



Woodlands Unit Newsletter

Issue 1/ September 2017

We are absolutely over the moon with our new Unit Provision. If you haven't had a chance to have a look please pop in at the end of the day when you collect your child. The children and staff have all settled in really well and we are looking forward to the children being able to flourish now we have the right environment.

We have three classes in our Unit Provision. They are Foxes, Squirrels and Rabbits. We also now have our 'Nest' which we are excited about developing as a community room where parents and carers can meet weekly for a coffee and a chat and we can run parents workshops to support you in supporting your children dates to follow.

Sensory Circuits

All our children will take part in this every morning, except Mondays, at the start of the day. This is a programme of specifically designed physical activities which are intended to focus concentration in readiness for the day's learning. They encourage the development of a child's sensory integration abilities. Sensory integration is the ability to take in, sort out, process and make use of information in the world around us. In the circuit your child will take part in simple activities such as jumping, balancing, and pushing and pulling. As part of the Sensory Circuit there is a calming section at the end. We would like to use some simple massage techniques as part of this section, starting with a hand massage. Please can you let your child's class lead know if you are happy for your child to take part in this. Sensory Circuits will start on Tuesday 19th September.

Woodlands Wonderful Wednesdays

Three times a year we will be holding these afternoons where we will invite you to come into the classroom and share in the children's learning. The activities will be linked to our topic. Our first event will be on Wednesday 8th November from 1.30 - 3pm. Please put this date in your diary as we would love to see as many parents as possible.

Fundraising Events

During the year we will hold some events to raise money to take the children on some special outings. Our first one is going to be a **Woodlands Christmas Afternoon Tea Event** on Tuesday 5th December from 1.30pm - 3pm. The money raised from this will go towards our planned trip to Milton Keynes in December where the children will visit Father Christmas.

Sensory Room

We are extremely lucky that the parents of one of our nursery children who has ASD held a fundraising event in the summer and has presented us with a cheque for £6000 towards having a sensory room. We are really pleased to tell you that we have now ordered all the equipment to have this in our new Unit Provision. We are hoping it will be ready after October half term.

Forest School

All the children will get the opportunity this year to visit Forest School. This will be based at Delapre Abbey. The children will go as a class. Autumn Term - Foxes, Spring Term - Squirrels, Summer Term - Rabbits. Letters will be sent out letting you know what the children need for this.

Speech and Language

The speech and language therapist who will be supporting the children this year is going to be Libby Fraterrigo. She will come in on Mondays and work her way through seeing the children who still need this ongoing support.

Integration

We are really pleased that the children are now based in our Unit Provision. However we will still organise for the children to take part in activities with classes in main school where appropriate. Lots of the children will still take part in playtimes and lunchtimes with the rest of the school to support their social development. We also plan to arrange some reverse integration where children from main school can join us for some activities too.

Home/School Books

This book is an important way of communicating between home and school. Please use it to share with us how your child has been at home, activities you have done together, places you have visited and your child's achievements. This really helps us in being able to talk to your child about their home life and for them to be able to share their news with their friends at school.

Official Opening

We will have an official opening of **Woodlands Unit** once everything is completely finished which we hope you will join us for date to follow.

Anything that you are not sure about please come and talk to us as we really value our relationships with our parents.

**Best wishes from
All the Woodlands Unit Team**

