



BATFORD NURSERY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to all our new families that have started at Batford Nursery School this term.

We have been learning about.....

The themes we have explored this term:

- *People who help us*
- *Birds*
- *Recycling*
- *Chinese New Year*
- *Spring*
- *Changes/Growing*
- *Easter*

NB Please look at the Parent Notice Board in the nursery corridor for detailed weekly plans.

- **People who help us** - We have had some lovely visits from the Fire Brigade and a parent who is an Optometrist and a Doctor. The children have been learning how these people help us and keep us safe. This year the Firefighters from Harpenden Fire Station managed to visit both the morning and afternoon children. The children got the opportunity to sit in the fire engine and spray the hoses. Mrs Dusanj brought in some equipment that the children enjoyed using to look at each other's eyes. Doctor Marsh talked to the children about what it's like to be a doctor. The children asked some interesting questions.
- **Birds** - "Nite Owls" came to visit - the children had a lovely day watching the birds of prey flying and learning all about their habitat and how they are cared for. We hope you liked your owl photos. It was lovely to hear that some of the children took part in the "Big Garden Birdwatch".
- **Chinese New Year** - We learned about Chinese Lion dancing, Chinese writing and exploring Chinese artefacts. Thank you to Mrs Tang for bringing in a "Lucky Envelope" for all the children.
- **Spring** - We are beginning to see signs of spring in the nursery garden. We are going to plant seeds and bulbs in our new outdoor planters and we look forward to watching them grow.
- **Changes/growing** - The children have been particularly interested in the pond as it is full of frogs and frogspawn. They are fascinated by the frogs and are very interested in the lifecycle. Skylarks Daycare have also raised some chicks from eggs which the children had the opportunity to visit.
- **Easter** - We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 (*please see below for details*).





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Other Activities

- **Clay** - Recently we have been working with clay and the children have been learning about the material and tools we use.
- **Homework** - It was lovely to read so many positive comments about the homework challenges and how you and your children are enjoying completing them. Please could you return them back to school on your library day. If parts of the pack do go missing please ensure you complete the form as it takes adult time to organise and replace resources.
- **Learning Journals** - Thank you to all the parents who have contributed photos and observations about their children for their learning journals. It would be lovely if we could encourage all parents to do this as it shows the children's interests and achievements at home. If you would like to do this, some observation sheets are available in a basket on top of the learning journal shelves.
- **Batchwood Tennis Club** - Thank you to the coaches. The children enjoyed participating in the tennis. Due to their staff illness the morning session has been postponed and will take place at a later date.
- **Bookstart Treasure Packs** - Recently each child received a book pack. The idea is to encourage book sharing as a fun activity at home and to encourage Library membership.

Forest School

- This term Natasha has been working with the children making dens, mud and stick structures and enjoying hot chocolate at the end of the sessions. Forest School helps children develop a range of skills across all areas of the curriculum and makes learning accessible to all learning styles.

Yoga

- Jean has been continuing to work with the children on a regular basis doing Yoga. The children really look forward to these sessions and readily share their experiences with their families and they provide feedback. Recently children have been learning about stretching and balancing in various positions. Jean combines the movements into short stories which the children remember.

Congratulations

- We are very proud to announce that our Deputy Headteacher Sarah Hedges has been selected to become a Specialist Leader of Education. This means that through our role as Strategic Partner with the Acorns Teaching School Alliance, Sarah will be able to share her skills and expertise with other schools who need support with continued professional development.
- We are also pleased to announce that Karen Plumb has completed and passed a Level 2 qualification in Childcare.





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Events

- **World Book Day** - Children were invited to come in to Nursery dressed as a character from a book. Thank you to those parents who came in to share books with the children.
- **Consultations** - This half term teachers and parents have given valuable time to share children's progress and next steps for development. We hope you found the time useful to give feedback and discuss your child's progress. Please complete the questionnaire that came home as this is important feedback for evaluation of the nursery experience and key targets for your children next term.
- **Spring Fair, Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Hunt - 23rd March - Don't forget to help your child make their Easter Bonnet.**
- The morning parade will be at 11am and the afternoon parade will be 12.45. The Spring Fair stalls will be available from 10am and 1pm. We will have the following stalls:-
 - Crazy Cups - £1 each
 - Bottle Tombola - 3 tickets for £1.00
 - Cake stall - various prices
 - More raffle tickets will be on sale - to be drawn on the 1st April.

Forthcoming Events

- 25th March - Good Friday - No Nursery or Skylarks.
- 28th March - Easter Monday - No Nursery or Skylarks.
- 1st April - Spring Term finishes.
- 18th April - Inset Day - Staff will be attending the Hertfordshire Nursery Schools Partnership Annual Conference.
- 19th April - First day of Summer Term.

Reminders

Absence:- If your child is unable to attend nursery, please could you telephone the office on 01582 713872 before 9.30 am and leave a message. This helps us with the requirement to ensure accurate registration data. We appreciate the efforts of every family to make sure children arrive promptly and regularly, this ensures maximum opportunity to make outstanding progress.

Shared Cloakroom:- Please ensure that all belongings are taken home at the end of each session as your child's cloakroom area is shared with a child in the opposite session.



Lastly, on behalf of all the staff at Batford Nursery School we wish you and your families a wonderful Easter Break and Easter Holiday.

