



Hartley Wintney

June 2017

Monkey Puzzle Nursery News

by Sarah Worthington

This Month our theme is...

Farm Fun!

So expect lots of farm noises at home during this month!



Across the nursery, we'll be exploring all sorts of farm related topics from what noises the animals make, talking about what adult and baby animals are called, and looking at farm machinery for those interested in tractors and combine harvesters!

Don't forget to visit Miller's Ark travelling farm at the Hartley Wintney Village Festival on 10th June – there are always lots of animals for the children to pet.

What have we been learning this month?

In **Babies** (Hedgehogs) we have been using our sense of touch to explore different textures, helping to encourage communication amongst the children on what they are feeling. We have also been playing in our home corner and playhouse, and having fun dressing up.

In **Toddlers** (Squirrels), we have been looking at 'minibeasts'. We have made 3-D pictures of caterpillars out of paper and using tubes of all sorts of sizes! We have also been looking at different colours and objects, for example green apples, green trains and green letters (for the toddlers to begin to recognize the first letters of their names).

In **Pre-School** (Owls) we are exploring the lifecycle of a caterpillar and reading 'The Hungry Caterpillar' story. We have been getting crafty, using paint, tissue paper, playdough and papier mache to create caterpillar pictures, make cocoons and do butterfly printing. We have our own live caterpillars at nursery and have been watching them grow – the children are very excited to see them turn into butterflies!

We've also been doing lots of dressing up and imaginative play – the children's key interest has been princes and princesses, so we have been making crowns out of card for them to wear while learning about more complex shapes – pentagons and octagons.

Finally, those going to school in September have been learning about words that rhyme and having lots of fun making up rhyming words! They have also been building their confidence through creating their own picture books and telling the story from those pictures to the other children.

Village Festival & Parade – 10th June

We are all hugely excited about our nursery parade at the Hartley Wintney Village Festival. Our theme is Mickey & Minnie, and Alison has been making fabulous costumes for all the children.



Please note that it is a Saturday and while we will all be there, your child is

your responsibility. For all parents accompanying their children in the parade please do join in the fun and dress up too – it only takes a pair of ears!

Please all meet at Greenfields School on Green Lane at **12pm** for the parade start.

Employee of the month!

This month, we are proud to announce that we have THREE Employees of the Month!

Congratulations to Kirsty, Alison and Laura!

All three of these lovely ladies have contributed massively to the nursery over the last few weeks.

Thank you very much for all your hard work ladies!

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome **Laura Cobb** to our Monkey Puzzle team as our new Squirrels (Toddler) Room Leader from 5th June. Laura comes to us from Bookworms at Farnborough College of Technology. She has a Level 5 (Foundation Degree) Early Years qualification and 6 years' experience working in childcare. She is very excited about joining our team so please introduce yourselves if you haven't already.

On top of all her other work running Monkey Puzzle, **Cherry** has decided to do her Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Care to build her functional knowledge and help to support the team further in their development.

Room Audits

Please note that we have our next ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale) audits happening in the Baby and Toddler rooms this month.

The audits look at the environment, whether it is meeting the needs of the children, and whether the practices within that environment are working well – ie. are there enough building blocks with cars and animals to allow children to extend their imaginative play? It is a great resource for us to ensure our services fully meet your children's needs and we will share the results when we have them.

Parent Survey & next Parents Meeting

Thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey last month. The results are in and we are very pleased that **over 90%** of you agreed / strongly agreed with the statements in 7 out of 8 questions. The area we do still need to improve is parent communication and we would love to hear your thoughts on how we can make this better.

To provide you all with an opportunity to hear more about what we've been doing, ask questions, and feed back verbally on things you'd like to see us doing differently / better, we've decided to hold another parents meeting.

We will be holding it during an evening at 7.30pm and will confirm the date in due course.

New 30hrs Funding for Preschoolers

From 1st September 2017, the government will be extending funding for eligible pre-school children from 15 to 30 hours over 38 weeks.

To check your eligibility – please follow this link:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Eligible parents must register on this site: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

We know many of you have questions, however we are still trying to understand the government guidelines on this and

how it will impact our fee structure. Please bear with us, we aim to have our revised structure in place and shared with you by early July.

Please be aware government funding only covers childcare and not all the additional extras we provide at Monkey Puzzle such as food, craft supplies, sun cream etc. so the new funding structure will reflect this.

Summer sun

As our English summer finally(!) seems to be starting, we are all becoming more sun savvy! Therefore, please remember every morning to include a sun hat for your child in their bag.

We do provide and apply sunscreen (we use Ambre Solaire and Nivea F50) to all children before they go outside in the mornings and again in the afternoons. If you have a specific sun cream you would prefer us to use, please pack in your child's bag and let us know.

Trees still for sale!

We would like to remind you that we still have a variety of saplings for sale (Cherry, Dogwood, Hazel and Hawthorn).

Saplings are £5 each or 2 for £7 (cash only please) and funds raised will be used to buy exciting new equipment for our outdoor spaces.

We will also be selling these at the Festival on Saturday.



Dates for your Diary

Saturday **10th June** – Hartley Wintney Village Festival.