



North Star Nursery Parent Newsletter



January 2020

Dear All,

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of the year. We trust you will find this helpful in keeping you informed of events within the nursery.

Thank you for the many boxes of chocolates and biscuits that we received, along with other gifts - both individually and to the whole team. We are saving some for later in the year, and to munch on during our staff meetings.

We have gathered together our plans for 2020, which are displayed on the "What is happening at North Star Nursery" board outside Pioneers. Please do take a look at the range of events and celebrations we hope to experience this year.

Parent Committee Group

All welcome to join us for our first meeting on the year in Holiday Club room on Tuesday 11th February from 12.30-1.30. Feel free to bring your lunch and chat. Tea and coffee will be provided. Hear how you can get involved.
Any questions, please contact Hannah via hannah.berriman@ukri.org

Fundraising

Our total for funds raised last calendar year is.....

£1381.42 for nurse equipment.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in securing this for the children in our care.

Footnote

Opening Hours: 8.00am – 6.00pm (Last pick up 5.45pm)
Contact: 01793 411994 Email: info@northstarnursery.co.uk

Dates for your diary

How events link to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

PSED=Personal, Social and Emotional Development

C&L= Communication and Language

PD= Physical Development

L= Literacy

M= Mathematics

EAD= Expressive art and design

UTW=Understanding the world

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16th – 30th January 2020 RSPB Big School Garden Watch (UTW, M, C&L)

Tuesday 21st January 2020
12noon Parent Workshop on Sleep and bedtime routines.

(Include both night time sleeping and day time naps and the importance of down time and routine)

Tuesday 28th January 2020
No Pen Day (nursery staff will reduce the amount of writing on this day. No observations and record keeping and so to reflect this Diary pages will have minimal information on them.)

Tuesday 28th January – 4th February 2020 – National Story telling week. (EAD, C&L, L, PSED)
Are you free to come in a share a story? Please talk to room staff direct to arrange.

Wednesday 5th February 2020
Chinese lantern Festival (UTW, EAD, C&L)

Friday 7th February 2020 Internet Safety Day (UTW, C&L)

Monday 10th February 2020 4pm - Parent workshop – Funding for 3 and 4 year olds both universal and extended (15 and 30 hours)

Please note that everyone is welcome to all of the workshops at any time, it is helpful to have replies so we know how many are coming along.

Early Years Development Locally

The data that is collected locally, regarding children's progress and school entry levels shows a significant gap in the vocabulary and language skills of children in Swindon compared to the average norms.

Therefore, Swindon settings have been encouraged to take part in strategies to narrow these gaps and raise children's progress. Last year Shannon was able to attend some local training entitled Early Words Together at Three. This she was able to cascade to the team and has been monitoring the children's progress. The second phase is to engage with parents through a series of short workshops.(see information below). In addition we are to provide parents with handouts and information to support speech development, and different ones will be included in our newsletter, starting with "Ditch the Dummy" information below.

New Year brings a new venture for us.

Early Words Together is a 5 week session programme that encourages families to take part in effective communication and learning.

We aim to show you simple everyday activities which can be turned into magical moments with your children. We welcome 5 families at a time to make sure you get the best out of your experience and during these 5 weeks we will cover interactive storytelling, rhymes and songs, Mark making and possible outings or visitors. Each session aims to be 50 minutes long and will be led by a familiar face within the setting.

All we require are 5 willing volunteers to commit to attending a breakfast session 8.30- 9.20am, over 5 consecutive weeks in nursery. See reply slip. This is open to parents of children in Pioneers and Discoverers

The Facts about Dummies...

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
It can comfort babies when they are tired or ill.	Dummies can cause babies to dribble more.
Research suggests having dummy under 1 year old can help prevent cot death.	Increased chances of infection of ear, throat and chest caused by germs that can get on dummies.
Dummies can help premature babies make the change from tube fed to bottle fed.	Dummies limit the opportunities for babies to experiment with different speech sounds and to practice babbling.
It is recommended that after 6 months dummies should only be used for sleeping.	Dummies can lead to incorrect positioning of teeth.
Dummies should be given up after 1 year.	As children get older it's harder to wean them off dummies.

SWINDON SCHOOLS COUNCIL
Designed for Speech & Language Therapy by Caroline Kirby

How to... Ditch the Dummy

SWINDON SCHOOLS COUNCIL

- Encourage your child to leave their dummy out for the Dummy Fairy, Santa or Easter bunny.
- Choose a time when you have support, are regularly with your child, and feel able to take it on.
- Exchange the dummy for a small gift or an activity you and your child enjoy.
- Make a clean break, throw them all away.
- Books about giving up dummies may help e.g. "The Last Noo Noo" by Jill Murphy.
- Talk to your child about giving it up - when and how it will happen, being a big girl/boy etc.
- Set yourself a time limit so you have a target to work towards.
- Get support from family, preschool/nursery, and children's centre staff.
- Be prepared for some tears and tantrums. Plan how you will distract your child e.g. a story, songs/rhymes or a cuddle.

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