



Dear all,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas. It's lovely to see the children back at Jigsaws after their break.

### **Crawlers**

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas. It's lovely to welcome the Crawlers back. This month our curriculum focus is to be a Fabulous Friend: to be kind and caring and have empathy with others, play well with others and accept their ideas and values. Being a Fabulous Friend will help our new starters settle in, as well as all of our Crawlers as we are all coming back from the Christmas break, helping us get back into the swing of things and learn how to care for each other, learning how to take turns and share resources and activities.

### **Explorers**

Welcome back after Christmas, we hope you all had some well-deserved time off with all your family and friends. Here in Explorers, we are excited to be back with our friends learning lots of new things. Our topic this month is animals; we have started off learning about different farm animals, we have got stuck in with creating our very own farm with lots of glue and tissue paper.

Our curriculum focus is Enthusiastic bookworm: Enjoy a book, have fun reading, telling your story and sharing others' stories, songs, poems and rhymes.

Are there any farm animals that live near you or any you have visited? If you can, please upload any pictures to the Blossom app. Thank you.

### **Investigators**

Throughout December we enjoyed learning all about Christmas through crafts, stories and play, with lots of dressing up and having fun. The children enjoyed learning songs, dancing and singing. What a wonderful nativity! All children did so well, we are all so proud of them. We enjoyed outside play experiencing learning opportunities through exploring the cold weather, looking at ice and finding ways to keep warm.

Our curriculum focus for this month is to be an Enthusiastic Book Worm: sharing stories, learning songs, reading stories and learning a new poem focusing on our topic off animals, zoos, safari, etc.

The Investigators staff would like to thank everyone who gave gifts, so kind and very thoughtful, thank you! Hope all had a lovely Christmas and that 2025 will be a good year for all.

### **Discoverers**

It has been fantastic to see everyone back after the New Year, we hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and enjoyed the break.

This month the Discoverers are going to be looking at the weather changes as well as day and night, we will be completing our weather chart and reading lots of books about the weather. We will also be focusing on mark making as this will be our curriculum focus, we will encourage the children to draw pictures of themselves and talk about their different emotions. We will also be practicing tracing over the letters in our names and recognising the letter our name begins with.

The children enjoy lots of outdoor play, exploring the different weather such as wind, rain, sun or snow; the children will enjoy looking at textures while playing outside and enjoying the world around them.

Please remember extra spare clothes and coats, hats and gloves for this cold weather.

## Adventurers

Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year to you all from the Adventurers team. We are very lucky to have Georgina join our after-school team this year to work with the Adventurers. Georgina will be teaching the children how to crochet over the next few weeks, as wool themed activities are very popular at the moment. Our theme for the spring term is 'Working Together' and we will be encouraging children to work with a partner or as a team to create lots of different craft activities and challenges. We will continue to add photos and captions to Blossom so please make sure you can access it.

## Outdoor Learning (inc. Forest Schools, Muddy Puddles Teaching & Gardening)

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break. Over the next few week we will continue to explore the weather as it changes. We will also be looking at animals and focusing on those which hibernate. We will be making our own clay hedgehog to bring home so if you could bring in some sticks for us so we can use the tools to chop up into smaller sticks to use for creating their hedgehogs - that would be great.

## The Early Years Alliance

The Early Years Alliance has a monthly e-newsletter full of information for parents. To sign up for their e-newsletter straight to your inboxes follow this link:

[Family Corner | Features and tips about your child's development](#)

## Clothing Reminder:

Please send spare clothes for your children as we go out in all weathers.

Please also label all clothes so we can return them to the right children.

## School Admissions

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, you will need to apply for a primary school, this you can do via the North Yorkshire Council website at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions). The application round opened on 12th October 2024 and closes on 15th January 2025. Families living outside North Yorkshire will need to contact their home authority to obtain their information regarding school admissions. If you have any queries, please email [schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Home Learning Certificate Winners

**Crawlers: Gabriella**

**Investigators: Martha**

**Discoverers: Will S, Mia C and Henry**

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING SUPPORT

From April 2024, eligible working families of two-year-old children may be able to access 15 hours of funded childcare per week (570 hours per year) from the term after their child's second birthday. • From September 2024, this was extended to eligible working families of children aged 9 months and above. • From September 2025, this will be extended to 30 hours per week (1140 hours per year) to eligible working families of children from 9 months old up until 1st September following their fifth birthday. Early years funding ceases when a child is admitted into school through the Schools Admissions process.

To access childcare funding, parents will need visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to access their eligibility code.

## DIARY DATES

**Closed all Bank holidays (2025):** 18th & 21st April, 5th May, 26th May, 25th August

**Closed Training Days:** 17th April 2025, 25th July 2025

**Holiday Club:** 17th to 21st February 2025

**Red Nose Day:** 14th March 2025

**Parent's Evening's:** 21st March 2025 and 27th June 2025 (TBC)

**Easter Holiday Club:** 7th to 17th April 2025

**Holiday Club:** 26th to 30th May 2025

**JIGSAWS CHILDCARE LTD**

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