

Riverside Childcare Ltd

Newsletter - Thistles

Winter 21/22



Health & Wellbeing

During Winter we have been discussing on an ongoing basis about feelings and the importance of respecting each other, being kind and thinking of others. As part of our daily routine we give the children an opportunity to talk about how their day has been and help them problem solve any issues they may be facing.

In the garden we have a range of outdoor equipment available to encourage the children to participate in a diverse range of activities including basketball, swing ball, football and hoppers. The children have been exploring new sports and outdoor games with the children taking lead roles in organizing them. This has encouraged leadership, problem solving and being mindful by ensuring everyone is included.

Numeracy and Mathematics

During Winter we have been introducing lots of new games which involve children enhancing their numeracy skills. We have recently been playing a lot of dice games, particularly with the younger children which not only improves their counting skills but encourages turn taking and following instruction in the correct order. Some of the children have also been accessing sum-dog, a schools maths programme online as part of their IT time on the laptop.

The children have also been participating in a range of painting experiences and wanted to try abstract painting. This has required the children learning to mix paints using the correct ratios to form different colours.

Literacy and English

During Winter we have been voting for our new room theme which is under the sea. Every child has been given the opportunity to participate in discussions about how to develop the theme and gave their own ideas. The children have also been increasing their knowledge of the theme by researching facts etc. online and by participating in a range of quizzes relating to the theme.

We have continued to provide ongoing support to children who want to do homework at After School Care. Our older children continue to mentor the younger ones and help them if needed. This also encourages peer education and positive role modelling.

Other Info

Should your child not require collection from school we would appreciate if you could phone the nursery to let us know no later than 2pm. We would also appreciate if you could ensure that registration forms are kept up to date with all relevant contact information.

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on children's mental health and wellbeing. We want to continue to ensure each child in Thistles has the opportunity to talk one to one with a member of staff to ensure their individual needs and wants are being met and to empower their aspirations.

Nursery Information



21/2/22- 6/3/22: Fairtrade Fortnight
1/2/22: Pancake Day
4/3/22: World Book Day
27/3/22: Mother's Day
4/4/22- 18/4/22- Schools closed- Nursery Class children off & return 19/4/22
2/5/22: Schools closed- Nursery class children off
5/5/22: schools closed- Nursery class children off

Employee/ Apprentice of the Year 2021

Apprentice of the Year 2021: Jenna
4th place runner up Employee of the Year: Kirsty
3rd place runner up Employee of the Year: Stacey
2nd place runner up Employee of the Year: Gillian (Jolly)
Employee of the Year 2021: Ashleigh



A huge big thank you to everyone that voted !!!

Committee Information

Charities/ Events

Robert Burns Day

On 25th January 2022 all rooms celebrated Robert Burns day with the children learning a range of rhymes/ poems including 'Behold the Hour the Boat Arrives', 'Wren's Nest' and 'Red Red Rose'

The children participated in a range of experiences such as designing their own statues using playdough, tartan painting and tasting some yummy Scottish food at lunch time.

Chinese New Year

It is the Year of the Tiger and all rooms have been participating in a range of experiences such as investigating Chinese letters and numbers and developing early mark making skills while creating their own Chinese writing. The children have also been enhancing their fine motor movements by learning how to use chopsticks to lift and eat food and explored the Chinese symbol for Tiger.

Valentine's Day

The children enhanced their creativity skills as they made their own choices to design cards for their loved ones and participated in a range of tuff tray experiences relating to valentines day which included frozen hearts, various sizes and shaped petals and a range of bottles for making 'love potions'.

Eco

We have been investigating ways to 'reuse' items and the Snowdrops have been using recycled cardboard tubes to create a pom pom drop experience and used recycled paper balls for an activity called 'snowball rescue'. Our Thistles have focused greatly on eco issues and global warming and how we can all help to save the planet. They discussed what the COP 26 summit was about and its importance for future generations.

Citizenship

We have been developing knowledge of the world around us and changes which occur in Winter. Some of the rooms have been helping to care for nature by creating bird feeders to hang outdoors for the wildlife and have been observing the birds which came to visit us as part of the Big Garden Bird Watch.

Christmas Appeals

A huge big thank you to everyone that kindly donated to the Food Bank. During December all collections were taken to East Dunbartonshire Foodbank and they were delighted with the amount we were able to provide for local families in need.



We would also like to thank everyone that participated in our annual Christmas Jumper Week. Overall we raised a total of £260 for cash for kids.



Facebook

We would like to remind everyone that each room has their own private Facebook groups where they share photos over the week of the children's learning experiences (children are only displayed on this page if they have parents/ family members within the group).

Should you wish to join the private Facebook group relevant to your child's room please email the nursery directly and identify who you would like to add to the group. Please note there is a maximum of 4 people per family allowed access.



Some requests

Outdoor play

As the weather is beginning to improve we are hoping for a good summer and will begin preparing our sun cream plans shortly. Can all parents please ensure that their children come fully prepared for all weathers e.g. sunhat/ winter hat, wellies, waterproof etc. These should be in a named bag and remain in the nursery for all days within the week. **Please refer to Recovery plan.**

Spare Clothes

Please can you ensure that your child has a minimum of 2 full changes of clothes in their named bag, should you believe your child may need more than 2 changes please provide these. We no longer have any 'spare' clothes which children can borrow should this be required. **If your child does not have a change of clothing we will need to contact you in order to obtain clothing. Please refer to Recovery plan.**

Children's toys/comforters

To minimise risks, children cannot bring toys from home at this time, however we will still accept comforters. If a child has a blanket, then we ask that the parent provides a duplicate which remains in nursery or that a named plastic container/named plastic bag which can be fully sealed, is provide for this to be stored in when not in use. Please ensure that any personal comforters etc. are washed on a regular basis. **Please refer to Recovery plan.**