

Head of School's Message

“The children have been very engaged in Busy Fingers this week, squeezing and crushing cooked potatoes and carrots. This has been a sensory experience providing the opportunity to describe how it feels. For the Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church in Boxmoor, each child has been working with our student placement to create their own clay decoration. They have been collecting leaves and then rolling and imprinting onto clay. Please go along to the Tree Festival and see if your child can spot their decoration (details on the last page of this newsletter). Also, this week the story of 'The Gruffalo' has been brought to life by re-enacting the story and role playing the different characters. The children also thought of their own questions to interview the 'Gruffalo', there were some interesting questions including “Why are your eyes orange?”, “Why do you have terrible teeth?”.



KEYWORDS

Research tells us that a wide vocabulary in childhood is linked to future success both at school and in the wider world!

We are growing our children's vocabulary by carefully selecting words that will support their understanding of current learning. This week's words in today's newsletter are the key words for next week. Please do share these words with your child in your home language.

Keypersons will explicitly introduce the words to their groups then all staff in the room will be use these words throughout the sessions each day

Please look out for the words in each newsletter and support your child by:

- asking your child about these words
- using these words at home in your conversations (where possible!)

Regular exposure to these words at home and at school will maximise the chances of the words being understood and / or used by your child.

Nursery School

Nativity
Carols
Spirit
Kindness

Please do share these words with
your child in your home
language.

DATES COMING UP:

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS (NURSERY CLOSED): MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER TO TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION CLASS PLACE: 15TH JANUARY 2025

Information / Reminders

Curriculum - Why we do what we do - The World

What we do at school:

We are so fortunate with our expansive outdoor space that we can encourage our children to explore the natural world, experience different weather conditions and appreciate all living things. We provide high quality welly boots and waterproofs so that children can safely access outdoors in all weathers. Our outdoor space allows children to foster a curiosity about their natural surroundings and take part in growing plants and vegetables. We teach them to identify birds, trees, minibeasts and small animals and provide experiences across the year to give first hand experiences of watching animals and insects grow such as ducklings/chicks from eggs or butterflies from caterpillars.



How you can help at home:

- Grow a plant/vegetable from a seed and discuss what that seed needs and what happens when it grows.
- Take your child for walks outside/through woods/along the canal. Look out for different plants/birds/wildlife.
- Experience and discuss different types of weather - put on wellies and go splashing in puddles!



NOTICES

- A huge 'Thank You!' to all of our volunteers for generously giving up their time to wrap up the gifts ready for Santa's visit.
- Details of all Christmas Activities can be found on the next page.
- Remember to return your Story Sacks or Busy Finger Packs in time so that we can get them ready for the next groups turn.
- We are looking for some balance bikes (plus helmets) for the children to use in Nursery - we welcome any donations.

SUCCESS STORY OF THE WEEK!

We are delighted to share that Gemma Williamson, one of our Executive Headteachers and the Federation SENDCo, won the National Nursery Management team 'SENDCo of the year' award!

This incredible achievement highlights the dedication, passion, and tireless efforts that all of our staff teams put into in supporting all children and families, ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

We are so proud to have all the hard work on inclusive practice across Roots Federation recognised. We will continue to make vast improvements in this important area, pushing boundaries and ensuring no child is left behind.





Christmas at Heath Lane



Week beginning 2nd December

We are looking for some budding volunteers to come in on Wednesday 4th December to come in to the staff room and wrap the book presents ready for the children to be given by Santa. The books and wrapping paper will be provided by us and there will be mince pies, tea and coffee available. Please email the office admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk if you are able to help.

Tuesday 3rd December

We have a parent volunteer coming in to talk to the children about Christmas and Festivals in the afternoon.

Monday 9th December

The children will be going to South Hill Primary School in the morning to watch their Nativity play. Consent for organised outings has been previously requested on the Permissions Form.

Tuesday 10th December

A choir from Lockers Park will be visiting us in the morning to perform Christmas Carols.

Wednesday 11th December

Santa will be visiting the Nursery during the morning and afternoon sessions so that all the children can pay him a visit and receive their gift.

Wednesday 18th December – Winter Lights Festival

The Nursery will be open from 4pm to 5pm to you to visit with your child and family. There will be many festivals being celebrated in different areas of the Nursery with biscuits, hot chocolate and marshmallows being served. Please come and help us celebrate the Autumn Term.

Christmas Clothing

During the last two weeks of term the children are welcome to come to school wearing something festive- a sparkly headband, Christmas socks, Santa t-shirt, tinsel etc

St John's Church – Christmas Tree Festival

This year's Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church Boxmoor will follow the theme of "Joy to the World!".

The Festival opens on the Friday 13th December and runs until the end of the following Tuesday 17th December. Every year we sponsor a Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church. The children have made the decorations that will be displayed on our tree. Please pop along to the Festival and see if your child can spot their decoration on the tree.

Last day of the Autumn term: Friday 20th December

We will be finishing at the normal finish time of 3.30pm and After School club will be running as normal until 4.30pm. Do let the office know if your child will not be attending.

