**JANUARY 2018 NEWS LETTER**

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our new families and children who are joining us this month.

As always we are delighted to hear all the children’s Christmas news and are glad that everyone has had a “simply wonderful Christmas time” The children certainly had a great time immersed in role playing Christmas traditions and making lovely Christmas cards and decorations prior to the holidays and weren’t they amazing in their nativity plays, a time when all our heart strings are plucked.

The children have all settled back well and are raring to go. There is an emerging pirate theme taking off, remember and look at the planning wall, with interests developing around designing costume accessories which is helping fine motor skills design ideas and problem solving. Ice treasure chests have made a timely appearance due to the changing weather and again test the children’s problem solving abilities and knowledge of how ice melts introducing aspects of science perseverance and intrigue. The treasure found is money which allows the children to revisit knowledge of money and number recognition in their play and conversations. Treasure hunts will continue to consolidate this learning. Making treasure maps allow for mark making and emergent writing. A possible line of development for this aspect is to encourage the children to create stories in book form and share their stories at group time. You never know a show maybe announced. The children were certainly keen to carry on putting on shows. We will try to keep them for Fridays when every child is in nursery and give as much notice as we can.

Stay and play and sing along sessions will run as before, look at the notice board for dates. If the play and stay dates don’t suit anyone please speak to us and we can arrange a day for yourself that fits your schedule.

The big bed time read bags will start again and be run by our very enthusiastic and efficient primary 7s. Our children are really benefitting from the shared numeracy learning that goes on between the ages. Remember reissue is on a Tuesday.

Our trips to the woods will continue, however when we have new children starting we do have to hold off till they settle and get to know us all. The weather does play a part in our decision to go and we are noticing that some children just don’t have the resilience for the cold so sessions may be cut short or be postponed. Maybe the best thing to do is think woods Thursday come prepared but don’t be too disappointed if it doesn’t happen.

**SOMETHING NEW**

We would like to create a social lunch club for Parent/care givers and children from both sessions to come together and socialise around eating together. This would run every 3 weeks between 11.40 and 12.15pm on a Friday and allow us all to have a little quality time together - first date **9th February**. To keep the focus around food and sharing time together we would ask that each family bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to be prepared together for a shared dish plus you lunch. Time is short so cooking won’t be an option but maybe between us all we could come up with other ideas and hopefully a name for the club. We would remind everyone that this is our lunch break too so we will be “off duty” so to speak and would hope that everyone stay responsible for their own child. It is a new club for us all to own and develop as we get into a flow together and deal with any teething problems if they arise. So come join us with open hearts and a willingness to connect.

**NEXT PRESENTATION/TALK “**Oxytocin” 20th February 4-5pm in the nursery (refreshments provided).

 February is the month of love and what a good way to share the love by coming along to our termly talk. This terms topic will be on OXYTOCIN, a very important hormone which enables us to connect and cooperate with each other. It is referred to as the LOVE HORMONE and is better known in the nursing mother’s circles however it plays a key role in our relationships and influences our behaviour. It is a favourite topic of mine and a great joy to inform everyone of how important it is in all our relationships.

**Last words** we would like to applaud you all in taking your children’s health and well-being seriously and keeping them home when they are unwell and allowing them to recover fully and keeping them appropriately dressed for the changeable weather. Also remember and look at the notice boards, floor book and planning wall to keep up to date with all that’s going on and feel free to look at your child’s journal. We are very proud of what they get up to.

Thankyou

Mrs Owenson and Mrs McInulty