

## Explorers Newsletter January/February 2019

### WELCOME

We have been learning Chinese this month as part of our language of the month and will continue into February working with the Chinese New Year. The children have learned to say 'Konichiwa' (HELLO).

This month the story we will be focussing on is The Ant and the Grasshopper. We are also looking forward to getting creative for Valentine's Day.

We will be working to develop the children's imagination in the small world area creating stories and really getting the children to think about what they want to happen next within their own story.

The children have loved taking part in Forest schools, they have had fun jumping in muddy puddles and embracing colder days. Please remember to send in named gloves, hats, coats and welly boots so the children can enjoy outside play without feeling cold. Also, could I ask for any boys and girls spare trousers or leggings that parents no longer need.

There is a pile of spare clothes on the side as you walk into the room, please look through to see if any items belong to you. If not collected they will be going to charity.

A reminder not to bring in home toys to nursery as they often get lost or broken.

Thank you, the Explorers Team



### Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning

Hi All

Forest schools over the last couple of weeks has been amazing, the children are growing with confidence and love learning through outdoor experiences.

We have been digging for worms and talking about their length and how fat and juicy they are. We also did some bug hunts and talked about how we must be careful with them to ensure we don't hurt them.

Over the next few weeks we will be getting even messier making funny clay faces to take home.

We will also be learning how to play some new team games.

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

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

## Healthy Eating

As part of our requirements for Ofsted and duty of care to your children, Jigsaws is a healthy eating setting. Ofsted inspectors look at the extent to which we are successfully supporting children to gain "knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy" and "make informed choices about healthy eating, [and] fitness" throughout their entire inspection.

In order to promote this, we take children out to forest schools, teach about exercise and the effects on our bodies and offer healthy snacks to help children to understand healthy eating. If you bring a snack for your child, please can you ensure that it is a piece of fruit or a yoghurt. Biscuits and fruit shoots will only be offered as part of the lunchtime pack up. Thank you for your help with this. If you have any questions please speak to your room supervisors.

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

## 20 is Plenty

At the moment a 20 is plenty scheme is being considered for the village in specific areas. If you would like to find out more a petition will be in the Community Shop and if you would like to volunteer or get involved Cllr Andrew Mason would love to hear from you. Jigsaws would like to support this scheme to slow the traffic down outside our play area and make drivers think about their speed as they go through the village.

## 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.

### 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)

## Jigsaws Session Start and Finish Time Reminder

Please note that children who are due to start at 9am must not be brought in before this time. We have a duty of care to your children and cannot meet this if we do not have the correct amount of staff for the children on the premises outside of the booked times.

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

## 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)