

## Discoverers Newsletter February/March 2019

### WELCOME

What another busy month we have had in the Discoverers. We have done a lot of work on our maths this month, looking at shapes both inside and outside the building. Building models with different shaped boxes and talking about the properties of the shapes we could see for example how many sides they have and how many corners there are.

In our Literacy this month we are focussing on the letter sounds 'at' we have explored all the different letters that can be put in front to make new words, for example cat, hat, sat, mat, pat and rat. We have used bottle tops with letters on them, wooden spoons, foam letters and letter blocks to help us make the words.

Everyone in the discoverers had a great time with our 'Taste the Rainbow' activity. Linda sat with some children who were helping with getting lots of different fruit and vegetables ready, they all talked about keeping safe when using sharp knives to cut up the fruit. We then placed the food into trays making sure that the colours were in the right order for the rainbow. All children tried something that they hadn't before - well done everyone.

In forest schools we visited the train station for a little train spotting. We had the opportunity make sausage pots using clay and making the well of the pot with their thumbs when we visited the Old School Playground. Children have also been around the village looking at the different things they can see such as signs and shapes and what they mean.

There are also lots of other things we have done too - keep your eye out for things popping up on ParentZone. Please feel free to add a comment about what your child has been doing.

Thanks, The Discoverers Team

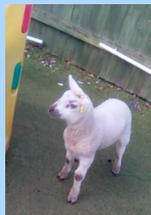
### Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning

Hi All

This week 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 keepsakes.

Thanks Becki - Outdoor Learning Leader



Ofsted rated GOOD in all areas

A consistent approach to Early Years  
for the last 10 years 2008, 2011, 2013,  
2017

Ofsted  
Good  
Provider



### 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.

### 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

## 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.

## HELP!!!

We have a HUGE pile of lost property building up in the room (we may end up being buried!) Over the next couple of weeks please come in and have a look to see if any belongs to you - by the middle of March. We be recycling most of it to the charity shop if not claimed - thank you.

## Mobile Phones and Tablets

Children are not allowed their own mobile phones or tablets in Jigsaws on a normal school day. This is due to safeguarding issues relating to photographs and viewing inappropriate content. If your child needs to take a phone with them to school, this should be handed in to a member of staff for safekeeping until school start time or collecting. If you need to speak to your child or they need to speak to you, please use the Jigsaws landline 01937 558951. Tablets and handheld games are permitted in holiday club but will be closely supervised. This is for the safety of your child and other children.

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

## 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)

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 Discoverers team



Linda Ross  
Room Supervisor



Kay Scarce  
Practitioner



Amy Elsworth  
Practitioner



Freya Mitchell  
EYE Apprentice



Rebecca Haines Deputy Manager/Outdoor Learning Lead

**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.