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Autumn Weekend Walk

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who joined us for the family walk on Sunday 23rd September. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and I hope everyone enjoyed the lovely surroundings of the Kings Mill reservoir. We are already planning our next walk so if anyone has any ideas for locations in the local area please let Gemma know. Here are some pictures from this year's autumn themed family walk.



Outdoor Play

Autumn has arrived and the cold wet weather is definitely here. As you may be aware our curriculum guidelines have recently changed and the new statutory guidance states that "outdoor activities are planned and taken on a daily basis" (unless weather conditions make it unsafe). We are all aware of the importance and health benefits of outdoor play for children but we equally want to ensure their safety and comfort whilst at nursery. We are therefore asking parents to pack suitable outdoor clothing for wet weather play. We recommend wellington boots, a rain coat with hood and if possible waterproof trousers. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their bag too!

Thank you for your continued support.



2013 closure dates

Tuesday 1 January
Friday 29 March
Monday 1 April
Monday 6 May
Monday 27 May
Monday 26 August
Monday 19 to Monday 26 August
Christmas holiday - Monday 23 December - Wednesday 1 January
returning Thursday 2 January 2014

Website

We are pleased to announce that our new look website is now up and running. With the much needed support of Ashley Argile (a parent in the setting) we have redesigned our site to make it more user friendly. Please feel free to visit our website at

www.smartiesdaynursery.com

If you have any feedback about the new website, please let us know.

EYFS

There is a display in the hallway about the new Early Years Foundation Stage which was introduced in September. There are few changes to the curriculum and the activities we undertake with the children, but you will see changes in the way we record information about the children. There is a copy of a leaflet called the 'Parents' Guide to the EYFS' on the display, but if you would like us to e-mail a copy to you please let us know.

Where can I go for further information?

You can find the Early Years Foundation Stage at www.foundationyears.org.uk. The foundation years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.

Forthcoming events

In the run up to Christmas we have a few things happening within the setting that you might want to save the date for.

Firstly we have Parents' Evenings starting in November:-

Bec - 5 November 5.00-6.00
Sam - 6 November 5.00-6.00
Steph - 12 November 5.00-6.00
Sharni - 13 November 5.00-6.00
Louise - 20 & 22 November 4.45-6.00
Kim - 19 & 21 November 4.45-6.00

Also to watch out for :-

Photo day - 1 November
Pyjama party week for 'Wish Upon a Star' - w/c 19 Nov.
Panto trip - 7 December

We would all like to say a big Smarties welcome to all of the new children and families who have started with us over the last few weeks. It is good to see you all settling in so well.

The Hall and 'Friends of The Hall'

We are once again collecting non-perishable foods and much needed toiletries for the Hall Homeless Support project which runs from Westfield Folkhouse in Mansfield to support local vulnerable and homeless young people. The food parcels are particularly important but we are always looking for other ways to raise the profile of this project and recently have set up a 'Friends of the Hall' giving scheme. The project is looking for a wide range of Mansfield people to join in, by making one annual payment of just £25.00 used to help provide food, shelter and support for as many young people as come through the doors. If you would like to join in please feel free to collect a standing order from the display or see Steve who will be happy to provide further details.

Sherwood Pines

Our pre-school group recently enjoyed a trip out to Sherwood Pines where they took part in lots of outdoor learning and nature activities. Here are some pictures from the day.



Shoe box Appeal

Dawn Watkinson (a parent of the setting) introduced us to this campaign last Christmas and it was such a success that we have decided to offer our help once again. This simple gift idea brings joy to so many children who would otherwise have very little: for more information please see the attached leaflet.

Ideas Tree

The pre-school group have introduced an ideas tree. It is located on the pre-school landing where you will find a pack of blank leaves for you to write ideas on and stick to the tree. If you have any good ideas for activities, outing locations, or menu ideas we would love to see them. For more information please see Kim or Lou in pre-school.