

## Explorers Newsletter February/March 2019

### WELCOME



We have had a busy month with Valentine's day and Chinese New Year.

We had a lot of fun looking at Valentine's Day doing lots of different crafts.

Learning Chinese has been fun and we

did activities for Chinese New Year with lots of art work, making dragons and lanterns. We even tried to do a dragon dance.

Over the next month or so we will be learning Romanian, look out for our display as you walk into the Explorers from the dining room. We will also be looking at similarities and differences - what makes us the same and what makes us different. Pancake day is coming up too so we'll be making pancakes and learning how to flip them which will be great fun.



Thank you, the Explorers Team

### NO TOYS FROM HOME

We are unable to allow children to bring toys from home into the setting. This is causing distress to children who don't want to share their toys or toys becoming lost or broken.

Children will be able to bring in their usual comfort toy or blanket, but this will be kept in their bags until sleep time.

Thank you for your help with this.

### Jigsaws Session Start and Finish Time Reminder

We have seen an increase in numbers of parents trying to drop off children before their session properly starts at Jigsaws on a morning. A reminder not to bring children in before 9am if that is their session start time. We have a duty of care to all of the children attending the setting and while staff are out taking children to school we do not have enough staff on the premises to look after children brought in before their session start time.

Also a reminder that children need to be collected from Jigsaws before you collect children from school as the afternoon session ends at 3pm.

Thank you.

### Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning

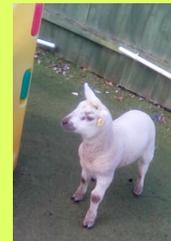
Hi All

This week we have a very special visitor, a LAMB! We fed it too! We have also been doing lots of work on people and communities whilst out and about in the local community.

The children are thoroughly enjoying the outdoor learning experience and developing in all the areas of the curriculum. We are also busy over the next couple of weeks with the half term Forest Schools and will have fun making bird feeders and lots of keep-sakes.

Thanks Becki

Outdoor Learning Leader



### DIARY DATES

Closed Bank Holidays: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and 26<sup>th</sup> August

Half-Term Activities 25<sup>th</sup> Feb—1<sup>st</sup> March

Comic Relief 15<sup>th</sup> March

Closed Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April Training Day

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May Parents Evening

Child Safety Week 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June

Big Toddle June TBC

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July Training Day Closed

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September new contracts start

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September OPEN EVENT time TBC

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Parents Evening

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October Training Day Closed

Children in Need November

Close for Christmas 12 noon 24<sup>th</sup> December

Closed Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Training Day

Open Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Home Learning Bags

We have home learning bags for you to loan for 50p with activities for you to do at home. These are in the front reception area. Please ask your room supervisor if you wish to use one.

You can choose from four bags:

- Shape, size and pattern (Explorers and Discoverers)
- Numbers (Explorers and Discoverers)
- Reading and writing (Explorers and Discoverers)
- Heuristic Play (Crawlers and Explorers)

**The new Vegan Menu is available. Check the website for details** <https://www.jigsawschildcare.co.uk/home-made-meals/>

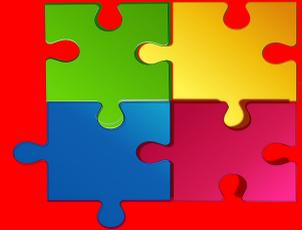
### Nut Allergies

Just a reminder that we have children in the setting with allergies so please make sure any snacks or lunches that are sent in are nut free.

ParentZone is an award winning smartphone app for parents. Parents can access information about their child's day at Jigsaws Childcare at a time that suits them best. ParentZone promotes the partnership between parents and Jigsaws to provide two way communications.



## Meet the Explorers



Karen Holding  
Room Supervisor



Lorraine Briers  
Deputy Supervisor



Sophie Gaddas  
Practitioner



Shannon Kaye  
Practitioner

**Amie Ross—Operations Manager**

**Nicole Newiss – Teaching & Learning Manager**

**Helen Smith – Business Manager**

**Are you looking for support with childcare costs?**

Childcare Choices brings together all the government childcare offers in one place for the first time. The new Childcare Choices website makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

Use the Childcare Calculator at [www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator) to see what offers are available to support you and your family.

To find out more about the new and existing offers, and how they can help you, go to the Childcare Choices website today at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)