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Auckland House Day Nursery

Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

Message from the Management Team

March has been a month filled with many celebrations and enriching experiences here at our nursery, and I am delighted to share some updates and exciting news with you. Our children actively participated in various events throughout March, including celebrating St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, World Book Day, and most importantly, showing love and appreciation for Mother's Day by crafting special cards for the mums. I am also very pleased to announce that during March we had our annual Liverpool Local Authority QI Inspection, and I am proud to share that we have once again achieved a Green RAG rating. This accomplishment reflects our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality care and education for your children.

Looking ahead to the Easter Bank holiday weekend, we are excited to embark on a journey of enhancing learning environments across all rooms. With generous support from Mr. and Mrs. Akaraonye, who have invested significantly in new resources for all rooms, we aim to create even more enriching experiences that benefit your child's learning, progress and overall development.

In our efforts to continually strengthen our team, we have successfully recruited several qualified and passionate staff members. You may have already received communication via Eylog regarding any changes affecting your child's room and their new key worker, where this was applicable. Please rest assured that I will personally ensure you have the opportunity to meet and get acquainted with the new staff members if you haven't already done so. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to all our parents our new team members: Carole (Unit Leader in Daisy and Acting Deputy Manager), Mollie (Daisy?), Jenna (Buttercups?), etc. I will also work on creating and sharing a "All About Me" introduction for each new staff member, which I will share with relevant parents through Eylog.

Moving forward, my focus will be on creating a well-trained, competent and highly engaged staff team through hands-on training and mentoring initiatives. Your child's well-being and development remain our top priority, and we are dedicated to providing them with the best possible early years experiences.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership in nurturing your child's growth and learning journey with us.

Amy Gregory (Nursery Manager)

Introducing Members of our Team –

My name is Carole Nevard, I am the new Unit leader based in Daisy room. I have many years of working with children between the ages of 0-5 and I have been based within the company across both nursery settings for a number of years. As a key person and senior within the room I look forward to getting to know each individual child and supporting their development.

Important Messages and Key Dates for <u>Diary</u>

. Reminder for parents to bring in nappy and wipes

- Easter weekend Friday 29th March-1st April –
 (Nursery closed Friday & Monday)
- 21st April (St. Georges day celebrations) wear red or white.
- w/c 1st April Easter themed activities,

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Buttercup

March has been a month filled with excitement, creativity, and learning in Buttercup Room as we engaged in various celebrations and enriching experiences.

Our little took part in events such as St David's Day where we surrounded ourselves with yellow, painted daffodils, and engaging in activities and tuff trays celebrating the colour yellow; St Patrick's Day which we celebrated by wearing green and engaged in green-themed activities; World Book Day which we celebrated by sharing lots of stories, and dressing up as our favourite book characters; and last, but not least, we celebrated Mother's Day where the children made special Mother's Day cards for their mums. Additionally, the 'Eggsploring' experience added a touch of wonder and curiosity as children witnessed the magic of eggs hatching, as well as having the opportunity to see baby chicks closely and even hold them gently.

Our focus on the book of the month was "Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs. The children engaged in a variety of fun activities inspired by this book, from mark-making with dinosaur footprints to exploring dinosaur-themed tuff trays and sensory bins, children practiced their fine motor skills and creativity.

For our song of the month, "Once I Caught a Fish Alive" we practiced movement and actions during circle time supporting children's gross motor skills development. The children also engaged in a range of different activities linked to the song such as exploring different textures in a sea themed tuff tray and splashing in the water trays, engaging in tactile experiences further developing their sensory awareness.

Daisy

March has been an exciting month in Daisy Room, filled with celebrations, creativity and new experiences. The children participated in various events such as: St David's Day where we have engaged in activities and tuff trays focused on exploring all things yellow, painting daffodils and even wearing yellow clothes to celebrate the day; St Patrick's Day by wearing green and enjoying green-themed activities and messy play, promoting learning through hands-on experiences.; Mother's Day and World Book Day, where we embraced the spirit of love and storytelling, engaging in communication relating to cherished memories with our families and creating small tokens of love and appreciation for our mothers.

A highlight of this month was welcoming the "Eggsploring" experience to our nursery, where children learned about eggs hatching, and had the opportunity to see the chicks closely in our room and even hold them and learn about how to care for baby chicks.

Our book of the month "Elmer" sparked creativity as the children explored colors and textures while decorating Elmer in their unique ways, supporting their fine motor skills but also encouraged self-expression. Our song of the month, "Sleeping Bunnies" had everyone happily dancing during circle time, supporting children's co-ordination and rhythmic abilities.

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Snowdrop

March has been a fun filled month, full of celebrations and events such as St Patrick's Day with all things green, St David's Day with all things yellow, Mother's Day and even the beginning of Easter celebrations, of course not forgetting a great welcome to Spring, which brought the start of brighter days and being able to enjoy more activities in the garden.

For March, our story of the month has been 'We're going on an egg hunt'. This was a firm favourite at story time and all of the children love making the different sounds throughout. Some of the activities included decorating Easter eggs, chicks in gloop, egg hunts in the garden, decorating biscuits, feeding farm animals and Easter tuff trays. We have been able to work on our hand eye co-ordination, and strengthen our gross motor skills. We also wanted to ensure that each activity incorporated a sensory element so that the children could experience new and different textures and have the freedom to get messy.

Our song of the month has been 'Sleeping bunnies', another favourite at circle time. The children love singing along and getting involved in the dance movements. Some of the activities associated include, Easter bunny masks, foam bunnies, musical instruments, carrot painting, Easter collages, yellow tuff trays, and drawing bunnies with colourful chalks. We aimed to make each activity as colour focused as possible to ensure the learning and repetition of colours. The children have shown great interest and understanding of colours as a result and we look forward to another month of fun filled activities.

Tulip and Sunflower

March has been a month of many celebrations and enriching experiences in Sunflower & Tulip Rooms! Our little ones participated in a variety of events, including St David's Day, where we wore cheerful yellow clothes, painted daffodils and engaged in a range of activities and tuff trays centered around the colour yellow. We have also celebrated St Patrick's Day by wearing green, engaging in lots of green-themed activities, and enjoying messy play sessions that promoted creativity and exploration. For World Book Day, we shared lots of stories and dressed up in our favourite book characters which was a lot of fun! During March we have also celebrated Mother's day and made special cards for our mums to show our love and appreciation.

Our focus on the book of the month, "Elmer" inspired creativity and exploration of different textures and colours as children created their own elephants using various materials like paint, foam and collage items. This hands-on experience not only developed children's fine motor skills but also encouraged imagination and artistic expression.

Our song of the month "Sleeping Bunnies" brought lots of laughter during circle time as children pretended to be 'sleeping' eagerly anticipating hopping like little bunnies.

Last, but not least, during March we welcomed the 'Eggsploring' experience to our nursery, where children learned about the magic of eggs hatching, supporting their understanding as well as helping them make connections to nature and life's wonders.

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Daffodil

This month in Daffodil Room has had lots of fun and learning! Our focus on "Dilly Duckling" and "Hop Little Bunnies" has led to exciting discoveries and skill development for our children. Through reading "Dilly Duckling," our children explored themes of friendship and kindness, supporting their emotional understanding and empathy skills. Based on our book of the month, we had lots of adventures with ducks, including foam play and park visits, which supported children's knowledge of animals and habitats as well as promoting curiosity and appreciation for nature.

The children have also practiced their fine motor skills and creativity through Easter-themed activities like colouring pictures and crafting carrot decorations inspired by our song of the month "Hop Little Bunnies". Dancing to the song was not only lots of fun but also has supported the children proved their co-ordination skills.

Buttercup



Daisy



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Snowdrop



Daffodil





Recipe: Easter Biscuits

Ingredients

100g salted butter

3 tbsp golden syrup

100g dark muscovado sugar

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

1 tbsp ground ginger

1 tsp ground cinnamon

225g plain flour

50g icing sugar

Method

Heat the butter, syrup and sugar together in a small pan until melted, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool slightly.

Mix together the bicarb, ginger, cinnamon and flour in a large bowl. Pour in the buttery syrup mixture and stir to combine, then use your hands to bring together to form a dough. Add up to 1 tbsp of milk to combine if needed. The dough will be soft at this point, but it'll firm up in the fridge.

Put the dough on a sheet of baking parchment, shape into a rectangle, and lay another sheet of parchment on top of it. Roll the dough out to a thickness of ½cm. Transfer to a baking sheet to keep it flat, leaving the parchment in place, then chill in the fridge for 1 hr.

Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5 and line a large baking sheet with more baking parchment. Remove the dough from the fridge and cut out shapes using a cookie cutter. We used 9cm stars, but you can choose any shape. We also made some with smaller stars cut out of the centre to thread ribbon through and hang from a Christmas tree.

Place the shapes, spread apart, on the lined baking sheet, and bake for 10-12 mins. (Depending on the size of the cutters you use, they might need a few minutes more or less cooking in the oven). Leave to cool completely on the baking sheet.

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