

Message from the Management Team

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! The beginning of the year has been incredibly lively and eventful, filled with exciting activities and memorable moments for our little ones. We are delighted to share some highlights from each room with you in their allocated section. Additionally, please find below several key messages from the management team.

In the past few weeks, our children had a blast with regular park outings and enjoyed the rare opportunity to play in the snow. These experiences added joy and variety to their routine, creating cherished memories. Thanks to your generous donations and the success of our Christmas Fayre, we were able to acquire new tablets. These devices have enhanced our communication, providing you with clearer pictures of your little ones through Eylog. We sincerely appreciate your support.

January saw us celebrating National Storytelling Week, a special occasion that strengthened our partnership with parents. Many of you took the time to visit and read stories to our children, contributing to the success of this initiative. We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who participated. Additionally, your generosity shone through in the form of donations toward the Homeless Charity. The collected goods have been distributed to those in need, making a significant impact on the lives of others. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated.

Our staff team's creativity continued this month with a range of fun activities, including celebrating Burns Night with blue and white themed events. Furthermore, we have embarked on the revamping of our garden areas in preparation for the new year. If you have any unused kitchen items that could be repurposed in our garden spaces, we would be grateful for your contributions.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming month. Get ready to join us for Shrove Tuesday, Valentine's Day, and Chinese New Year celebrations. We can't wait to share these special moments with you and your little ones. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Introducing Members of our Team –



My name is **Verity Evans** 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.

As a key person I will help your child to become familiar with the nursery and to feel confident and safe within the Daisy. It is my responsibility as a key person to meet the needs of each individual child.

Important Messages and Key Dates for Diary

- W/c 5th February – Chinese New year activities
- Shrove Tuesday – 13th February
- Valentine's Day – 14th February
- Please can you ensure Nappies and wipes are packed daily.

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Buttercup

This month our activities have been inspired by the song 'Old Macdonald' and the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

We have explored the colours green and red in sensory tuff trays, had fun with toy animals and tractors and even had the chance to play with a giant Hungry caterpillar toy feeding him all the different foods from the story. It is a real joy to see the children so happy to join in with all of our activities, engaging in new experiences and enjoying lots of messy play.

Once again we have shown our creative sides and on our display board we now have some funny pink pigs made by stamping farm animals through paint, fruit pictures created using cut up fruits and a giant caterpillar made from paper plates. We have all enjoyed getting messy with paint although more often than not we seem to end up with more paint over ourselves than on the paper, maybe we will all grow up to be face paint artists?!

Last week we enjoyed trying different fruits from the Hungry Caterpillar story, exploring the different colours, textures and temperatures, it was wonderful to see everyone give everything a good try and enjoying a healthy fruit sack. We love our snacks here in Buttercup room and we must congratulate the children this month who have started to use a spoon to feed themselves and are continuing to develop this new skill with much success.

It has been a chilly month but we have managed a few adventures to the park wrapped up warm in the prams, last week we sat and listened to a local busker playing music as we ate our snack. As the weather improves we hope to make many more trips out around the local neighborhood, but in the meantime we will carry on pretending that we are taking trips to sunny beaches with our tuff trays filled with sand!

At the start of January, we waved goodbye to lovely Lydia but have since welcomed lots of new faces to Buttercup room! We have made plenty of new friends and had a fantastic member of staff join the team, the children all love Mariam and she has made a very positive impact on the room.

It has been a great start to the new year and we are all looking forward to continuing to learn, grow and have lots of fun together here in Buttercup room.

Daisy

Daisy room has been lively with excitement, laughter, and lots and lots of learning experiences for our little ones during January.

Our chosen song of the month "Miss Polly" has been favorite among the children. The song has not only filled our room with joy but has also inspired imaginative play. The children eagerly immersed themselves in exploring doctor dress-up costumes and handling various doctor equipment. Through caring for dolls and with the support of our caring staff members, the children have been developing essential nurturing skills, supporting their understanding of empathy and responsibility.

Our story of the month "Who's on the Farm" has been a delightful journey into the world of animals and the sounds they make. This engaging story has helped our little ones become more familiar with different animals and their unique noises. As an extension of this exploration, we set up animal tuff trays, allowing the children to touch and feel various textures associated with farm life. Furthermore, our trips to the park have been a fantastic extension of this theme, providing opportunities to recognise animals in a real-life context and fostering a connection with the community.

In our room we fully support hands-on learning, therefore we have immersed ourselves in a variety of messy play activities - from foam to sand and water play, these activities have not only been heaps of fun but have also enhanced sensory experiences and fine motor skills. The children have reveled in the joy of creativity and discovery.

On a bittersweet note, we bid farewell to one of our exceptional bank staff members, Hana. Her dedication and hard work have been invaluable to the Daisy team, and we wanted to thank her for her contributions. We wish Hana all the best on her onward journey, and she will be greatly missed by both the children and the team.

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Snowdrop

We have loved the stories our children have shared about their Christmas break, each story filled with excitement and joy. Learning about the gifts they received from Santa has been a delightful way for us to connect and celebrate the holiday spirit.

Our song of the month was "Frosty the snowman", which worked out amazing with the snowy weather we got this month.

We had the opportunity to play in the snow during our outdoor time where we had a snowball fight and even made some snow angels. We also brought some snow into the classroom in a tray to make some marks so the children weren't too cold but could still have fun in the snow. Once the snow was all gone, we used flour to mark make some snowman. We focused on the shape circle throughout this activity. We have also made a snowman using paper plates and cotton wool and used felt for the nose and buttons, supporting children's fine motor skills and creativity in the process.

Our story of the month "Douglas the Digger," led us on construction-themed adventures. Hide-and-seek games in the garden added an element of fun and exploration. Crayon coloring sessions provided an opportunity to discuss colors, and we extended this learning by creating diggers in the sand using crayons. Furthermore, we have been exploring an Icy tuff spot tray, and introduced cars into a wintry landscape using rice and shower gel, creating a sensory-rich environment that stimulated imagination and fine motor skills.

Daffodil

Our story of the month "Dear Zoo," has transported us into the enchanting world of animals. Through this story, the children have not only expanded their vocabulary but have also learned the characteristics and behaviors of various animals. We have focused on animal tuff trays to enhance sensory experiences and understanding. Crafting our lion faces and lion handprints has not only been a delightful creative exercise but also an opportunity to explore different textures and shapes.

"Leo the Lion" has become a much loved song in the Daffodil room, bringing joy and energy to our days. This song has been a fantastic for exploring animal sounds, fostering language development and rhythm. In addition to our animal-themed adventures, we have embarked on creative projects that stimulate fine motor skills and imagination. Fingerprint snakes and paper chain snakes have allowed the children to express themselves artistically while recognising patterns and shapes.

Additionally, decorating trees has been a delightful way to explore colours and nature.

This month, we have also embraced cultural celebrations by celebrating Burns Night. The children have actively participated in making their own Scottish flags, learning about different cultures and traditions. We believe such activities are important as they promote cultural awareness and a sense of diversity among our little learners.

We can't wait to share with you our next month's learning adventures!

Tulip

We have all had a fabulous January settling back into nursery after the Christmas break! The children have enjoyed talking about what they get for Christmas and what they got up too over the break!

January we had lots of different weather's like wind, rain and snow and enjoyed getting out into the garden to experience to snow! We built snow men and enjoyed throwing snowballs at our teachers! We loved feeling the different textures and how cold it was. This lead to some interesting conversations about weather and how important it is to wrap up warm when we go outside!

The children have also enjoyed celebrating new year and Burns Night. Tulips story of the month has been "Rapunzel" where the children have loved developing their fine motor skills cutting Rapunzel hair, creating our own castle and princesses. Our song of the month has been "Zoom Zoom". The children have been so engaged with the topic of space and aliens and have enjoyed exploring different tuff trays with sensory experiences like glitter, flour, foam and alien slime! We have enjoyed creating a rocket together and worked as a team to all paint it.

Next month we are looking forward to celebrating Pancake Day, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year!

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Sunflower

We have had a lovely month returning back to nursery and settling back into Sunflower room. All the children have enjoyed talking about having a wonderful Christmas and all the exciting things everyone has been up too at home.

Our story of the month was "The Gruffalo". We read The Gruffalo story daily at circle time. It was an absolute favourite! The children especially, enjoyed having an exciting visit from the gruffalo! The children enjoyed engaging in numerous fun filled activities. We explored lots of tuff trays. We made a big gruffalo and all the animals from the story such as the fox, mouse, snake, and owl with a variety of different materials. Also, we explored different textures and enjoyed making gruffalo crumple, gruffalo dinner and a fun picnic.

Our song of the month, was "The yellow submarine" . The children absolutely loved singing "The yellow submarine" and learning the words. Again, we explored lots of underwater tuff trays. The children enjoyed getting creative making submarines, boats, sea weed, fishes and lots more.

Buttercup



Daisy



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Snowdrop



Sunflower



Recipe: Short-bread



Ingredients

150g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
100g butter, chilled and cubed
50g caster sugar, plus 1 tbsp for sprinkling

Method

STEP 1

Heat the oven 170C/150C fan/gas 3. Put the flour, butter and sugar into a mixing bowl. Use your hands to combine the ingredients until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs, then squeeze until it comes together as a dough.

STEP 2

On a lightly floured surface, use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to ½ cm thick. Cut the dough into fingers and place on a lined baking tray. Use a fork to create imprints, then sprinkle with the remaining caster sugar.

STEP 3

Chill the dough in the fridge for 20 mins, then bake for 15-20 mins until golden brown. Remove the shortbread fingers from the oven and leave to cool on the tray for 10 mins.

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