



NEWSLETTER



EVERYONE AT SMART KIDS WISHES ALL PARENTS AND CHILDREN A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!

Baby Room

Recent activities in the Baby Room have been focused on the children's interest in the sensory stones. We have been rolling, throwing and exploring the different textures and looking at the lights inside. This has led to the children using them to paint with, enabling them to make marks with different media.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the use of the sensory stones, this has led them to explore shape, size and cause and effect. Some of the older children have been labeling and repeating colour names.

We have also placed a focus on animal books and been encouraging the children to label animals and associate them with the appropriate sound.

The pre-mobile babies have been using sensory hoops and mobiles to explore a range of textured materials and sounds. This has been encouraging them to reach, stretch and crawl towards different objects, enhancing their large motor skills.

Ways to support at home

- Encourage hand-eye co-ordination and sharing skills: rolling a ball back and forth.
- Take time to look at books and point at the pictures, labeling with single words.
- Encourage pre-mobile babies to crawl, placing objects slightly out of reach, or pull themselves up onto low-level furniture with a favourite toy.



Two's Room

Within recent weeks the Two's children have embraced their imaginative skills, from bathing babies, to role playing in the mud kitchen and more. The range of activities provided have enabled the children to work alongside and interact with peers engaged in the same theme, extending their social and communication skills.

Cyril the snail has made a re-appearance within the Two's room. The children have enjoyed finding out more and have been showing care and concern to Cyril by handling him very carefully and ensuring that he has fresh food and water every day. The children have also been making observational pictures, snail trails and drawings of Cyril.

The children have shown particular interest to the Usborne book "That's Not My

Lion" we have been introducing descriptive language and vocabulary alongside the story and the children have become very familiar with their favourite story. They are now able to use the appropriate descriptive language for the different materials in the story. We have linked this into creative activities and encouraged the children to make their own lion pictures using different media.

Ways to support at home

- Read familiar books and allow time for your child to fill in missing words.
- Allow your child to talk about pictures in books.
- Provide everyday objects for your child to recreate what they see you doing.



Pre-School Room

The Pre-School children have undertaken a number of science and space-themed activities including designing and making their own rockets; cutting and decorating their own stars; and carrying out their very own explosive rocket experiment.

Meaningful Maths has been taking place in the Pre-School room with the children, from measuring beanstalks with rulers, to creating height charts of the children using pieces of string and seeing how many bricks tall each member of the group is and then matching this to the appropriate number card.

The children have been working together to create their very own structures within the construction area using the large-scale equipment. This led to the children balancing and turn taking along the beam which they had created. The children supported each other with morale, by holding hands and encouraging each other with words of praise. This enabled them to achieve their desired goal as a team.

Ways to support at home

- Talk about maths in everyday situations. For example:
Who has the biggest shoes? How many buttons are on your coat?

- Recreate the science activity at home attach activity sheet onto facebook page and signpost??



Events

We have had many events and outings within recent weeks, including a trip to Fairmont Residential Care Home where we carried out a number of activities with the residents, a spooky storytelling time at the local library. We also received a visit from police officer PC Kris Dell, who talked to the children all about his role in the community and keeping safe.

The Pre-School also recently headed to the Masjid Salaam mosque on Watling Street Road. The mosque experience was enjoyed by all of the children who learned about the different features of the building including the towers and curved walls. The children's personal favourite was being able to see their name being written in Arabic. This is now hung on the wall of the corridor towards the Pre-School room.

Amjad, the host, later sent the Pre-School a note to thank the children for coming and for all getting involved in the activities he prepared, and was very impressed by their excellent behaviour.





Children in Need

We would like to thank those who contributed to our BBC Children in Need celebration, We raised £100 for this very worthy cause. The children enjoyed participating by baking for the cake stall, painting Pudsey bears and having face painting activities on the day.





Questionnaires

Thank you to those parents who completed our recent questionnaire as to their preferred method of payment. This was to assess whether parents would take advantage of a card machine if it was installed. The results showed that Bank Transfer and Cash are still the most preferred with card payment trailing in third place. We have therefore decided not to install a card machine at this time.

Parents Evening

Thank you to those parents who attended the Parents Evening on Thursday 7th December. We believe it was a worthy and enjoyable evening for all.

Account Statements

We have been reflecting on our current invoicing system. We are aware that there has been some confusion with 'monthly' statements. These displayed monthly account activity but also the previous week's invoice. Therefore, moving forward we have decided to send weekly statements, thus allowing parents to feel more in control and informed about their account.

Bank Payments

Please could we remind all parents to identify all their bank payments with their child's name as the Reference. In addition, please would parents not pay any cheques directly into the bank. Instead, please hand them to staff in your child's room, or into the the nursery office, where you will be issued with a receipt.

CCTV

After careful and great consideration, CCTV will shortly be installed at the setting. This will be beneficial for the safety and security of all children, staff and parents. The images will only be stored for a brief period of time and will be reviewed if an incident occurs. We aim for the system to be installed with as little disruption to the day-to-day nursery operation as possible. Our Policies and Procedures will be updated to reflect its introduction.

The introduction of CCTV will also include the installation of an intercom door

system which will ensure that practitioners will not need to leave their room to answer the door and will reduce waiting time for parents.

Website and Facebook

In further positive developments, we are in the final stages of having the new Smart Kids website built. We aim to have this live within the next few weeks, in order to provide you with more information about the nursery, events, photos and what has been going on.

We also have our Facebook page 'Smart Kids Childcare'. Please 'Like' and 'Share' our page to keep informed. The page will enable you to see more about what the children have been doing, ideas for home and you will be able to access information such as newsletters too.

New Parent EY Log App

Version 2.0.6 is required for Apple iOS devices. Version 2.0.5 is required for Android. It is aimed that this will enable the images and the learning journal to download quicker.

Staff Members

At the end of this term, Mrs

Faiza Ali will be leaving us. We'd like to thank her for her hard work in the time that she has been with us in the Pre-School, and wish her well for the



future.

Staff Training

A number of staff members have recently undertaken training courses. These include:

- Mathematics Through Continuous Provision
- Shape, Space and Measure
- Analysing Assessment and Gaps
- Equality and Inclusion
- Developing Early Number
- Enabling Environments for Early Two's
- OFSTED Big Conversation Conference

Policy of the Month

Severe Weather Policy

Diary Dates

Pre-School Drama Performance: The Nutcracker
13th December 2017

Christmas Party
14th December 2017

End of Term for Term Time only Children
15th December 2017

Start of Term for Term Time only Children
8th January 2018

Drama Re-Starts
10th January 2018

Swimming Re-Starts
11th January 2018



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