



## Poppins Post - January, February, March

Wishing all our readers a Happy and prosperous 2015!!

Here's hoping you all had a fun and relaxing Christmas and New Year and that Santa was kind to all the Poppins children!?!

### General News

- We welcome Emma and Katy to our Poppins team. Both have taken over from Katie and Becci, who have acquired jobs closer to home, in the Caterpillar Room. The Caterpillars have already made themselves known to Emma and Katy!!
- Many, many thanks to all of you who supported our Christmas Fayre - it really was a super afternoon. All money raised will be divided between the 3 rooms so that the staff can purchase resources/equipment to enhance the provision for the children.
- Many thanks for the lovely cards and gifts that the staff received for Christmas.
- It is that time of year again when we ask our lovely parents/carers to complete a questionnaire. It is your opportunity to tell us what you like about our nursery plus a time to let us know how we could improve things further. Questionnaires can be found in the hall way. If these could be completed by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and handed to Nicole or Debbie we would be extremely grateful.
- With the cold weather upon us please can you ensure that all children come to nursery with water proof coats, jumpers, scarf, hat & gloves so that they can access the outdoors.
- A polite reminder that nursery closes at 6pm. Obviously, we understand that there will be odd times, due to circumstances beyond your control, where a late pick up is unavoidable - no problem but please can you give

nursery a call to inform us of this. Many thanks for your co operation with this.

- A parents evening will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January - 6.15 - 8.15pm. Please book a 'time slot' with your child's key worker.
- If any parents/carers have any ideas on how we can improve the front play area please pass them on to Debbie or Jan- thank you.
- A reminder that Holiday Club will run throughout the February half term and Easter hols.

### Dates For Your Diary

- January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Years Day
- February 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentines Day
- February 17<sup>th</sup> - Shrove Tuesday
- February 19<sup>th</sup> - Chinese New Year
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> - St Davids Day
- March 15<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day
- St Patrick's Day - 17<sup>th</sup> March

Please look at the Room News to see what the children will be involved with during the above festivals/celebrations.

## Room News



### Caterpillar Room

Welcome back to all our Caterpillars to what surely will be a fantastic 2015. We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

Also a big welcome to all our new faces and goodbye to some of the children who have now moved down to the Butterfly room, you will be missed.

In January we shall be spending time looking at colours and shapes, which will tie in nicely with creating our jungle display, looking at different patterns and colours on the animals, together with learning what noises the animals make.

Every morning and afternoon the children will take part in a short circle time, during this time we will focus on colours, shapes, counting and simple problem solving. We will also be creating some colour boxes which will aid the children in exploration of colour, shape and size. If you have any red, blue, green or yellow items that would be suitable to use in these boxes they would be greatly appreciated.

In February we will be celebrating St Valentine's day by dressing up in red, creating cards, and taking part in some rather red messy fun activities.

February 17<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday so the Caterpillars will be having fun tasting pancakes with various toppings, as well as creating our very own pancakes during craft time, this could get very messy but will definitely be lots of fun.

Chinese New Year also falls in February so on the 19<sup>th</sup> - we will be celebrating the Year of the Sheep by making our very own sheep with cotton wool and lots of messy glue.

March also includes some dates to celebrate such as St David's day on 2<sup>nd</sup>. For this the children will spend time decorating their very own Welsh dragon and Welsh flag.

March the 15<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day so mums look out for some special treats coming your way on that day.

Last but not least 17<sup>th</sup> March is St Patrick's day, activities for this will include making green play dough, decorating cards and bookmarks to bring home.

So as you can see there is a lot to look forward to. However, if you have any ideas or would like to contribute to any activities or planning please come and see us, maybe you could even join us for some craft sessions, it would be lovely to have more mums, dads and grandparents drop in for a play.



## Butterfly Room

Happy New Year to you all!

Welcome back to all, we hope you enjoyed the Christmas break?

We would like to say hello and welcome to all the new children who have joined us recently, this room will certainly be lively that's for sure! Also goodbye to the children who are now embarking upon their new adventure in pre-school, we will miss you but are sure you will continue to enjoy your Poppins journey.

To start the new year off we will be changing our home corner into a post office, so if anyone has any empty boxes or post items from the Christmas period they would be greatly appreciated. Also any old or unwanted stationery would be welcomed to encourage the children's mark making in this area.

Group learning times in the Butterfly room will focus on colours, shapes, counting, numbers, size and problem solving. We will also focus on our Golden rules remembering to use our kind hands, walking feet, listening ears and little voices, as well as learning to share with our friends.

February kick starts a year full of celebrations. February the 14<sup>th</sup> is St Valentine's Day, this falls on a Saturday so we will be celebrating on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> instead (unlucky for some!). For this day we will all be dressing in red, making some lovely cards to take home and getting involved in some very messy red activities.

February 17<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday so it would be considered rude if we didn't at least get to sample a few pancakes with some delicious toppings. We will also be having a go at some pancake races and see who can toss the pancake the highest.

Chinese New Year falls on February the 19<sup>th</sup>, this year it is the year of the sheep, so some woolly fun shall be had.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be celebrating St David's day by making flags and daffodils and colouring in pictures of the Welsh dragon.

Mother's day falls on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> so look out for some special treats making their way home for this.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating St Patrick's day, activities for this include some Irish dancing, food tasting and flag decorating.

We will continue to send home the 'Me, myself and I' box. This is for the children to put special items in from home to share and talk about with their friends in nursery.

We are also going to start sending a bear home at weekends which will be our new adventure bear. We hope you will take him with you on any outings while he is in your care and take a few photos and write in his diary. This is a great activity for the children to share what they have got up to over the weekend or on holiday with their friends in the nursery - a great communication enhancer I'm sure you will agree.



## Ladybird Room

Happy New Year and welcome back. A very warm welcome to Vinnie, Oscar and Amelia who have recently joined us in the ladybird room.

We really enjoyed all of our Christmas events, a big thank you to everyone who supported us on these. Christmas Jumper Day and Pyjama day went down very well and lots of fun was had by all.

There is lots to look forward to over the coming months. To kick start the new year in January we will be spending time looking at and learning about winter (let's hope we have some snow to make it even more magical).

We will also be learning a bit about Poland and doing a mini display all about Oscar's home country.

February starts off our year of celebrations, beginning with St Valentine's day which we will celebrate on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. For this we will all be dressing in red and focussing on activities involving the colour red.

Shrove Tuesday is on 17<sup>th</sup> February so it's only right that we spend time eating some yummy pancakes with various toppings. There will also be a song to learn.

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, Year of the Sheep. We will be playing with chopsticks, and spend time tasting some Chinese foods during snack time.

In March we will be celebrating St David's Day, making some daffodils and decorating our own Welsh flags.

Mother's day falls on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March so look out for some special treats coming home that week.

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March we will all be dressing in green to Celebrate St Patrick's day and possibly have a go at some Irish dancing.

In the Ladybird room we have now started to send home some optional homework for the children to complete. Although these are fun they also have a learning purpose and we have found the children really enjoy doing these.

Over the next few months we will be focussing on literacy, working on initial sounds in words, for example 'a for apple', we will also be playing lots of eye spy games. We find this really encourages the children to start thinking about letters and sounds, this is also a good game for you to play at home too!

We will also be focussing on maths, working on shape and size variations, weights and measure and problem solving.

For ICT the children will be encouraged to complete simple computer programmes such as 'My first pre-school pack CD Rom', paint spa and some games. If there is any information you would like in order to be able to carry on with this learning at home come and see Faye who will be only too happy to help.