

Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield News



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Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the latest Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield newsletter.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Megan Johnson and Ana Rosa Sanchez to the nursery.

Megan takes on the role of Team Leader in Robins' room; she comes with a wealth of experience and has Early Years Teacher status.



Ana has joined us from Spain and has a degree in Early Childhood Studies and Qualified Teacher Status. She is working as a nursery practitioner and key person in Sparrows.

Amy left us at Easter to have her baby, which was due on 28th April... Little Freya arrived safe and sound on Friday 4th May! We are all thinking of her and wishing them well. We look forward to a visit from the new arrival in due course.

Curriculum

Robins and Blackbirds

Over the past few weeks the children have been looking at life cycles, which originated as a topic from the children's interest in the ever-changing garden and surroundings. They have learnt about the life cycles of frogs (looking at the frogspawn and tadpoles in the garden), chickens and butterflies.



Through our new gardening activities, the children have been looking at growth and changes over time. Tracey has been teaching them what plants need to grow and how we must look after them. The children have planted potatoes and carrots (from both seeds and peelings), peppers, radishes and a

variety of herbs; also, calendula and nasturtiums which are edible flowers. The strawberry plants are thriving, and we are hoping for a good crop again this year!

Megan and Kelly have been using the cooking activities to introduce raw ingredients, studying the



features of different fruits and vegetables and demonstrating how to cook food from scratch. So far, the children have made cereal bars, bread rolls, pizza, fudge, and rainbow sponge cake, to name but a few.

In Music and Movement, Nicola has been focusing on supporting the children's active listening skills as well as physical development, using rhythm and sound. Our circle times have reinforced this, being differentiated according to age and ability, during which the children have been learning about the days of the week, the weather and discussing our latest topic.



The children have been thoroughly enjoying Sara's Spanish lessons! So far, they have been learning how to say 'hello' and 'goodbye', the names of different relatives, body parts and facial features. They have also heard Sara read stories in Spanish. Next, she will be learning about Spanish music, traditional games, numbers and Spanish culture.

Ellie has been capturing the children's imagination in her science lessons. They have learnt about the properties of magnets, guessed which items float and which will sink and watched in wonder as colours 'walk' through kitchen paper!

Sparrows and Wrens

Sparrows' room has welcomed new friends Raphael, Elodie, Aubrey, William and Eleanor; all of the children

have shown warmth and kindness towards them and they are settling in well. During March they learnt about springtime. They explored growth and new beginnings by planting seeds, watching the cress grow into hair for our plastic bottle faces and measuring the sunflowers as they grow. We also looked at different animals and their babies and talked about the new brothers and sisters some of the children are awaiting. Easter was celebrated by decorating hard boiled eggs!



In April we talked about the different countries some of our friends originate from. First came Spain; home to Ana and Sara. We sang some Spanish nursery rhymes and cooked torrijas, which were really yummy! Next came the UK where most of the children are from; Janet cooked 'toad in the hole' as a special treat and at snack time they tasted rich tea biscuits dunked in decaffeinated tea from a teapot!



Next the children learnt a little about the African countries where Sharene and Amelia's family are from. There was biltong to taste, which was really chewy; the children also loved learning about the different animals and the noises they make. The final country visited was France, where Raphael's mummy is from. The children tried counting 1,2,3 in French; they tasted croissants by dipping them into 'café au lait'!



Sparrows and Wrens next theme is transport. The children will be learning about lots of different ways to travel, starting with trains..."Choo-choo!" 😊

Father's Day Breakfast – 15 June 2018

Dads - we would like to invite you to join us for breakfast on **Friday 15th June 7.30 – 9.00**. Come and enjoy a bacon roll and a cuppa, whilst joining in with some fun activities with your child. All Dads welcome. Please **RSVP by Friday, 8th June**.

Reminders and Notices

Robins' Room parents, please note that we have put a new system in place for the children's pegs. So far it is working well. Your child should always have the same peg, but it may be used for another child on other days. To ensure the smooth running of the system, we are asking parents to take home their children's belongings every day (or on days you are not attending the following day), thus freeing up the peg for another child. Thank you.

We have a lot of clothing, winter hats, gloves, scarves etc. which will not now be needed. Please retrieve any of your child's belongings which are no longer required.

Please ensure you dress your child in appropriate clothing and footwear and that everything is labelled. Thank you

Birthdays



Happy Birthday to....

Eleanor	9 April
Amy (Staff)	9 April
Kelly (Staff)	13 April
Oliver	15 April
Ethan	15 April
Rafferty J	21 April
Callum	22 April
Henry F	28 April
Amelie Ba	29 April
Ana (Staff)	6 May
Jayden	17 May
Nellie	27 May
Rupert	31 May
Charlotte	7 June
Jodie D	9 June
Henry M	9 June
Nicola (Staff)	17 June
Sebastian	25 June
Rafferty S	27 June
Rhiannon (Staff)	30 June



Wishing you all a very happy birthday!

Dates for your Diary

- Graduation – 04/07/2018, for parents of those children leaving to go to Primary School.
- Father's Day Breakfast– 15/06/2018.
- Bank Holiday closure: Spring Holiday 28/05/2018.
- INSET DAY 02/10/2018, the nursery will be closed for staff training and development.

Thank you.

Monkey Puzzle Management.

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