

Clifton Lodge Newsletter

May 2016



The Queen's Birthday Celebrations

Thank you to everyone involved in our celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday. Everyone looked great in red, white and blue! The children enjoyed having a special tea party, creating and decorating biscuits and cupcakes to eat for this special occasion!



Outdoor Play

A recent survey has suggested "Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates" (Guardian, 2016). With this new information in mind the staff at Clifton Lodge have been focussing on getting children out in the lovely fresh air even more than usual! In numerous scientific research studies and publications over the past decade, the benefit of allowing children to connect to nature is extremely vast. Collectively, this body of research shows that children's social, psychological, academic and physical health is positively impacted when they have daily contact with nature. Some of our outdoor activities have included: Trips and excursions to the beach and the forest in Lytham St Anne's.



Beach Huts

The Preschool and Lower Preschool thoroughly enjoyed the trip to the beach huts. The children were able to spend time out at the beach using the hut as a shelter for lunch and respite. The children enjoyed going on a scavenger hunt finding things that were natural and man made. We collected: mermaid's purses, sea sponges, mussel shells, drift wood and seaweed. We did find things that did not belong on the beach and ensured we put them in the bin when leaving. During our trip we recognised footprints, from a variety of visitors to the beach, we created sandcastles and played games including 'What's the time Mr. Wolf'. A small group collected sand and created sand dough. We brought back pebbles and a selection of items to discuss further at nursery. We would like to thank Ellie Webb for organising this event with the Beach Huts, allowing the children to have an enriched learning experience in our local surroundings.



Circus, Jungle Jims and The Sea Life Centre

The Preschool and Lower Preschool have enjoyed a variety of fantastic trips to Jungle Jims, the Sea Life Centre, and the Tower Circus! The children left nursery to travel to Blackpool Tower on public transport. The children enjoyed challenging their physical abilities exploring Jungle Jims play area. At lunch time they ate in the ballroom balconies and watched some elegant ballroom dancing, including the waltz; listening to sounds of the famous Wurlitzer organ!

After lunch everyone watched Mooky and Mr Boo's jaw-dropping stunts and comedy capers at the Circus! Alternatively, some groups have been to the Sea Life Centre to explore the sea creatures. The Sea Life centre included sharks, turtles and starfish to seahorses!

The trips were a huge success; we can't wait to continue these.

A full list of who is attending the trips is available in the office. If your child does not attend a full day and you would like to attend, please speak to Amie or Helen.



Staff Training

On going staff training is important to the Learning Curve Nursery Group. Staff member's personal and professional development through further training, ensures that staff members are knowledgeable and up to date with developments in the childcare sector. This month our staff have been very busy updating their: First Aid, Food Hygiene, and Common Assessment Training.

Sand Kitchen

This month our sand kitchen was completed ready to explore. The sand kitchen supports the children's learning and development in all areas and is a lovely way for the children to explore their senses. The sand kitchen includes a range of herbs for the children to smell, touch and use as ingredients for the things they make, a range of utensils, pots, pans, baking trays, water and flowers too. The Pre-school were so excited to be the first to make use of the kitchen, making lots of yummy sand meals for their friends. The Sand Kitchen is a perfect learning opportunity for the children as it supports their communication and language development especially their conversation skills, initiating in conversations and taking into account what others say. Also by having a range of utensils this supports the children's pre-writing skills as it helps develop their fine motor movement.



Spring Time

We hope you have been keeping a look out for our spring life around the nursery! We have been observing our nursery pond and tank outside the entrance for signs of change. Once our tadpoles have grown we are asking if you would like to take a frog for your garden, please ask Amie or Helen in the office and they will assist you in doing so.



Chick Sitting

Thank you to all the parents and staff who have got involved in chick sitting. The chicks have thoroughly enjoyed visiting each home and meeting so many new faces. We were very excited to meet Charles the chicken who selected the two names of our chicks: Ellie and Bonnie. Well done to Reggie and Dolly for entering, we hope you enjoy your prizes!



Lytham Club Day

The children at Clifton Lodge have decided to change our theme this Club Day to the 'Circus' due to recent outings there with our Preschool children. As a nursery we love to follow in the children's interests, so we are currently taking apart last year's pirate boat, and transforming it into a magical circus tent. This year we are also very excited to be collaborating with our sister nursery Shepherd Lodge for the procession. Due to this reason we will be inviting only the Preschool children to travel on the float; however we welcome our parents to walk alongside the float with their children who are not in the Preschool unit, joining in with the procession and celebrations on the day.



If you do not receive an email of our monthly newsletter please pop into the nursery office or alternatively send the desired email address with your details to: cliftonlodgenursery@googlemail.com

Dates to Remember

May 2nd - Bank Holiday (nursery closed)
May 30th - Bank Holiday (nursery closed)
June 6th - Ramadan starts
June 19th - Father's Day
June 25th - Lytham Club Day Parade

