint and elephant pictures that we coloured in.

February brought with it lots of celebrations, including Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day. We celebrated these special days by painting dragon pictures, engaging in pancake-themed tuff tray activities, and creating heartfelt cards for our families using red handprints. These festivities not only enriched our cultural awareness but also provided opportunities for creativity and expression.

During February we have also ventured to the park, observing the nature and building confidence with each outing. We are pleased to see our little ones also growing more and more comfortable with the world outside the comfort of their prams.

We look forward to getting involved in the activities and celebrations that March will bring and share these with you.

Daisy

February has been a month filled with love, creativity and valuable learning experiences in the Daisy room! With Valentine's Day as our guiding theme, we have planned a range of engaging activities that have brought smiles, laughter and provided learning opportunities for our little ones. Through various art projects, including decorating hearts with glue, paint and markers, our children not only explored their creativity but also learned about expressing affection and appreciation for the people they cherish. By engaging in different textures like jelly and Angel Delight to create heart-shaped masterpieces, our children engaged their senses, supporting their sensory development while having fun. Our discussions about love went deeper as we talked about our family. Through sharing family photos and conversations about loved ones, we have supported the children to gain a deeper understanding of diversity and inclusivity, talking about how families come in all shapes and sizes, each unique and beautiful in its own way.

In addition to indoor activities, we have allocated plenty of time to outdoor play, recognising the importance of developing gross motor skills. From running and jumping to climbing and balancing, our outdoor adventures not only promoted physical health but also encouraged teamwork, imagination and resilience. During February, our little explorers have also embarked on exciting trips, expanding their knowledge of animals and the sounds they make. These outings not only provided a change of scenery but also offered valuable opportunities for hands-on learning, sparking curiosity and supporting a love for nature.

As we celebrated Storytelling Week, the joy of listening to different stories echoed throughout the Daisy room. Children eagerly listened to books shared by parents, immersing themselves in the magic of storytelling while enhancing their listening skills and expanding their imaginations.

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Snowdrop

February has been a month filled with love, creativity and valuable learning experiences in Snowdrop. As we celebrated Valentine's Day, we engaged in artistic expression, creating hearts using our favourite colours of paint. Additionally, we have decorated Valentine's biscuits each child making their very own designs using icing pens, allowing our children to showcase their creativity and attention to detail. One of the highlights of the month was our culinary adventure, to celebrate Chinese New Year, where we transformed rice into delicious culinary creations using our imagination and cooking tools. From savoury dishes to yummy desserts, our little chefs explored the endless possibilities of food art, igniting their imagination and creating a love for cooking.

Our story of the month, "Pink is for Boys," served as a powerful lesson in inclusivity and colour exploration. Through engaging activities like colour mixing using red and white to create pink, and block play with red, white and pink blocks, we reinforced that every colour is for everyone, regardless of gender. Messy but immensely fun, these activities sparked curiosity and encouraged our children to embrace the beauty of diversity. In addition to art and storytelling, we engaged in hands-on activities that promoted fine motor skills and teamwork. From creating pasta necklaces and bracelets to threading strings through colourful pasta shapes, our children not only practiced their eye-hand coordination skills but also learned the value of collaboration and turn-taking.

Our song of the month, "If You're Happy and You Know It," filled our room with joy and laughter during circle time. Through actions like stamping their feet and painting handprints to create a sunshine display, our children not only enjoyed the music but also engaged in physical movement and creative expression.

Daffodil

In Daffodil Room this month, our little ones have engaged in captivating stories, nursery rhymes and songs and exciting adventures in our community. Our book of the month has been "The Hungry Caterpillar" and our song "I Love You, You Love Me".

One of the highlights of our month was bringing stories to life through creative activities. Inspired by "The Hungry Caterpillar," our children crafted their own caterpillars and butterflies, sparking their imagination and fine motor skills. Additionally, we filled our room with love hearts and tuff trays in shades of pink, red and white, adding a touch of warmth and colour to our room.

For Valentine's Day, our little ones created heartfelt cards for their families, spreading love and joy. We have also engaged in activities related to the festive spirit of Chinese New Year, crafting vibrant lanterns and learning about the rich cultural traditions associated with this celebration. Pancake Day brought lots of excitement too, as we indulged in delicious pancake-themed activities, filling our senses and taste buds with the aroma of delicious pancakes.

During February our community outings provided endless opportunities for exploration and discovery. From spotting fire engines to identifying different animals, each trip sparked curiosity and supported a deeper connection to the world around us. These experiences not only expanded our children's knowledge but also instilled a sense of wonder and appreciation for the beauty of nature and community.

Tulip

In the Tulip Room, February has been a month filled with love, learning and exciting adventures as we explored stories, songs, and activities that sparked joy and curiosity in our little ones. Our focus this month centred around the heartwarming story "Loves and Kisses," which provided a perfect opportunity for conversations about love and relationships. Through discussions about who we love and singing along to the timeless melody of "I Love You, You Love Me" during circle time, our children embraced the theme of love with enthusiasm and warmth. Additionally, we brought beloved characters like Barney the Dinosaur to life through creative activities, fostering imaginative play and creative expression.

Valentine's Day brought lots of excitement as we engaged in various themed activities, from crafting necklaces and love hearts to exploring other Valentine-related crafts. These activities not only encouraged creativity but also provided opportunities for fine motor skill development and social interaction.

In addition to love-themed activities, we dedicated time to nurturing our children's mathematical skills. Through activities focused on matching and grouping colours, our children practiced their cognitive abilities while having fun. We have also embarked on a journey of letter exploration, engaging in messy play and tuff tray activities to introduce letters in an interactive and tactile way. The children enthusiastically practiced writing their names and tracing letters, laying the foundation for future literacy skills.

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Sunflower

February has been a month filled with love, kindness and enriching experiences in the Sunflower Room. As we celebrated Valentine's Day, our focus on learning more about love and compassion was evident through our activities, stories and songs.

Our story of the month, "I Love You When," served as a beautiful reminder of the many ways we express love and appreciation for those around us. Through engaging activities centered around what we love about our friends, family, and favourite activities, our children explored the depth of their emotions and connections with others. Complementing our story, our song of the month, "You Love Me, I Love You," echoed themes of kindness and empathy. Through discussions about different feelings, emotions and facial expressions, we encouraged our children to embrace empathy and understanding, creating a culture of kindness within our room.

Hands-on activities filled our days as we explored tuff trays, creating bracelets, family portraits, and hearts using various materials. Crafting Valentine's cards allowed our children to express their love and appreciation for their loved ones, supporting creativity and fine motor skill development.

Buttercup



Tulip



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Snowdrop



Sunflower



Recipe: Easter Biscuits

Ingredients

100g organic golden caster sugar
1 organic egg
½ tsp baking powder
80g currants
100g soft butter
250g plain flour
2 tbsp milk
tiny drop of oil of cassia or 1 tsp mixed spic

Method

Heat your oven to 200°C. Put greaseproof paper on a big baking tray.

Beat the sugar and butter together until soft and fluffy.

Add the egg and whip until fully incorporated.

Fold in the flour, baking powder and spice.

Gently mix the lot together whilst adding the milk, tweak your quota of milk to yield a roll-out-able dough.

Lastly, knead in the currants.

On a floured table, roll your dough to about 5mm thick.

Stamp out your biscuits with a pretty cutter and lay on the tray.

Bake until the edges just start to turn golden and they have the tiniest bit of colour underneath (about 12 minutes) and remove immediately.

Sprinkle with caster sugar while still hot, then allow to cool.

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