



Nursery News

2020-2021

Issue 2

Welcome to Tudhoe Moor Nursery School

Hello everyone and welcome back!

It is lovely to be back again and meet all of our returning and new families. A lot has certainly changed since I was last here in March! I can imagine it has been extremely tough for all of our families but wanted to thank you all for your continued support. Staff have been working extremely hard to ensure that we can be as safe as possible. I am especially proud of all of your children who have settled in beautifully to our setting and are making lots of new friends.

Thank you to all of those who had a telephone consultation to discuss how your child has settled. This would normally take place face-to-face so we will be sending out feedback questionnaires to find out what you thought.

There will be other changes to how we normally do things due to current restrictions, so please bear with us as we also try to work out what we are and are not allowed to do!

I will be on the main door every morning to try and meet all of our new families– please come and say a socially distanced hello!

Julia Hymers– Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

Friday 13th November	Children in Need (non-uniform day– Pudsey ears if you wish!)
Thursday 3rd December	'The Littlest Elf' Christmas performance
Monday 14th December	Christmas Nativity videos
Thursday 17th December	Party day! Last day of school
Monday 4th January 2021	First day back of school

School places

REMINDER: Applications for your child's place at Primary School close on Friday 15th January 2021.

Snack money

We politely ask for a voluntary contribution of £2 per week for 30 hour children and £1 per week for 15 hour children. This money is used to provide a snack for the children in the morning and the afternoon. We also use it to buy additional resources, e.g. items for baking or special activities in nursery; without these contributions we would not be able to do this. You can put your donation in the money box by the front door.



Parent governor vacancy

We have a vacancy in our governing body for a parent to join us. The governors meet once every term to discuss the school's progress and how it can be improved.

Each governor also has a link area in which they meet with Mrs Hymers to discuss and monitor. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Tracy for more information.

Remembrance Day

We will have poppies on the door each morning available for a donation.

There are also a few pin badges remaining for £2.00 each.

Children will be watching a short and age-appropriate video on Wednesday 11th November in school.



Christmas Events in school

We are trying to keep Christmas as special and as normal as possible for children. We have managed to book a performance of 'The Littlest Christmas Elf' to come into school and perform for the children in their colour groups. This will take place on the morning of Thursday 3rd December. If your child only attends on an afternoon, please feel free to bring your child for the morning session instead so that they can join in. This company has been chosen specifically as they are able to follow Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions.

We will be having a Christmas party day on Thursday 17th December. Please can children come in wearing their party clothes. They may still play outside (weather dependant) so please make sure they have a winter coat and suitable shoes. We will play party games and have some special party food too.

We would also normally hold some fundraising events to raise money for our school fund (which pays for some activities and events in school) but this will not be able to go ahead as normal. We are thinking of other ideas so watch this space!

Christmas Nativity play



Once again, due to current restrictions, we are unable to hold our 'normal' Christmas Nativity in school. Instead, we have tried to come up with an alternative so that your children can still perform.

Each group of children will perform a mini Nativity with lots of festive songs (and of course, adorable costumes!) which we will film and put onto our Facebook page on Monday 14th December. We will send out a separate consent form for this, and I am happy to discuss this with any parents that may have any concerns.

Unfortunately, parents are still not allowed inside the building and so we hope that this will be the next best thing.

Star of the Week



Every Friday, we will celebrate one child's achievements from each group. The child will stand up in their group, receive a special certificate and sticker and also go on our wall of fame in the porch! Staff look out for children that have settled well, join in with group time, help tidy up, made a new friend or been a good listener among lots of other reasons.



What are we learning this half-term?

Our main theme this half term is looking at different celebrations. We will be celebrating:

- Halloween
- Bonfire Night (with toasted marshmallows)
- Diwali- festival of lights celebrated by Hindu families
- Christmas

Children are now developing their self-help skills and many of our children can put on their own coats and wellies. We will be continuing to practice these skills as well as doing up zips independently.

We have had a focus on children identifying the first initial in their name. We ask them to 'write' their name on every piece of work they do. At this stage it may not look like their name but it is important that they realise that the marks they make have a meaning. Each child has a name card that they can copy their name from until they can recognise it independently.

For our new starters, we have a big focus on sharing stories and learning nursery rhymes with numbers up to five such as Five Little Speckled Frogs, Five Little Ducks etc. We are spending lots of time ensuring that they get used to our rules and routines and joining in with group activities.

For the children that have been with us longer, we are focusing on numbers up to 10 (and beyond) and what these numbers represent. They enjoy learning the days of the week, months of the year and exploring patterns.

Lots of our children are still learning how to take turns and share toys. This is a completely normal stage of their development. We encourage children to solve problems like this by playing games with their friends with some adult support and using words such as 'my turn, your turn'.

Parents comments

If you have any questions or comments about anything in the newsletter or nursery in general; or you would like further information about anything to do with nursery, please see a member of staff or contact us on: 01388 816112 or e-mail: tudhoemoor.nursery@durhamlearning.net

If you would like to have a more in-depth discussion about anything, you can make an appointment to speak to with your child's key worker or Mrs Julia Hymers (Head Teacher). Please book these appointments through Tracy at the office.