



NURSERY BULLETIN

NEWS FROM THE HEAD Sheena Wilding

SCROLL DOWN FOR PREVIOUS VERSIONS

Bulletin No 12 - Friday 9 December - Autumn Term 2016 (Final Bulletin of 2016)

Reminders

Monday 12th December - The Nursery Christmas entertainment morning to which all Nursery children are invited to attend even if they do not usually come on a Monday. The children may wear party clothes for the occasion. The PTA is very kindly funding a children's entertainer called Jay.

Wednesday 14th December at 11.15 a.m. we have our Christmas carols and songs to which the parents are invited. If your child does not usually come on Wednesdays please join us at 11.15 a.m. in the Chapel (pass the Head's office and dining room in the main school entrance, through the door, up the stairs and the Chapel is immediately in front of you).

Please check your email on Tuesday as I will be sending the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build.

This Week

It was such a delight for us to see so many parents, grandparents and friends attending our Christmas production on Tuesday morning – evidence of a really supportive parent body. We have discussed and learnt about traditional rhymes and stories this term and there is no doubt that the children have helped us to enjoy the build up to Christmas with the related songs. We are enormously proud of every single one. They proved that they could learn 14 songs, quite a repertoire for predominantly 3 year olds, have the confidence to stand on a large stage in front of an almost 200 strong audience, sit quietly at appropriate moments and show a sense of calm. The costumes you provided looked really colourful, so thank you. I am looking forward to seeing it again in January when the DVD copy I have ordered arrives.

The children's faces said it all this morning when we went outside to find Father Christmas arriving in

an ice cream van! He very kindly gave each nursery child a mallow snow flake or a chocolate Santa to be enjoyed at home. Thank you so very much Father Christmas x

A big thank you goes to those who contributed to our Christmas Jumper Day today for "Save the Children". The Nursery raised £40.00 for this worthy cause at last count.

The Transition children really enjoyed Christmas lunch so a very big thank you goes from us all to the Kitchen staff for the amazing lunch and all the wonderful food that they cook throughout the year.

This week we have welcomed lots of new children who will be joining The Nursery in January and they are delightful. I feel certain that your children will very quickly be talking about their new friends.

Bulletin No 11 - Friday 2 December - Autumn Term 2016

Thank you PTA

It's not just the children that have fun in the nursery! Thanks to the huge generosity of our PTA a new toy for outside has arrived and the Nursery Leaders just had to try it out, much to the enormous amusement of your children!! A real opportunity to build on team spirit and working cooperatively as the riders steer it around the playground.

This Week

December arrives and Christmas is upon us. Trees seem to have magically arrived in the halls and classrooms, the children have been busily making all sorts of glittery things.

We had a lovely time on Wednesday when the Lower Junior Girls entertained us to their production "Hey Ewe". The children were spellbound and sat mesmerised throughout, with many of them recounting the story of the nativity on our return to the classrooms.

We had a very busy Open Morning on Thursday so many thanks for your kind recommendations. Your children were a brilliant advertisement and the Junior Girls did a tremendous job showing the visitors the Nursery Department.

Next Week

It really is a magical time of year and never more so than seeing the children on the stage singing to their parents. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 6th in the Main School Hall. Please take your seats before 9.00am and enjoy the Lower Junior Girls' Nativity whilst we get the Nursery children dressed and ready to perform. If you are unable to arrive before 9.00am then please wait outside the hall until the "Hey Ewe" has finished as the Lower Juniors production is being filmed. When they finish the doors will be opened to allow you in. After the performance please remain in the hall for refreshments which will allow us time to get the children back to their rooms and out of their costumes before you collect them. Seeing parents on the walkway as we return can cause upset. Of course if

your child is booked in for the Tuesday sessions they may stay until their usual collection time.

Reminders

Monday 5th December is our dress rehearsal so we would like all children to attend even if it is not a regular session (no charge). Please arrive at the usual start time and collect at 12.00 if this is an additional session.

Friday 9th December is Christmas jumper day so if you wish to donate £1.00 and send your child in wearing something festive the money will go to "Save the children".

Monday 12th December is the Nursery Christmas entertainment morning to which all Nursery children are invited to attend even if they do not usually come on a Monday. The children may wear party clothes for the occasion. The PTA is very kindly funding a children's entertainer.

Wednesday 14th December at 11.15 am we have our Christmas carols and songs to which the parents are invited. If your child does not usually come on Wednesdays please join us at 11.15am in the Chapel (pass the finance office in the main school foyer, through the door, up the stairs and the Chapel is immediately in front of you). We have sent slips home which we would be grateful if you could return as soon as possible with your seat numbers.

Please check your email during the final week of term as we will be sending the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build.

Bulletin No 10 - Friday 25 November - Autumn Term 2016

Reminders

Please send in your child's costume as soon as you have it organised.

Requests

Please do not send your child in with laced shoes unless they are able to tie and untie these themselves. When getting a class of 16 dressed for outside, a lot of play time is lost if staff have to help each child with tricky footwear. With many thanks for your understanding.

Please donate packets of biscuits for our annual Christmas hamper collection which will be given to the Salvation Army for local families who are less fortunate than us. You will find boxes for these in the Nursery Hall and the Transition room. A very big thank you to those of you who have already given.

This week and next

This week we have visited the main school hall again to practise our Production songs and experience the opening and closing of the big curtains on the stage which the children were amazingly calm about. If they are as confident when they have you as an audience as they have

been this week you will be so proud.

Transition children have made and decorated yummy gingerbread men biscuits, cut out and assembled split pin gingerbread men, played a related counting game and re-enacted the story so a myriad of skills have been practised and developed this week. The week commencing the 28th November they will be looking at the letter “**w**” and beginning some Christmas related crafts.

The nursery classes have been learning about the Little Mermaid and the Busy Bees had enormous fun drawing a life sized version using Mrs Duxbury as the template! Lots of fish and sea creatures have been played with and created and displays have appeared overnight.

Bulletin No 9 - Friday 18 November - Autumn Term 2016

Preparing your child for primary school is an exciting, but busy, time for parents. An important part of your plans should be checking that your child is up-to-date with their immunisations. Please visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations for more information.

Requests

As in previous years we will be helping those less fortunate in our local community by providing the Maidenhead branch of the Salvation Army with Christmas hampers which the Year 10 girls will make up. The Nursery Department have been asked to provide biscuits which can be left in boxes in Transition or the Nursery Hall between 21st November and 5th December. Many thanks in advance for your support.

With Christmas rapidly approaching any cardboard tubes from rolls of wrapping paper will be gratefully received as during the year we do a range of craft activities for which these are ideal.

This week and next

I am sure that the children have told you about going over to the big hall where they have discovered the stage. They are showing great confidence standing and singing their “Once upon a time” songs, albeit quietly. Fingers crossed that they use their “outside voices” on the stage on 6th December!

The nursery rooms have been having fun acting out the “Red Riding Hood” story, have learnt the related song and have been on autumn walks collecting leaves to make leaf and stick person pictures and wreaths.

The week commencing 21st November the 3 nursery classes will discuss and listen to stories and information about “The Little Mermaid” and do a range of related crafts. Their number is **9**, the colour is **blue** and the letter is **m**.

Transition children have looked at the story of “Snow White”, have discussed the different versions and why the dwarfs have their names. The children thought of different names for these characters and considered which dwarf they resembled by looking at their own and their friends faces. Apples were cut in half and mirrors used to consider symmetry and these were then used for printing.

Their letter of the week, 21st November, is **v** and they will be exploring the topic related to **“The Gingerbread Man”**.

Reminders and Advance Notice

Please return your seating requests and your child’s costume for the Nursery Christmas Production as soon as possible.

Friday 9th December is our Christmas jumper day and your child may come in wearing something festive. All we ask is for them to bring a £1.00 donation which will go to “Save the Children”, a very worthy charity.

Lost

Please check your child’s burgundy jumpers as Ian Kim’s one is missing but named. Many thanks.

Bulletin words for No 8 - Friday 11 November - Autumn Term 2016

It has been a busy week with the nursery classes making clay poppies for Friday, learning about Snow White, making the faces of the 7 Dwarfs depicting their emotions and creating some wonderful self-portraits showing their own emotions.

The week, commencing 14th November, the 3 nursery classes will discuss and listen to story “Little Red Riding Hood” and the importance of keeping safe. The number is 8, the colour is red and the letter is I.

Transition children have been looking at the story of “Jack and the Beanstalk” and the different versions. They cut out pictures and sequenced the story, made split pin giants and planted magic beans to grow their own beanstalk. They have considered whether Jack was a good boy or not and talked about behaviours. The letter of the week, 14th November, is e, and they will be exploring the topic related to “Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs”.

Reminders

Please return your seat requests for our Christmas production on 6th December. We request that you are seated before 9am to enjoy the Lower Juniors Nativity but if you are unable to do this please wait outside until it has finished as it will be filmed and people arriving during it will be very disruptive for both the children performing and the videographer.

Please name all hats, scarves and mittens (please provide mittens rather than gloves unless your child is able to put these on without adult assistance).

Bulletin No 7 - Friday 21 October - Half Term Autumn 2016

Reminders

Please check your email as I have sent the “2build a profile” observations of your child for this half term.

Please inform us if your child will be away at the time of our Nursery Department Christmas production which will take place on Tuesday 6th December at 9.15 a.m. with the dress rehearsal happening the day before. We ask that all children attend both mornings even if it is not a booked session.

Following the publication by Public Health England this month please be aware that all 2, 3 and 4 year old children (born between 1.09.2011 - 31.08.2014 and all children in school years 1, 2 and 3 (born 1.09.2008 – 31.08.2011) are now eligible for the nasal spray ‘flu vaccination. More information can be found on NHS Choices nhs.uk/child-flu

We wish you all a very happy half term fortnight and will take this opportunity to let you know the Thames Valley Police Halloween code:

Please only call at houses you know! Don’t knock on doors where there is a “No trick or treat” sign. Be visible – your children may be dressed as dark beings but they need to be seen by other road users.

Take a torch with you.

Stay in areas lit well by street lights. Be careful not to frighten vulnerable people, especially the elderly.

Don’t let your children talk to strangers on the street.

Don’t let your children go into any houses.

No treat means no trick – don’t let a good night go bad. Please respect other people’s wishes!

This Week

The nursery classes have been planting beans as part of their topic related to “Jack and the Beanstalk” so all the staff are hopeful that when we come back after half term there will be pots of gold in the classrooms but no signs of an unfriendly giant!!

As always the children have been busy, busy, busy and they have been learning so much. Numbers are hanging from the ceilings, display boards are filling up and many of their creations go home on a daily basis. The half term has disappeared in a wink but it has been lovely to see so many children settled and enjoying the nursery routines.

Transition children have been using the story of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” to make masks and act out the tale. They have used their mathematics skills to arrange pictures in size order, have created a wonderful display of the tale by creating bears and their possessions in different sizes and have eaten real porridge. Their messy play this week included wet and dry porridge oats.

The week commencing 7th November the nursery classes will be learning about and discussing “**Snow White**”, and will do a range of related crafts. Their number is **7**, the colour is **white** the letter is **k**. Transition children will be reading and learning about “**Jack and the Beanstalk**” and the letter **p**.

Bulletin No 6 - Friday 14 October - Autumn Term 2016

Reminders

Please ensure that you supervise your children as soon as they have been handed over by the nursery staff as we are aware that some are running off towards the gate.

Please note that individual photographs are being taken on Monday morning. If this is not a booked session for your child but you would like a picture taken then please come in around 8.45 a.m. and wait to have it taken. These are generally lovely photographs and make good Christmas presents for the family!

We really hope that your child will move into our own Reception classes here at Claires Court and registration is then directly with us. If you have not already done so, but this is your intention, please complete a registration form either online or collect a paper version from the office as transfer from the Nursery is not automatic unless you have signed the paperwork. There is no further registration fee as this was paid before your child started with us. For those children who turn 4 years old by 31.08.2017 you will need to register with the RBWM for a state school place for next September.

Information can be found on their web:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200115/education_and_learning/791/school_admissions.

This Week

The children in the 3 nursery classes have learnt lots about spiders, been on spider hunts around the school grounds, learnt the "Incy Wincy Spider" song and acted it out using guttering, plastic spiders, watering cans and lots of water. The children discovered that the greater the incline of the guttering / "spout" the quicker poor Wincy was washed out!

Transition children were listening to different versions of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" story. They acted it out with masks and musical instruments representing the goats, made finger puppets of the characters and played with associated small world toys. They learnt some facts about goats so a busy week was had by all.

The week commencing 17th October the nursery children will learn about "Jack and the Beanstalk", sing a related song and do a range of crafts. Their number is 6, the colour is green the letter is j. Transition children are investigating the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and the letter k.

Bulletin No 5 - Friday 7 October - Autumn Term 2016

Individual Photographs

The children will be having their photographs taken on Monday 17th October and if your child does not

attend on Mondays you are more than welcome to come in and have the picture taken at 8.45a.m. These make lovely family Christmas presents.

Reminders

We look forward to seeing you at the Fireworks Evening on Saturday 15th October held at the Claires Court Junior Boys site, Ridgeway, as it is always a wonderful family occasion for all ages. Please see posters / ask staff for details.

Please return any clothes which your children have borrowed from the Nursery and remember to name all outdoor clothing, jumpers, tee shirts, boots and shoes. If you have clothing for 3 year olds such as joggers, leggings, underwear and socks that you no longer require we would welcome them.

This Week

The nursery children have been happily creating Humpty Dumpty and there are some “crackingly” good displays in their rooms. I walked into one of the rooms to see jam tarts being hastily consumed, provided by the Queen of Hearts (aka Mrs Freeman)! To add to the “h” letter of the week honey featured on Tuesday as the children were dipping their apple slices into some as they celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Enough of the alliteration for this week!

Transition children had a great week looking at the story of “The Enormous Turnip”. They retold the story using finger puppets, made a sequence book of the story, held, smelt and tasted turnip and discussed lots of words meaning enormous.

The week commencing Monday 10th October the nursery classes will be looking at the colour black, the letter i, the number 5 and the rhyme “Incy Wincy Spider” whilst Transition children will be learning about “The Billy Goats Gruff” and the letter b.

Bulletin No 4 - Friday 30 September - Autumn Term 2016

What a busy time we had on Open Morning this Tuesday and your children were stars. They managed so well with lots of visitors in their classrooms and were “more outgoing towards unfamiliar people and more confident in new social situations” which is one of the PSE self-confidence and awareness statements in the EYFS.

They have been acting out the story of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”, making bowls out of clay, trying porridge at snack time and generally having enormous fun.

Transition children have been looking at the story of “The Little Red Hen” and managed to retell it using finger puppets and other props. They looked at the process of turning wheat into flour and using real wheat managed to extract the seeds by rubbing it between their hands. They made bread dough rolls which they took home to cook. I hope these were enjoyed by all. The collage pictures they created of the hens are delightful.

Many thanks for supporting our Harvest Festival by donating goods for those in need in our local area which the Salvation Army were delighted to receive. A big thank you goes to Harry Burfitt’s mother for providing big sacks of grains and sheaves of wheat which the children explored and we used to display the harvest foods.

We have received a rubberized Jenga game, juggling scarves, a mountain shaped stepping stone

and some small balls from the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers which you kindly donated during the summer term. The children are really enjoying playing with these so a big thank you comes from them.

The week commencing 3rd October the nursery classes will be talking about nursery rhymes and in particular "Humpty Dumpty" and "The Queen of Hearts" and doing a range of related crafts. The number is 4, the colour is pink the letter is h. Any toy coloured pink or related to the topic will be welcome as their "Show and tell" item this week.

Transition children will be discussing "The Enormous Turnip" story. Their letter of the week is h.

Reminders

Please bolt the Nursery gate behind you as you enter and leave for the safety of yours and other children.

With autumn approaching please leave named wellington boots in your child's classroom and send in outdoor clothing each day. We would be enormously appreciative if you helped your child in learning to take off and putting on their shoes and coats. Please avoid shoes with laces as very few children of this age are able to tie them without help. Getting 16 children in each room dressed to go outdoors is very time consuming if they are unable to do this for themselves, meaning we have less time to play!

If your child attends the ballet class on Monday afternoons please provide named ballet shoes which can be bought from Goyals, our school uniform supplier.

Please name your child's lunch box on the outside of the box.

We have a healthy eating policy so please do not send in any nut or kiwi products as these may cause a severe allergic reaction for some children. We have been advised by our paediatric first aid trainers that grapes should be cut into quarters to reduce choking hazards so please do this if sending in these fruits in the packed lunches.

Bulletin No 3 - Friday 23 September - Autumn Term 2016

The nursery children have used face masks to act out the story of the "Little Red Hen", explored wheat and flour and ate bread, used play dough to create loaves for their role play and have been learning the related song. They discovered how to make the colour brown and have created some lovely paintings all related to the "f" sound. Honeycomb children went for a walk around the school, managing the staircases really well and discovering the offices and dining room.

Transition children have been busy this week acting out "The Three Little Pigs" story with a variety of resources, discussing the different versions of the story and the various endings. They have made masks, painted pictures of pigs and investigated strengths of different building materials.

The week commencing 26th September the 3 nursery classes will be talking about "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears" and doing a range of related crafts. The number for the week is 3, the colour is gold and the letter is g. Any gold items will be perfect for their "show and tell" activities. Transition children will be talking about "The Little Red Hen" and the letter m.

A very big thank you goes to everyone who joined in our "Jeans for Genes" day on Friday. We raised £35.00 for this very worthy cause.

Friday is Harvest Festival in the Nursery Department and we would be delighted if you were able to send non-perishable food items and products such as shampoo, soap, deodorants etc. which the local branch of the Salvation Army will collect. We will be collecting from Monday and a box in Transition and one in the nursery hall will be available for your kind donations.

Reminder

With the weather turning wetter and colder please provide named wellington boots, which can be left in the classrooms rather than having to bring each day, and send your child in wearing warm, waterproof outer clothing. The children love splashing and playing outside in the rain but obviously need appropriate clothing. We encourage the development of independent skills so please persuade your children to dress themselves as much as possible. If a jumper ends up back to front do not worry but celebrate the fact that he or she has managed to put it on!

Bulletin No 2 - Friday 16 September - Autumn Term 2016

For our first full week and the topic of "Traditional rhymes and stories" the nursery classes have been talking about "The Enormous Turnip", printing with turnips and other vegetables and acting out the story. They discovered how to make the colour orange by making the playdough.

Transition children have been really busy creating sequence pictures the "Red Riding Hood" story, have acted out the story using puppets and dolls and have discussed the different versions of the story. Miss Green tells me how incredibly well the children have settled in the Transition class, are managing a range of independent skills and have been talking about the "Golden Rules".

The week commencing 19th September the 3 Nursery rooms will discuss "The Little Red Hen" story, the number **2**, the colour **brown** and the letter **f**. Any toy incorporating **brown** would be lovely as a "Show and Tell" item. The Transition children will be talking about "The Three Little Pigs" and the letter "n".

"Every movement counts" is the motto of a new Department of Health campaign to encourage children aged under five to be physically active for at least 3 hours a day.

Recent research undertaken by Loughborough University has shown an alarming statistic that only one in ten children aged two to four is active for the minimum the recommended amount of time. When I walk into our classrooms and outside areas I am glad to say that I observe children who are incredibly active, whether it is developing their gross motor or fine motor skills. In this first full week I have seen children using small spoons to pick up lentils and place them in little containers, making and playing with dough, using writing and mark making materials, transporting sand with a variety of tools, taking part in their gym sessions, moving to music with Mrs Challis, running, climbing frames, riding scooters and the list could go on and on. We are an active rich environment and I am certain the team here are getting your children "school ready".

I feel sure that you encourage physical activity as I hear from the children about trips to the park, walks in the woods and the physical toys they have at home but just a reminder and that is if your child can walk rather than sit in a buggy it all contributes to that 3 hours.

Reminders

We are a "No Nuts" environment as we have some children with severe allergies and this includes products such as pesto and chocolate spread. We have been advised that kiwi fruit is also to be avoided. Fruit such as grapes need to be cut into 4 pieces to avoid choking hazards and avoid cutting foods into circular shapes for this reason for example cut a sausage lengthways rather than across.

Any child who has sickness or diarrhoea **must** remain at home for 48 hours after the last bout.

Next **Friday 23 September** is Jeans for Genes day and the children can wear jeans and their own top (not Nursery one) for a £1 donation.

Bulletin No 1 - Friday 9 September - Autumn Term 2016

We have welcomed lots of new children into the three nursery rooms and are pleased to say how well they are settling in. The Transition class children are having a great time too and have had no problems transferring from their nursery rooms. The children are showing great kindness to their new friends who have just started at Claires Court. It is lovely to see so many smiling faces and we are looking forward to a really happy term ahead.

Our topic this term is based on "Traditional rhymes and stories" and it would be lovely if you could support the children's learning by talking about this at home.

For new parents who have not accepted the invitation to join the "2Simple 2build a profile" please do so to enable us to send our observations of your children by email each half term. We can only send to you after you have accepted. If you are having any problems accepting the invitation please check your spam / junk mail or see your child's class leader.

Reminder

Please do not send in your child with lace up shoes unless they are able to tie these independently.

Bulletin No 12 - Friday 8 July - Summer Term 2016

I know that as the year draws to a close I am writing words similar to those 12 months ago but it is true to say that it has been another great year. Our EYFS vision to provide an environment that is Stimulating and safe, Tactile and creative, Active and physical, Real and relevant, enabling our children to Shine as independent, successful STARS seems to have produced just that! Seeing the children practising for our annual Sports Day, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to very wet grass, on the stage at Christmas in front of a huge audience and everything they have done on a weekly basis shows me how incredible your children are. The children are real stars and deserve a very happy and healthy summer break.

With 26 new children visiting the Transition and Nursery classes it is a busy time and we have to say that the existing children have shown great warmth and kindness in welcoming them. The new children are lovely and we look forward to them joining us in September. I am still seeing prospective parents so that the number of new children in September might be even greater! A big thank you goes to you for your wonderful recommendations and the very kind words which many of you have written to us recently. The Nursery children who are transferring to Transition in September have had introductory sessions and have really enjoyed their experiences so the staff are all looking forward to their classes in the Autumn term.

I hope you have noticed the lovely wooden table, bench and stools on the upper lawn by the Nursery entrance. The PTA have once again shown their generosity so very many thanks go to them for all their hard work in raising funds from which your children benefit.

As this is the last Bulletin for this academic year all that remains is for me to wish all the children, parents and my staff a well-deserved happy holiday and for those children moving on to their Reception classes a wonderful life ahead.

Important Dates

Friday 15th July is the end of term and our Nursery Department (nursery classes and Transition) “Fun Morning” to which all children are invited, whether they attend on a Friday or not. We are planning lots of water play outside and the children are likely to get very wet so please provide swimwear, or a complete change of clothing, and a towel. Please remember to provide sunhats and cover your children in sun cream before they come in.

Thursday 8th September the Autumn term commences and we look forward to welcoming you for the new academic year.

Bulletin No 11 - Friday 1 July - Summer Term 2016

The children have practised this week for their sports day which unfortunately we had to cancel due to the very wet and slippery grass which would have made running dangerous for the little ones. Lets hope next year we have a better summer.

The nursery classes have used a variety of techniques to create minibeasts this week such as using clay to create ladybirds, paper plates for bumble bees, paint and foam shapes to stamp pictures of insects and free painting to show their own interpretation of these little creatures.

Transition children have continued learning about minibeasts, their similarities and differences. They have used templates to draw and then cut out minibeasts and have learnt about symmetry as they made butterfly pictures.

During the week commencing 4th July the nursery children will be learning about **the weather**, the colour **rainbow colours**, the numbers **1-10** and the letter **c**. Any small toys incorporating weather related items would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will be learning about **minibeasts** and the letter **q**.

Request

If you have any clothing, particularly shorts, joggers or leggings which your child no longer wears we would be very grateful for them. We started the year with a decent amount of spare items but they seem to have gone astray and when a child needs changing we are struggling to find something to dress them in. Of course it helps if each child has a spare set of clothing on their peg which is replenished if used.

Bulletin No 10 - Friday 24 June - Summer Term 2016

The weather has not been good this week for going out with clipboards and hunting for mini beasts in the garden which we had planned to help the nursery children with their observation skills and number

work but we will try to do this next week. Instead they went on an ant march and they have made 3D models with egg cartons and a variety of recycled materials, and clay mini beasts.

Transition children have continued learning about lifecycles with particular reference to ladybirds this week. They managed to find ladybird larva and pupa on the bushes in the garden and have cut out and stuck pictures in the correct life cycle sequence. Great fun was had with the chocolate gloop which fortunately nobody ate though their hands smelt delicious!

During the week commencing 27th June the nursery children will continue learning about mini beasts, the colour red, the number 10 and the letter b. Any small toys incorporating a mini beast or red would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about minibeasts and the letter g.

Important Dates

Saturday 25th June is the Claires Court Fete held on the Junior Boys site at Ridgeway. Please turn up and support the event as the PTA very generously support our Department by funding events such as our Christmas entertainment, all the amazing outdoors equipment we received this term and Sports Day ribbons. It is an afternoon full of fun for all and helps to raise funds for those extra special things for the children. Thank you for sending in the cups full of sweets for the event.

Friday 1st July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are now practising so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running. Parents are invited to watch and take part so get your training programme started this weekend!!

Request

If you have any clothing, particularly shorts, joggers or leggings which your child no longer wears we would be very grateful for them. We started the year with a decent amount of spare items but they seem to have gone astray and when a child needs changing we are struggling to find something to dress them in. Of course it helps if each child has a spare set of clothing on their peg which is replenished if used.

Bulletin No 9 - Friday 17 June - Summer Term 2016

A huge thank you goes to Mr Burfitt, Harry's father, for bringing his huge tractor to the Nursery this week. The children had enormous fun exploring it, pretending to drive it and tooting the horn, and judging the size of the wheels against their own height. They have painted pictures of tractors and farm animals, talked about the food products animals give us and have created some lovely Father's Day messages for you on Sunday.

We also wish to thank the kitchen staff who, as part of "Healthy Eating Week", have prepared a variety of different fruits and vegetables for the Nursery classes to eat at snack time as a change from the usual apples and grapes. The children have really enjoyed the variety and the kitchen are going to continue this as a trial for the next fortnight.

The nursery classes have been practising for Sports Day and are getting faster week by week and, oh joy, they seem to be staying within the track rather than running across the field!!

Transition children have had a very busy week looking at lifecycles and have cut out and sequenced pictures of a butterfly lifecycle and have rearranged models of ladybirds, caterpillars, ants, bees and frogs as well as making super cards for their fathers.

During the week commencing 20th June the nursery children will continue learning about **minibeasts**, the colour **black**, the number **9** and the letter **a**. Any small toys incorporating our topic or black would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **life cycles** and the letter **d**.

Important Dates

Friday 1st July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We look forward to seeing you at the track side on the main school sports field, cheering the children on. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session and for the children to wear suitable footwear and shorts. Please note that if we are rained off we are unable to reschedule as there is no space in the school's busy timetable.

Bulletin No 8 - Friday 10 June - Summer Term 2016

The nursery classes have been investigating farm animals, creating some lovely free hand paintings of their favourites which you can enjoy seeing on the classroom displays. 3D models have also been created.

Transition children have been investigating the environment to discover things that are alive, were alive or never lived and have sorted into category. They have played card games associated with this and sorted according to the three criteria.

All the children have been on the running track and have started practising for our Sports Day on Friday 1st July. If you are away on holiday at that time please let your child's class leader know as soon as possible so that running teams can be organised. Please send your children in wearing practical running shoes from now on as we endeavour to use the running track as often as possible.

During the week commencing 13th June the nursery children will continue learning about farms, the colour grey, the number 8 and the letter z. Any small toys incorporating a minibeast or orange would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about life cycles and the letter a.

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sun hats.

Bulletin No 7 - Friday 27 May - Summer Term 2016

Transition children have all now visited our Junior Boys site, Ridgeway, where they explored the grounds, discussing the variety of trees, leaves and grasses that they found there. They listened to the story "Going on a bear hunt" and acted the story outside, eventually finding the bear (aka Mrs Wilding!) hiding in the outside classroom!

Lots of baby frogs have been returned to the pond so thrived well in the Transition classroom with the care they received from the children. It is lovely that the children have seen the complete lifecycle from frogspawn to frog.

The nursery classes have continued with the parkland and woodland theme this week, creating some lovely pictures using charcoal found during their trips to Junior Boys last week and collages using natural materials found there. Bookmarks were made using leaves as decoration.

The growing season has started well and the nursery classes have been busy planting out broad bean, pumpkin, carrot, lettuce and courgette plants so hopefully we will have a good crop later in the year.

During the week commencing 6th June the nursery children will be learning about down on the farm, the colour yellow, the number 7 and the letter y. Any small toys incorporating farm animals or yellow would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about parks and woodlands and the letter o.

Reminders

Please check your emails for the "2build a profile" observations undertaken during this first half of term. I sent them all on behalf of the class leaders this Thursday so they should be in your in boxes.

Important Dates

The PTA Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 25th June at Ridgeway, our Junior Boys site. This year the theme of our fete is 'The Great Outdoors', a theme inspired by the allotment and bushcraft projects and the lovely Nursery outdoors equipment the PTA have recently supported. We hope that you will all come and have great fun there with your children.

Friday 1st July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15am and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are beginning to practise so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running. Parents are invited to come and cheer on the children.

and finally...

Where has this half term gone? The children have been so busy with their learning and have packed in so much fun that we feel the last few weeks have disappeared in the blink of an eye. We wish all our families a lovely half term holiday and look forward to seeing refreshed children from 6th June.

Bulletin No 6 - Friday 20 May - Summer Term 2016

The nursery children have had enormous fun this week visiting our Junior Boys site, Ridgeway, where they have explored the grounds and the trees, discussing the importance of trees for the environment and undertaking leaf printing and rubbing. The first Transition group managed their trip in torrential rain on Wednesday but were well protected by the all-in-one waterproofs they wore and still had a wonderful time. A big thank you goes to Stewart Stevens, our site manager, who has driven the 4 groups of children in the school minibus and to Mrs Holmes, Poppy's Mummy, who helped the staff with all 3 groups of nursery children.

During the week commencing 23rd May the nursery children will continue learning about woodland and

parkland, the colour orange, the number 6 and the letter x. Any small toys incorporating topic related items or orange would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about parks and woodlands and the letter c and will visit the Ridgeway campus if they have not already been there.

Thank you

A very big thank you goes to our PTA for organising the "Great Gatsby Ball" last weekend which was hugely enjoyed by all who went. Such events require an enormous amount of planning, time, effort and dedication and the PTA proved that they have this in bucket loads! As a result of all their hard work we benefit enormously as a department with regular gifts of exciting equipment such as the metal climbing frames.

Important Dates

The next big PTA fund raiser is the Summer Fete to be held on Saturday 25th June at Ridgeway, our Junior Boys site. This year the theme of our fete is 'The Great Outdoors', a theme inspired by the allotment and bushcraft projects the PTA have recently supported. We hope that you will all come and have great fun there with your children.

Friday 1st July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are beginning to practise so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running. Parents and friends are invited to come and watch so book a couple of hours away from your desks!

Bulletin No 5 - Friday 13 May - Summer Term 2016

Sunflower seeds have started to grow, lettuce is appearing and cress has gone home to be enjoyed on salads or in sandwiches. The raised beds have been prepared ready for planting by the children with lots of help from their teachers so the feeling of summer has arrived. Let's hope we have a successful growing season!

The weather this week has been so varied that it has been a great topic for the Transition children. They have had a busy week talking about and deciding their favourite weather and have created weather wheels, masks and symbols.

During the week commencing 16th May the nursery classes will be learning about **woodland and parkland**, the colour **white**, the number **5** and the letter **w**. Any small toys incorporating topic related objects and white would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. To support the topic all the children will be going up to the Junior Boys site in small groups this week and next. Transition children will continue learning about **weather** and the letters **u,y** and will also visit the Junior Boys site at Ridgeway.

Reminders

Please return your sessions booking sheets for the autumn term as soon as possible and by 24th May at the latest as I will be allocating space for new children after this date.

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before arriving and provide named sunhats. We will reapply sun creams if permission slips have been signed and a named cream provided.

Please send children in wearing shoes suitable for physical activities such as running and climbing. Now that the warmer weather is on the way the temptation is to wear shoes such as Crocs which are not ideal when using some of the nursery outdoors equipment or running and we want to avoid

accidents. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Bulletin No 4 Friday 6 May - Summer Term 2016

Sunflower and cress seeds have been sown and the nursery classes have been talking about the life cycle of a plant. Linking with the number 3 this week the children have made triangular sandwiches with wholemeal bread (brown week) and jam which they spooned, spread and cut very well and the majority of the children thoroughly enjoyed eating them during snack time.

Transition children have continued their topic on planting and growing by talking about the life cycle of a plant and sowing cress seeds in the shape of their initials. They have made beautiful flowers out of paper plates.

The week commencing 9th May the nursery children will continue learning about **planting and growing**, the colour **purple**, the number **4** and the letter **v**. Any small toys incorporating a plant / flower and purple would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **weather** and the letter **j**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing stating which school you have accepted. This must be handed in by half term. Children moving into Claires Court reception classes do not need to do this.

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun screen to your child **before** coming in and provide named sun hats. If your child is staying all day please provide a signed permission form and sun cream for us to reapply.

Bulletin No 3 Friday 29 April - Summer Term 2016

Have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend!

This week we have been looking at life cycles of butterflies and the children have created some lovely pictures and have learnt about symmetry by applying paint to one half of a piece of paper and folding it to get the imprint. They have done lots of counting when using a variety of circles to recreate their own "Hungry Caterpillar". Later in the term, when it is a bit warmer, we plan to have live caterpillars in the Nursery so will revisit the topic and eagerly await their transformation into butterflies!

The tadpoles in the Busy Bees room are still tadpoles so we must be very patient and hopefully legs will appear soon!

Transition children have been looking at plants, what they need to make them grow and how they grow. They have sequenced the order of growth starting with a seed and have learnt the term "life cycle" to describe this process. Sunflower seeds have been planted and grass heads made. All wait eagerly to see what happens!

The week commencing 2nd May the nursery children will be learning about planting and growing, the colour brown, the number 3 and the letter u. Any small toys incorporating these would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about plants and growing and the letter t.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court reception classes do not need to do this.

Request

The children remove their shoes when playing in the outdoor sand pit so please do not send them in wearing laced ones unless they are able to tie and untie them independently.

Bulletin No 2 Friday 22 April- Summer Term 2016

We are all very excited about "Hatch Watch" taking place in the Nursery hall with the 10 live eggs arriving on Monday. We have seen the hatching take place and have a healthy brood of 9 chicks at the time of writing! This coming week they should be strong enough to handle so there is more excitement to come.

In addition to the chicks we have been looking at life cycles of frogs and the children have created some lovely frog masks, puppets and life cycle charts, and hopped around the rooms pretending to be these jumpy creatures. The pond is alive with water life and the children are fascinated by all the movement and development of the tadpoles, newts, water boatmen and dragonfly nymphs, to name but a few.

Transition children have looked at the outdoors and drew objects they could see. They created still life drawings of trees using their clipboards to lean on. They have developed their manipulative skills by playing with cooked spaghetti and a variety of implements.

The week commencing 25th April the nursery children will be learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, the colour pink, the number 3 and the letter t. Any small toys incorporating a butterfly or pink would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about plants and growing and the letter l.

Reminders

As with the Nursery hall please leave buggies and prams outside the Transition room due to lack of space and keeping the floor area, which the children play on, clean.

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court reception classes do not need to do this.

Please remember to put ice packs into the lunch box as we do not store the boxes in refrigerators.

Although the weather is getting warmer please still send in a coat with your child as the temperature does fluctuate and we do go outside every day.

If your child does ballet on Monday afternoons please send in named pink (girls tend to like these) or

black (boys tend to wear this colour) leather ballet shoes.

Request

Please give any Sainsbury's "Active Kids Vouchers" you have to your child's class leader as we hope to have enough to get some more outdoors play equipment.

Many thanks.

Bulletin No 1 Friday 15 April - Summer Term 2016

Term has started really well with lots of happy, smiling faces and the new children seem to be enjoying the company of new friends and their classroom environments.

Miss Green tells me that the Transition group have been observing the growth of the tadpoles in their room, talking about what they can see outside in our garden area and about the outdoors environment at home. The children all bounced back into the room and have had a very good start to the term.

The week commencing 18th April the nursery children will be learning about the life cycle of a frog, the colour green, the number 1 and the letter s. Any small toys incorporating a frog or green would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about the outside environment generally and the letter i.

Our PTA have been incredibly generous and provided us with lots of equipment for the outdoors environment. The children have more sections to add to the metal climbing equipment and a "twin walker" which helps children to develop balance, co-ordination and co-operation.

Reminders

Hopefully we will have lots of sunny weather this term so please sign permission slips and provide sun cream if you wish the staff to put this on your child. Please put sunscreen on your child each morning before arriving at the Nursery. Sun hats must be named.

With our large sandpit being used again on a daily basis and the children removing their shoes before climbing in please send them in wearing footwear that they can manage themselves. Most children at this age are unable to manage shoelaces without adult support.

Please remember to cut grapes into quarters and do not send in nuts (including nut products such as Nutella) or kiwi fruit as we have some children with allergic reactions to these products. The best drink at lunchtime is water as fruit juices do contain a lot of sugar and the children do not brush their teeth at the end of the meal.

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children registered for Claires Court reception classes do not need to do this.

Bulletin No 10 Friday 18 March

The Nursery classes and Transition children have enjoyed the topic about Easter and have been incredibly busy making cards, bonnets, Easter pictures and baskets or nests which they are wishing will be filled by the Bunny who hopefully will visit sometime next week.

We have had lots of new children visiting us this week who will be joining in April and your children

have been very kind in welcoming them and helping them to settle in.

Please accept my very many thanks for buying all the raffle tickets for our “3 for 3” local charities. The winning ticket was drawn during our EYFS assembly and the lucky winner is Dillon in Honeycomb. Thanks to your generosity the Department raised £205.00 this year.

Reminders

We hope everyone has enormous fun at the Easter egg hunt at Junior Boys tomorrow, Saturday 19th March and look forward to seeing you there.

Cold Cookery on Wednesday afternoon will see us making hot cross buns with bread flour, sultanas and cinnamon.

Please let us know if you require After School Care if you are booking casual afternoon sessions so that staffing is adjusted accordingly.

And finally...

We wish you all a very well deserved break and hope you have a wonderful Easter.

Bulletin No 9 Friday 11 March

The nursery children have enjoyed the topic on “our homes” and have created models of their own using boxes and card as well as making homes out of straw (“The 3 Little Pigs” story which they acted out), igloos out of maize packaging and homes using sheets over the tables and foam bricks which they could play in.

It has been a week of discovery. Life is in our pond again and seeing frogs, newts and spawn means that the life cycles are starting afresh.

Transition children have talked about “my family” and carried out a survey to discover the biggest number of people living in their home. Each child made pictures of their family and stuck these onto a tree picture to create their own “family tree”.

During the week commencing 14th March the nursery children will be learning about Easter, the colour pink, the numbers 9-10 and the letter r. (I wonder if rabbits will feature in their activities?). Any small toys incorporating these would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will be learning about Easter and the letters v,w.

Please accept my very many thanks for buying all the raffle tickets for the “3 for 3” charities. We will draw the winning ticket during our EYFS assembly today and I will let you know the winner and how much the Department has raised in my next Bulletin notes.

Reminders

Cold Cookery on Wednesday afternoon we see us making fruit crumbles using yoghurt, fruit puree and digestive biscuits.

Bulletin No 8 Friday 4 March

The children enjoyed their "World Book Day" experience of dressing up in their favourite book character costume and many thanks for the donations which totalled £30.00 and will go to our 3 for 3 charities. The children all have a £1.00 book token for spending in their favourite bookshop. Nursery classes have been busy creating pictures of their families and some lovely displays have been put up in their rooms.

Transition children have learnt lots about their senses, making ear headbands and going on a listening walk around the main school and garden, carrying out smelling experiments and trying to decide the aromas given off by coffee, onion, vinegar, chocolate, orange and banana and using their sense of touch to describe unseen objects in a covered water trough.

All the children have been making delightful cards and we wish all the mothers a very happy Mothering Sunday this weekend.

During the week commencing 9th March the nursery children will be learning about "Our homes", the colour brown, the number 8 and the letter q. Any small toys incorporating these would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about "My family" and the letter e.

Reminders

"3 for 3" is the Claires Court annual charity fundraising week for 3 local charities. As always the Nursery Department are holding a raffle for a box of child orientated goodies so please support us. Although running this week we will extend the fundraising until Friday 13th because our children have limited attendance. Raffle tickets are available each day priced at £1.00 each or 10 for £5.00. At the time of writing we have raised £77.00 but over the last 3 years we have gone well over £200.00 so please dig deep for the very worthy causes.

Cold Cookery on Wednesday afternoon will see us making stuffed peppers using peppers, couscous, courgette, tomato and sweetcorn.

Lost

Please check your child's burgundy jumpers. Ariana's are named and one has gone astray. If your child's are not named please do so and if they are second hand please rename as it is very tricky for us to return one to the current owner when it has the name of a child who left a year ago! Also some plastic cutlery has gone home in the wrong lunch box so if you find it please return it as soon as possible.

Bulletin No 7 Friday 26.2.16

Spring has arrived so imagine our delight when Harry's Mummy brought in 4 three week old lambs for the morning on Monday for the children to observe and cuddle. A pen was created in our garden area, thanks to our maintenance staff, and the lambs were free to run around when not in the arms of children and staff. What a wonderful learning opportunity for the children and we cannot thank Ms Vincent enough for doing this for us and for telling the children so much. The frogs were busy during half term and our pond is now teeming with frogspawn so look out for some in the classrooms as we follow their life cycle!

It was then on to focus on the topic "Ourselves" and the nursery classes have produced some wonderful self-portraits.

Transition children have been learning about "Our Body" and have investigated what bodies look like inside. They have discovered lots of new vocabulary for parts of the body, assembled skeletons, painted self-portraits and discussed how they differ from each other.

During the week commencing 29th February the nursery children will be learning about "Our families", the colour yellow, the number 7 and the letter p. Any small toys incorporating yellow would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about "My senses" and the letter p.

Reminders

We hope that you enjoyed the emailed observations of your children over the half term and we welcome any comments. Remember that we have an open door and are more than happy to discuss progress.

"3 for 3" is the Claires Court annual charity fundraising week for 3 local charities and will be taking place this week. We are joining the Junior Girls in raising funds for these 3 charities, Alexander Devine, Rosie's Rainbow Fund and Helen and Douglas House, all very worthy causes and I am sure you will be generous in your support. As always the Nursery Department will be holding a raffle for a bag of child orientated goodies so please support us.

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March so if the children would like to come in wearing a simple costume representing their favourite book character that day it would be lovely. We would appreciate a minimum donation of £1.00 which will go to our charities this week.

Bulletin No 6 Friday 11.2.16

The nursery rooms have talked about plant eating dinosaurs and have made swamps and created dinosaur footprints using the toy ones as well as some sponge print pictures. Transition children were learning about fossils this week and have made imprints of dinosaur skeletons (of the toy variety!) in clay and been discovering in a variety of messy media.

What a week for sampling different foods! The whole department had a wonderful time on Monday celebrating Chinese New Year, creating a lovely dragon with boxes which they then danced around the hall and sampling Chinese food. Chopsticks were used not only for eating but also as tools for painting and mark making, and for lifting small items to develop their fine motor skills.

On Tuesday the pancakes were hugely popular with the children and the children learnt about Shrove Tuesday and Lent.

We have had some lovely conversations about who we love and I hope that you adore the Valentine banners the nursery classes have made for you with their footprints (just had to incorporate the number five and the children proved how well they can take off and put on their

socks and shoes!) and the lovely cards made by the Transition children.

The second half of this term will be a change of topic and the children will be learning about themselves. During the week commencing 22nd February the nursery children will be learning about “ourselves”, the colour orange, the number 6 and the letter o. Any small toys incorporating orange or pictures of them as babies would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will be learning about “My Body” and the letter k.

We wish evrybody a very happy half term holiday and look forward to seeing everyone rested and ready for the start of spring.

Reminders

Remember to get your Easter Egg Hunt tickets for Saturday 19th March. This is a wonderful occasion for the children and more details can be found on the flyer sent home or on the website.

The Cold Cookery activity on Wednesday afternoon will be pitta bread pizza and we will use pitta breads, grated cheese, tomato puree and mushrooms.

Please return any borrowed nursery clothing as soon as possible as we seem to be running low on the spares we hold for children who need a change during the session. If your children have outgrown socks, underwear and trousers / leggings these are always welcomed.

Bulletin No 5 Friday 5.2.16

The nursery rooms have been learning about meat eating dinosaurs and Beehive have made a huge 3D one using boxes and egg cartons, Busy Bees made an enormous 2D tyrannosaurus with paper, paint, card and stones and Honeycomb are making theirs today with big boxes which you will see displayed in the rooms.

Transition children have been looking at pictures and talking about dinosaurs that live in the sea and are extending their vocabulary and making some very good size comparisons. They understand why flippers are useful and that these dinosaurs are carnivorous. The children have excavated baby dinosaurs (of the plastic variety!) from ice eggs and drawn pictures of their favourite ones.

Open Day on Wednesday was very well attended so many thanks for your recommendations and a big thank you to all the children who welcomed the visitors into their rooms and demonstrated their confidence, social skills and abilities in a wonderful way.

During the week commencing 8th February the nursery children will be learning about plant eating dinosaurs, the colour green, the number 5 and the letter n. Any small toys incorporating green would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will be learning about fossils and the letter b.

Reminders

Following the Health Protection Agency we adhere to the 48 hour rule which means that a child who has vomited or had diarrhoea must NOT return to the Nursery for 48 hours after the last episode. Please respect this ruling to avoid others becoming ill.

The Cold Cookery activity on Wednesday afternoon will be making red jam heart shaped sandwiches and the following ingredients will be used – brown bread and jam.

Please return any borrowed nursery clothing as soon as possible as we seem to be running low on the spares we hold for children who need a change during the session. If your children have outgrown socks, underwear and trousers/leggings these are always welcomed.

Bulletin No 4 Friday 29.1.16

The nursery rooms have been learning about swimming dinosaurs and have had lots of water play this week, helping dinosaurs to float and sink. Dinosaur eggs have been made using hard boiled eggs and food colouring, individual paintings created representing swimming dinosaurs seen in books and lots of large scale mark making activities outside.

Transition children have been looking at and talking about flying dinosaurs, what they looked like and ate, and they have made some out of plastic bottles, tissue and card. The children have also been singing songs which involved counting dinosaurs.

During the week commencing 1st February the nursery children will be learning about meat eating dinosaurs, the colour red, the number 4 and the letter m. Any small toys incorporating red would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about dinosaurs of the deep and the letter h.

The playground activities for the week will include wheeled toys.

The Cold Cookery activity on Wednesday afternoon will be making pasta salads and the following ingredients will be used:-pasta, cucumber, tomatoes, sweetcorn and tuna.

Request

Please complete the RBWM consultation about parking on College Road. I am sure that you find it already very difficult to park to get your children safely into the Nursery so to extend the parking restrictions on that road seems an abomination.

Reminders

The session sheets for the summer term commencing Wednesday 13th April have been sent home so please return these as soon as possible. Having returned them if you do not hear from me you can assume that you have got the sessions requested.

Teddies Music Club is putting on an exhibition of pictures for young children, inspired by the songs they sing. It is at the Norden Farm Arts Centre Gallery from 2nd -21st February.

They have invited the children from music groups to exhibit their own artwork alongside theirs.

During half term on Mon 15th and Tuesday 16th Feb from 10.00am-12.00pm Zita Newcome and Claire Ross-Masson will be at the exhibition to chat, sing and draw with the children.

Quite a large number of Claires Court children have sung with Zita and Claire over the years (with their siblings still singing with them every week) so do go along and I am sure you will enjoy it.

Parents sometimes ask us about packed lunches so for your information we have sent home the NHS "Healthy Lunch Boxes" leaflet but always ask us if you require information.

Bulletin No 3 Friday 22.1.16

We are so glad that the dinosaur topic is lasting for 5 weeks! The children have had enormous fun creating both large and small scale dinosaurs with the Beehive and Honeycomb children hoping that their huge pterodactyls do not fly down from the ceiling in their rooms! Busy Bees children

have all created individual ones from tubes and paper so the variety of shapes and sizes is enormous. They have created large dinosaur footprints and looked at lots of books, pictures and YouTube clips of "Walking with Dinosaurs". With the very cold weather they have all been rescuing dinosaurs from blocks of ice and creating some wonderful ice pictures.

Transition children have been learning about the characteristics of plant eating dinosaurs and comparing them to carnivorous ones. There is now a giant herbivore displayed next to the carnivore on the Transition wall. Toy dinosaurs have spent the week walking through paint leaving their footprints behind and others have been found frozen in ice and had to be rescued by the children!

The week commencing 25th January the nursery children will be learning about **swimming dinosaurs**, the colour **blue**, the number **3** and the letter **l**. Any small toys incorporating blue would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **dinosaurs in the sky** and the letter **m**.

Reminders

Please park prams and buggies outside the Nursery hall as we are trying to keep the carpet as clean as possible. The children play on it with their toys and a carpet with muddy tracks is not a pleasant environment for them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Wednesday afternoon Cold Cookery activity will be making bread rolls and we will use Wrights Premium White bread mix for this. As always we will have a list of ingredients if you wish to check for allergens.

Bulletin No 2 Friday 15.1.16

The theme "fossils and bones" has been a great start to our "dinosaurs" topic this term in the nursery rooms. A variety of activities happened such as creating prints of fossils with paint and in clay, and making both large and small scale pictures of dinosaur skeletons. The children have looked at pictures of dinosaurs on the iPads and in books, have listened to related stories and pretended to move like them using the "Dinosaur Stomp" song.

Transition children have looked at meat eating dinosaurs and have learnt new vocabulary such as carnivore. Activities for the week included ordering dinosaurs by size, making a large collage T-rex dinosaur for display and printing dinosaurs.

The week commencing 18th January the nursery children will be learning about flying dinosaurs, the colour grey, the number 2 and the letter k. Any small toys incorporating dinosaurs and grey would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about "gentle giants" (plant eaters) in the dinosaur world and the letter n.

The playground activities for the week will involve hoops and beanbags.

The Wednesday afternoon cold cookery activity will be sandwich making. We plan to use brown bread, low fat cream cheese and marmite.

We wish everybody a very happy and healthy 2016 from all of us in The Nursery Department.

It has been a lovely start to the year with children coming in with smiling faces and full of chatter about their holidays and new toys. We have welcomed lots of new children into the nursery rooms and are pleased to say how well they are settling in and they even coped remarkably well with the fire drill on Thursday morning. The new children in Transition are having a wonderful time too and have had no problems transferring from their nursery classes.

Our topic this half term is based on dinosaurs. It would be lovely if you could support the children's learning by talking about this at home.

The week commencing 11th January the nursery children will be learning about fossils and bones, the colour white, the number 1 and the letter j. Any small white item or fossil would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about meat eating dinosaurs and the letter r.

The Wednesday afternoon activity this term is cold cookery and we are conscious of the legislation regarding allergens. We are aware of children's allergies listed on their medical forms which you will have completed at the time your children joined us but will keep packaging and a list of ingredients used for your information if you require it. We will be making fresh fruit salads on Wednesday 13th January using apples, grapes, satsumas, bananas and orange juice.

We will provide a drink mid-afternoon but will no longer be giving the children the remainders of their lunch boxes at 2.45-3.00 p.m. Many children are not hungry at this time and are going home for their tea. For those who go into "After School Care" then please continue providing a separate tea which is usually eaten after 4.00 p.m.

Although we do not want to discourage children using their own scooters as a means of transport to the Nursery we are no longer going to allow the children to use these on a daily basis within the Nursery hours in our outside play areas. We found last term that the sheer number of these being used at speed was getting dangerous when mixed with other play in the playground. Occasionally we will have a week when these are permitted playground use and I will inform you in the weekly words when this will be. In the meantime we plan to have a variety of different playground activities which we will rotate on a weekly basis.

Bulletin Number 12 – Friday 11 December 2015

It was a huge delight for us to see so many parents, grandparents and friends attending our Christmas production on Tuesday morning – evidence of a wonderfully supportive parent body. We have talked and learnt about "people who help us" this term and there is no doubt that the children have helped us to enjoy the build up to Christmas. We are enormously proud of every single one. They proved that they could learn 14 songs, quite a repertoire for predominantly 3 year olds, have the confidence to stand on a large stage in front of an almost 200 strong audience, sit quietly at appropriate moments and show a sense of calm. The costumes you provided looked really colourful, so thank you. I am looking forward to seeing it again in January when the DVD copy I have ordered arrives.

The children's faces said it all on Thursday morning when we went outside to find Father Christmas, his two helpers and 2 real reindeer!! The children were able to feed and stroke the

reindeer and their excitement was palpable!

Thank you to those who contributed to our Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday for "Save the Children". We raised £44.00 for this worthy cause at last count.

The Transition children really enjoyed Christmas lunch so a very big thankyou goes from us all to the Kitchen staff for the amazing lunch and all the wonderful food that they cook throughout the year.

We have welcomed lots of new children this week who will be joining The Nursery in January and they are delightful. I feel certain that your children will very quickly be talking about their new friends.

Ben Wright, the Education Planning Officer for RBWM has written to me today with the following information:

"I am writing to you concerning a proposed change to the admissions arrangements for two junior schools in Maidenhead. This change, which effectively changes the 'link' for Burchetts Green CE Infant School from Courthouse Junior School to All Saints CE Junior School, may affect families with children currently attending your early years setting". The details are available on the borough website:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200295/school_development_plans/876/education_consultations/2

I have put paper copies of his letter on the Transition and Nursery hall notice boards for you to read.

Reminders:

Monday 14th December - The Nursery Christmas entertainment morning to which all Nursery children are invited to attend even if they do not usually come on a Monday. The children may wear party clothes for the occasion. The PTA is very kindly funding a children's entertainer called Poz.

Wednesday 16th December at 11.15 am we have our Christmas carols and songs to which the parents are invited. If your child does not usually come on Wednesdays please join us at 11.15am in the Chapel (pass the finance office and dining room in the main school entrance, through the door, up the stairs and the Chapel is immediately in front of you).

Please check your email on Tuesday as I will be sending the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build.

Bulletin words for No. 11 (Autumn Term 2015)

December arrives and Christmas is upon us. Trees seem to have magically arrived in the halls and classrooms, the children have been busily making all sorts of glittery things and the wonderful pictures they created have been transformed into cards and your orders will be with you on Monday if not collected today.

We had a lovely time on Wednesday when the Lower Junior Girls entertained us to their production "The Angel Express". The children were spellbound and sat mesmerised throughout, with many of them recounting the story of the nativity on our return to the classrooms.

It really is a magical time of year and never more so than seeing the children on the stage singing to their parents. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 8th in the Main School Hall. Please take your seats before 9.00am and enjoy the Lower Junior Girls' Nativity whilst we get the Nursery children dressed and ready to perform. If you are unable to arrive before 9.00am then please wait outside the hall until the "Angel Express" has finished as the Lower Juniors production is being filmed. When they finish the doors will be opened to allow you in. After the performance please remain in the hall for refreshments which will allow us time to get the children back to their rooms and out of their costumes before you collect them. Seeing parents on the walkway as we return can cause upset. Of course if your child is booked in for the Tuesday sessions they may stay until their usual collection time.

REMINDERS

Monday 7th December is our dress rehearsal so we would like all children to attend even if it is not a regular session (no charge). Please arrive at the usual start time and collect at 12.00 if this is an additional session.

Thursday 10th December is Christmas jumper day so if you wish to donate £1.00 and send your child in wearing something festive the money will go to "Save the children".

Monday 14th December - The Nursery Christmas entertainment morning to which all Nursery children are invited to attend even if they do not usually come on a Monday. The children may wear party clothes for the occasion. The PTA is very kindly funding a children's entertainer.

Wednesday 16th December at 11.15 am we have our Christmas carols and songs to which the parents are invited. If your child does not usually come on Wednesdays please join us at 11.15am in the Chapel (pass the finance office in the main school foyer, through the door, up the stairs and the Chapel is immediately in front of you). We have sent slips home which we would be grateful if you could return as soon as possible with your seat numbers.

Please check your email during the final week of term as we will be sending the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build.

Bulletin No 10 - Friday 27.11.15

This week we have visited the main school hall again to practise our Production songs and experience the opening and closing of the big curtains on the stage which the children were amazingly calm about. If they are as confident when they have you as an audience as they have been this week you will be so proud.

The nursery children have watched films on RNLI lifeboat launch and rescue, a Fireman Sam rescue clip and have discussed emergency calls.

Transition children had a lovely week with lots of dental role play using the resources borrowed from St Mark's Hospital. They have talked about the importance of looking after their teeth and the damage that "sugar bugs" can do. Paintings of their faces with paper teeth are enormously funny! I cannot believe that a whole year has gone by since I last wrote words like this but the week commencing 30th November we will start discussing Christmas and making related craft items in the nursery and Transition rooms!

Reminders

Please send in your child's costume as soon as you have it organised.

Requests

Please do not send your child in with laced shoes unless they are able to tie and untie these themselves. When getting a class of 16 changed for outside, a lot of play time is lost if staff have to help each child with tricky footwear. With thanks for your understanding.

Please donate packets of biscuits for our annual Christmas hamper collection which will be given to the Salvation Army for local families who are less fortunate than us. You will find boxes for these in the Nursery Hall and the Transition room.

Invitation

Synter Maidenhead has written to our Nursery offering a Christmas Grotto Day 11am to 2pm on 16th December in support of the local charity "Alexander Devine". They will have a grotto, face painter, mulled wine, mince pies and a visit from Father Christmas maybe with some presents! (I assume for the children and not a brand new full size BMW for the parent!) If you want to take your child there is no charge but a donation to the charity would be appreciated. If you want more details then contact Dee Pope on 01628 680300.

Bulletin No. 9 Friday 20.11.15

We have been having fun with recycling, making junk models, sorting rubbish on a pretend conveyor belt and learning related songs. This was supported by a visit from Kathryn Best, the RBWM Marketing Manager for Recycling and Waste who talked to the children about waste and the meaning of recycling. Did you know that a third of the waste collected by the Borough is food and 80% of our household waste is recyclable?! 100% of all food waste in the Borough is turned into fertiliser for local farms and biogas which is converted to electricity and fed to the national grid. The pen style pencils given to the children by Kathryn were made from plastic bottles and many of the toys they will receive this Christmas will have been created from reused plastic items. I must take this opportunity to thank you for sending in the milk bottles which we will use in the January to create a large scale igloo for the children.

I am sure that the children have told you about going over to the big hall where they have discovered the stage. They are showing great confidence standing and singing their "People who help us" songs, albeit quietly. Fingers crossed that they use their "outside voices" on the stage on 8th December!

This week, commencing 23rd November the 3 nursery classes will discuss and listen to stories and information about sea and air rescue and do a range of related crafts. Their numbers are 9 and 10, the colours are blue and grey the letter is i.

Transition children have role played hospitals and carried out a range of operations and medical techniques, as part of their "People who help us" topic, with major heart surgery going on!! They made a large scale ambulance, talked about doctors and nurses and created some lovely related pictures.

Their letter of the week, 23rd November, is d and they will continue exploring the topic related to "Staying healthy".

Thursday 10 December

Christmas Jumper Day - wear a festive jumper for the day and help save children's lives by donating a £1.00

Reminders

Please return your seating requests and your child's costume for the Nursery Christmas Production as soon as possible.

Requests

With Christmas rapidly approaching any cardboard tubes from rolls of wrapping paper will be gratefully received as during the year we do a range of craft activities for which these are ideal.

Bulletin 8 – Friday 13.11.15

The topic on health workers was greatly enhanced when Mrs Miller, Ava's mother, came in to talk to us about her work as a nurse and midwife so a very big thank you goes to her and Ava who dressed up and helped her Mummy. The children learned about the baby clinics, looked at X-rays and extended their language with tricky words such as stethoscopes and syringes. The nursery children have loved this week with its focus on festivals of light for which we have made divas out of clay, paint, glitter, sequins and tea lights to celebrate Diwali

The week, commencing 16 November, the 3 nursery classes will discuss and listen to stories about refuse collectors and the importance of recycling. Our number is 8, the colour is purple and the letter is h.

Transition children had great week learning about people who keep them safe, with special reference to traffic control supervisors. They have talked about the Hindu festival of Diwali and have created some lovely diva pots. Their letter of the week, 16 November, is a, and they will be exploring the topic related to staying healthy.

Reminders

Please return your child's Christmas card orders by this Monday (16 November) as this is the last date for us to return them for printing in time for Christmas. Receiving children's own artwork cards at Christmas is such a wonderful thing for friends and family and your children had such fun creating them using potato print methods in Transition, hand printing in Busy Bees and sponge printing techniques in Beehive and Honeycomb

Please return your seat requests for our Christmas production on 8 December. We request that you are seated before 9am to enjoy the Lower Juniors Nativity but if you are unable to do this please wait outside until it has finished as it will be filmed and people arriving during it will be very disruptive for both the children performing and the videographer.

Requests

A lot of notice but, as in previous years, we will be helping those less fortunate in our local community by providing the Maidenhead branch of the Salvation Army with Christmas hampers which the year 10 girls will make up. The Nursery Department have been asked to provide biscuits which can be left in boxes in Transition or the Nursery Hall between 30 November and 10 December. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Bulletin words for No. 7 (Autumn Term 2015)

The Nursery and Transition children have loved the topic on firefighters and have had enormous fun putting out a "flaming" board (chalk flame pictures not real fire!) in the playground using squirt bottles filled with water! Lots of fireworks pictures and rockets have been created and they have talked about safety issues. Fire stations have been set up in the rooms with lots of imaginative role play developing.

Unfortunately the fire brigade had an emergency call out on Wednesday morning so were unable

to visit us as planned but they have promised to visit another time. Language has been developed during this topic and their imaginations have taken them to wonderful places and activities.

The week commencing 9 November the nursery classes will be learning about and discussing nurses and doctors, and will do a range of related crafts. Their number is 7, the colour is green the letter is g. Transition children will be looking at and learning about people who keep them safe and the letter o.

Reminders

Please note that individual photographs are being taken on Wednesday morning. If this is not a booked session for your child but you would like a picture taken then please come in between 8.30 – 9.00 am and wait to have it taken. These are generally lovely photographs and make good Christmas presents for the family!

Please check your email for your child's "2build a profile" observations which were done during this first half term of the year and were sent before half term. Do let me know if you have not seen these so that I can resend.

Please leave a bag within your child's bag of spare clothing for us to put wet / soiled clothes in.

Lost and Found

Found – a silver hoop earring which is now in the Nursery office.

Lost – Thea's "Happy", a small cuddly grey hippo with big eyes. If found please hand in to the Busy Bees room.

Bulletin words for No. 6 (Autumn Term 2015)

A big thank you goes to our local PCSO Michelle Turner and her police officer colleague Adrian who visited the Nursery on Tuesday to talk about their work and how the police are there to help and protect people. Mrs Ainsley and Mrs Duxbury were great sports and got dressed up in the oversized police mascot costumes to entertain the children. The message about helping and not being a threat to people was put over in a delightfully fun way and the children were confident in asking questions, though not necessarily relevant ones! Great excitement continued when the children went out to see the police van and climbed inside the lock up section (let's hope they never have to do that in later life!). The siren was tried out several times so apologies to those living locally.

The children have listened to police related stories, made a large scale police van, black bats, decorated 5's with police car tracks and learnt their police song.

Transition children were also investigating what police do and set up a police station in their classroom including a cell which they filled with criminals they caught running in the room! What wonderful role play and imaginations the children have. They examined their fingerprints and how they are all different. They really enjoyed feeling and smelling the chocolate gloop (cornflour, water and cocoa powder) and who could blame them?

The week commencing 2nd November the nursery children will learn about fire fighters, sing some related songs and do a range of crafts. Their number is 6, the colour is red the letter is f. Transition children are investigating keeping safe and the letter c.

Reminders

Please check your email as I have sent the “2build a profile” observations of your child for this half term.

For those children who turn 4 years old by 31.08.2016 you will have received a letter from RBWM about registering for a state school place for next September which I have forwarded to you this week. We really hope that your child will move into our own Reception classes and registration is then directly with us. If you have not already done so but this is your intention please collect a registration form from the office as transfer from the Nursery is not automatic unless you have signed the paperwork. There is no further registration fee as this was paid before your child started with us.

Please inform us if your child will be away at the time of our Nursery Department Christmas production which will take place on Tuesday 8th December at 9.15 a.m. with the dress rehearsal happening the day before. We ask that all children attend both mornings even if it is not a booked session.

We are still collecting the 4 pint plastic milk bottles so any donations will be gratefully received.

We wish you all a very happy half term fortnight and will take this opportunity to let you know the Thames Valley Police Halloween code:

Please only call at houses you know! Don't knock on doors where there is a “No trick or treat” sign.

Be visible – your children may be dressed as dark beings but they need to be seen by other road users.

Take a torch with you.

Stay in areas lit well by street lights. Be careful not to frighten vulnerable people, especially the elderly.

Don't let your children talk to strangers on the street.

Don't let your children go into any houses.

No treat means no trick – don't let a good night go bad. Please respect other people's wishes!

Bulletin words for No. 5 (Autumn Term 2015)

The nursery children have learnt about dentists this week and have made pictures of teeth, talked about caring for teeth and visiting the dentist. Lots of counting skills were used when looking at their own teeth with dental mirrors and listening skills developed whilst having stories about the topic. They have had some lovely role play using a dental activity pack and dental surgery backdrop which we borrowed from the Health Service.

Transition children had a great week looking at the way teachers help children in the classroom. They made puppets and played lotto matching games related to the topic.

The week commencing **Monday 12th October** the nursery classes will be looking at the colour **black**, the letter **e**, the number **5** and **police** whilst Transition children will be learning about “**People who keep us safe**” and the letters **u**, **y**.

Reminders

- * We look forward to seeing you at the **Fireworks Evening this Saturday 10th October** held at the Claires Court Junior Boys site, Ridgeway, as it is always a wonderful family occasion for all ages.
- * Please return your sessions sheets for the Spring Term, which commences Wednesday 6th January, by Friday 16th October at the latest as I will be allocating spaces for the new children very shortly.
- * Please return any clothes which your children have borrowed from the Nursery and remember to name all outdoor clothing, jumpers, tee shirts, boots and shoes.
- * This half term finishes on Friday 16th October and it is a 2 week break. Please check your emails for the “2Simple 2build a profile” observations of your child over the last half term which I will be sending towards the end of the week.

Bulletin words for No. 4 (Autumn Term 2015)

What a busy and really exciting morning Wednesday was with lots of prospective parents visiting us and our visit from Ken, the “Lollipop man” who talked to the children about crossing roads safely and kindly gave them each a high visibility top and a fluffy logo school crossing patrol item. The children joined in with his road crossing games and during the week have made a variety of related crafts such as traffic lights and “STOP” lollipops for their role play.

Transition children have been talking about those who help us at school and had a lovely walk around the school to see where all the different people work. The home corner was set up as a classroom and many budding teachers have been taking the registers and giving lessons! The children have also practised their scissor skills whilst cutting out pictures of objects which they then matched to pictures of people who help us.

Many thanks for supporting our Harvest Festival by donating goods for those in need in our local area which the Salvation Army are delighted to receive.

We have received lots of balls and stilts as well as 4 lovely, bright, 2 wheeled scooters from the Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers which you kindly donated during the summer term. The children are really enjoying playing with these so a big thank you comes from them.

The week commencing 5th October the nursery classes will be talking about dentists and doing a range of related crafts. The number is **4**, the colour is **white** the letter is **d**. Any toy coloured white or related to the topic will be welcome as their “Show and tell” item this week.

Transition children will continue discussing people who help us at school. Their letter of the week is **j**.

Bookstart

This is a national free books programme for babies, toddlers and pre-school children given, via the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, by the charity Booktrust. These have now arrived in my office and I will be asking you to sign for one if you have not already received the gift from a former setting. The following are the key messages about books and young children which I am sure you are already aware of:

Young children **need** stories, songs and rhymes every day as an **essential part** of their development so try to build them into your routine.

Sharing these helps to build **loving relationships** and everyone can join in – parents, grandparents and siblings.

Enjoying books helps to build language and communication skills and helps children to learn how to listen and pay attention.

Tell the children how much fun they will have sharing a book with others.

Reminders

With autumn approaching please leave **named wellington boots** in your child's classroom and send in outdoor clothing each day. We would be enormously appreciative if **you helped your child in learning to take off and putting on their shoes and coats**. Please avoid shoes with laces as very few children of this age are able to tie them without help. Getting 16 children in each room dressed to go outdoors is very time consuming if they are unable to do this for themselves, meaning we have less time to play!

If your child attends the ballet class on Monday afternoons please provide named ballet shoes which can be bought from Goyal's, our school uniform supplier.

Please name your child's lunch box on the outside of the box.

We have a healthy eating policy so please do not send in any nut or kiwi products as these may cause a severe allergic reaction for some children. We have been advised by our paediatric first aid trainers that **grapes should be cut into quarters** to reduce choking hazards so please do this if sending in these fruits in the packed lunches.

If you wish to send in treats for your child's birthday please avoid cakes and sweets. Fruits other than our usual apples and grapes are a lovely alternative treat.

Requests

The 3 nursery classes are collecting 4 pint plastic milk bottles for a project later in the term so please save any you have and bring them in.

Bulletin words for No. 3 (Autumn Term 2015)

The nursery children have made life-sized pictures of their teachers this week and have been learning our teacher song which is to the tune of the "here we go round the mulberry bush" song.

Transition children have been busy this week talking about how they can help at home and have started playing a range of literacy and mathematics games to take their learning forwards in these areas. They had enormous fun exploring cold cooked spaghetti with different coloured paints.

The week commencing 28th September the 3 nursery classes will be talking about road safety and crossing patrols / lollipop people as part of our topic on "People who help us" and doing a range of related crafts. The number for the week is 3, the colour is yellow and the letter is c. Any yellow items will be perfect for their "show and tell" activities. Transition children will be talking about people who help them at school for the next two weeks and the letter t.

A very big thank you goes to everyone who joined in our "Jeans for Genes" day last Friday. It was lovely to see children wearing lots of lovely dressing-up costumes and they were very happy to show them to all their friends. We raised £34.00 for this very worthy cause.

Friday is Harvest Festival and we would be delighted if you were able to send non-perishable food items and products such as shampoo, soap, deodorants etc. which the local branch of the Salvation Army will collect. We will be collecting from Monday and a box in Transition and one in the nursery hall will be available for your kind donations.

Reminder

With the weather turning wetter and colder please provide named wellington boots, which can be left in the classrooms rather than having to bring each day, and send your child in wearing warm, waterproof outer clothing. The children love splashing and playing outside in the rain but obviously need appropriate clothing.

Bulletin 2 - Autumn Term - 18 September 2015

For our first full week and the topic of "People who help us" who better to talk about than our families and the children have made some lovely self-portraits and pictures of their relatives. They have been mixing paint to make the colour orange which has been used with real oranges for printing. They are settling into their new classes really well and beginning to learn our "Golden Rules".

Transition children have been really busy creating pictures of their parents and have talked about how they help each other. To help at home the children have practised laying a table for dinner. At the beginning of the week they celebrated Rosh Hashanah. Miss Green tells me how incredibly well the children have settled in the Transition class, are managing a range of independent skills and have been talking about the "Golden Rules".

The week commencing 21st September the 3 Nursery rooms will discuss teachers and do a range of related activities. Their number is 2, the colour is pink and the letter is b. Any toy incorporating pink would be lovely as a "Show and Tell" item. The Transition children will continue learning about "People who help us at home" and the letter "l".

Reminders

We are a "No Nuts" environment as we have some children with severe allergies and this includes products such as pesto and chocolate spread. We have been advised that kiwi fruit is also to be avoided. Fruit such as grapes need to be cut into 4 pieces to avoid choking hazards and avoid cutting foods into circular shapes for this reason for example cut a sausage lengthways rather than across.

Please leave named wellington boots with your child's teacher as the grass is getting wetter. It would be really helpful if the children could practise putting on and taking off their own shoes and boots so that we have more time for outside play.

Please name all clothing and rename any second-hand uniform.

Bulletin 1 - Autumn Term - 11 September 2015

The new academic year has got off to a wonderful start with children coming in with smiling faces and full of chatter about their holidays. We have welcomed lots of new children into the three nursery rooms and are pleased to say how well they are settling in. The Transition class children are having a great time too and have had no problems transferring from their nursery rooms. They are showing great kindness to their new friends who have just started at Claires Court.

Our topic this term is based on "People who help us" and it would be lovely if you could support the children's learning by talking about this at home.

For new parents who have not accepted the invitation to join the "2Simple 2build a profile" please

do so to enable us to send our observations of your children by email each half term. We can only send to you after you have accepted.

If you are having any problems accepting the invitation please check your spam / junk mail or see you class leader.

Bulletin 11 - Summer Term - 10 July 2015

I know that I wrote words like these 12 months ago but as another year draws to a close it is true to say that it has been has been a wonderful one.

Our EYFS vision to provide an environment that is **Stimulating** and safe, **Tactile** and creative, **Active** and physical, **Real** and relevant, enabling our children to **Shine** as independent, successful **STARS** seems to have produced just that!

Seeing the children on the stage at Christmas to running in front of a huge crowd last week on Sports Day alongside everything they have done on a weekly basis shows me how amazing your children are. The children are real stars and deserve a very happy and healthy summer break.

It has been a very busy time with 30 new children visiting the Transition and Nursery classes and we have to say that the existing children have shown great warmth and kindness in welcoming them. The new children have been lovely and we look forward to them joining us in September. I am still seeing prospective parents so that the number of new children in September might be even greater! A big thank you goes to you for your wonderful recommendations and the very kind words which many of you have written to us recently.

All that remains is for me to wish all the children, parents and my staff a well-deserved happy holiday.

Important Dates

Thursday 10 September the Autumn term commences and we look forward to welcoming you for the new academic year.

Bulletin 10 - Summer Term - 3 July 2015

This week Transition children have been busy investigating minibeasts, looking at what constitutes an insect and going on a minibeast hunt in the grounds. The flower display which the children made to represent their heights is now being pollinated by the shape bees made this week.

The nursery classes have made weather pictures, including rainbows, clouds, rain, storms and of course, sun, and what a week of weather it has been with Wednesday breaking all previous July records for heat! What fun we had with water and I can only apologise for some of your children coming home as though they had spent the afternoon in the bath fully dressed! We have sung lots of weather related songs.

It has been a lovely week with lots of new children visiting for their introduction to their new classrooms and staff and I am delighted to say that your children showed great kindness in helping the new ones to settle in.

During the week commencing 6 July the nursery children will continue learning about **holidays**, the colour **white**, the number **1-10** and the letter **y**. Any small toys incorporating our topic or white would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **mini beasts** and the letters **u** and **y**.

Important Dates

Friday 10 July is the Nursery Department "Fun Morning" to which all children are invited even if Friday is not one of their regular sessions. We will spend the morning outside (weather dependent) and have lots of water play so if you would like to send your child in with swimwear and a towel we will endeavour to send them home dry!

Bulletin 9 - Summer Term - 26 June 2015

This week Transition children have been busy looking at the life cycles of frogs, have sequenced the pictures of the life cycle and have used paper plates to make frogs.

The nursery classes have made pictures of trees using a variety of techniques such as textured stampers to create bark effects and talked about the different parts of a plant / tree. The classes have been on nature walks around the grounds looking at the trees and plants and at the same time have practised using alternating footsteps when mounting the steps near the main school field. We have practised for Sports Day and are getting faster week by week so maybe we have a future Mo Farah in our midst!

During the week commencing 29 June the nursery children will continue learning about **weather**, the colour **blue**, the number **9** and the letter **x**. Any small toys incorporating our topic or blue would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **mini beasts** and the letters **t** and **j**.

Important Dates

Friday 3rd July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We look forward to seeing you at the track side on the main school sports field, cheering the children on. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session and for the children to wear suitable footwear and shorts. Please note that if we are rained off we are unable to reschedule as there is no space in the school's busy timetable.



Busy Bees Staffing for September

This is just a brief note to let you know about the staff changes in the Busy Bees class in September. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Freeman is stepping up to become the class leader and she will be very well supported by Mrs Duxbury, who is currently leading the smaller of the two Transition classes. Both have an infinite amount of Early Years experience and I know that your children will be in very safe hands and have a really happy and rewarding time with them.

As for me I am not leaving but giving myself the mornings to concentrate on the leadership and management side of my role. Over the years the paperwork side of the job and the numbers of prospective parents that I show around has grown enormously and time is needed for that but I will still be very visible in the Department. My passion is to be with the children and I have enjoyed every moment of being with the Busy Bees over the last 21 years. I have an amazing staff who have supported me in the 2 sides of my job but the time is right for me to separate the role a little. I will remain in the classroom in the afternoons and will provide morning cover for any staff absence.

Bulletin 8 - Summer Term - 19 June 2015

We wish all our fathers a lovely day on Sunday and hope that you enjoy the things made for you by your children.

Transition children have been busy looking at the life cycles of ladybirds and butterflies and extended their language learning when talking about the different stages of development that

these little creatures go through. They have looked at the symmetry of butterfly wings and have created their own butterflies with identical wings. They have been busy making and writing cards for their fathers.

The nursery classes have made ladybird paintings for their Father's Day cards and created some mini beast paper weights using clay and stampers. They are hugely enthusiastic when they discover little creatures under the logs in the garden and in the long grass near the pond. We have practised our races a couple of times this week and getting a little better at staying in the lanes!

During the week commencing 22 June the nursery children will be learning about **woodland and parkland**, the colour **brown**, the number **8** and the letter **w**. Any small toys incorporating our topic or brown would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **life cycles** and the letters **i** and **l**.

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun-screen to your child before coming in and provide named sun-hats. For children staying all day please provide sun-screen and sign the permission slip for us to apply it to your child.

Important Dates

Saturday 20 June is the Claires Court Fete held on the Junior Boys site at Ridgeway. We look forward to seeing you all there for what is always a fun afternoon.

Friday 3 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are now practising so please send your children in wearing footwear and clothing suitable for running.

Bulletin 7 - Summer Term - 12 June 2015

The good weather has been lovely for the children in their hunt for minibeasts in the garden which has helped with their observation skills and number work as they have recorded what they have seen on their survey sheets and counted the results. They have made clay tiles with mini beast imprints, mixed red and yellow paint on the table tops and used their mark making skills to create prints.

Transition children have carried on with the topic about "woodlands and parklands" this week and have looked at the life cycle of an apple tree, printed using real apples and painted pictures of trees.

During the week commencing 15 June, the Nursery children will continue learning about **minibeasts**, the colour **red**, the number **7** and the letter **v**. Any small toys incorporating a mini beast or red would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **Life Cycles** and the letter **o**.

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun-cream to your child before coming in and provide named sun-hats. If your child is staying all day please sign permission slips and provide small bottles of sun-cream for us to put on them.

Important Dates

Saturday 13 June will see Claires Court sponsoring "Art on the Street" in Maidenhead again and

the Nursery Department and Holiday Camp are running a "Stay and Play" activities session between 10a.m. - 2p.m. in a shop between WH Smith and Rymans so it would be lovely to see you there. There will be a whole range of Claires Court performances and activities throughout the day as well as some wonderful artwork created by local artists for sale. It should be a lovely community day.

Saturday 20 June is the Claires Court Fete held on the Junior Boys site at Ridgeway. Please turn up and support the event as the PTA very generously support our Department by funding events such as our Christmas entertainment, all the amazing outdoors equipment we received this term and Sports Day ribbons. It is an event full of fun for all and helps to raise funds for those extra special things for the children.

Friday 3 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are now practising so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running. Parents are invited to watch and take part so get your training programme started soon!!

Bulletin 6 - Summer Term - 5 June 2015

Transition children have had enormous fun this week visiting our Junior Boys site, Ridgeway, where they have explored the grounds and the trees, discussing the importance of trees for the environment and undertaking leaf printing and rubbing. A big thank you goes to Stuart Stevens, our site manager, who has driven the 4 groups of Transition children, and the 3 groups of nursery children who went before the half term holiday, in the school minibus.

The nursery classes have been investigating farm animals, creating some lovely free hand paintings of their favourites which you can enjoy seeing on the classroom displays.

Healthy eating week has been lots of fun with different fruits and vegetables being consumed at snack time. A big thank you goes to our lovely catering staff who have cut up the food into small pieces for the nursery children to manage.

During the week commencing 8 June the Nursery children will be learning about **minibeasts**, the colour **orange**, the number **6** and the letter **u**. Any small toys incorporating a minibeast or orange would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **woodlands and parklands**.

Exciting Invitation

We are so lucky because Ben (Busy Bees) and his family would be happy to welcome Nursery and Transition children with their parents to "Meet the baby Turkeys" at Copas Traditional Turkeys next Tuesday (9 June) between 3.30-4.30 p.m.

Spaces need to be limited if there is lots of interest so please could you email your rsvp to amy@copas.co.uk with the number of adults and children you will be bringing. Space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please can you also all wear wellies because you will need to dip your feet etc. for bio-security reasons.

It will just be a simple event to see the food and bedding etc. used, meet the turkey dogs, go into the sheds to meet the baby turkeys (5 days - 2 weeks old) and listen to a little chat about how the turkeys are looked after. You will also be able to see a tractor or two and will take home a turkey picture to colour in!

The address is: Kings Coppice Farm, Grubwood Lane, Cookham Dean, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 9UB

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun-cream to your child before coming in and provide named sun-hats.

Important Dates

Friday 3 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are beginning to practise so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running.

Bulletin 5 - Summer term - 22 May

Heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits of the Busy Bees as they explored the Ridgeway grounds on Monday morning. Having investigated the bush craft area and successfully negotiated low branches on nearby trees the children wanted to start their picnic which they excitedly consumed as the raindrops fell. It was then on to climb and travel down "the mountain", run through the long grass pretending to go on a bear hunt, examine some tractor machinery and back on the minibus to return to The Nursery. The Honeycomb and Beehive children had the same experience on Tuesday and today but with infinitely better weather!, A wonderful time was had by all.

Sunflower seeds have started to grow and been sent home with your children. If they grow successfully we would love to have a picture later on in the year. The caterpillars have still to emerge as butterflies from their cocoons so it looks as though this will happen during half term which is a bit of a disappointment!

Transition children have had a busy week looking at different types of weather and deciding their favourites. They have created collage weather symbols and enjoyed playing with the snow and "Frozen" ice scene.

Mrs Duxbury's Transition class have named the frogs, which have developed in their room, and they released "Mr Philips" back into the garden pond today and are planning on letting "Dexter" join him tomorrow!! They have made large scale weather symbols as part of their topic on weather. We all wish you a relaxing and happy half term.

Bulletin 4 - Summer Term - 15 May 2015

Sunflower, cress, carrot and pea seeds have been sown, pumpkin plants have been transferred to the raised beds and the caterpillars have made their cocoons so fingers crossed that they emerge as butterflies before half term!

Linking with the number 3 this week the nursery classes have made triangular sandwiches with a lemon and lime marmalade filling (green week) which they spooned, spread and cut very well and the majority of the children thoroughly enjoyed during snack time.

Transition children have continued their topic on planting and growing by looking at seed dispersal. They have made flowers to match their own height and arranged pictures to follow the life cycle of a sunflower.

The week commencing 18 May the nursery children will continue learning about **planting and growing**, the colour **yellow**, the number **4** and the letter **s**. Any small toys incorporating a plant / flower and yellow would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. The nursery classes are looking forward to their visits to the Junior Boys site so we are hoping for lovely sunny mornings to make the most of the Ridgeway grounds. We have all-in-one waterproofs if necessary. Transition children will continue learning about **weather** and the letter **h**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing by Friday. Children moving into Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sunhats.

The sheets are due back by Monday 18 May for morning, lunch and afternoon sessions in September so if you have not returned them please do so as soon as possible. I will be allocating sessions this week for the new children starting in September and this may limit choices.

Bulletin 3 - Summer Term - 8 May 2015

This week we have been looking at life cycles of frogs and the children have created some great puppets, masks and life cycle charts, and hopped around the rooms pretending to be these jumpy creatures. The pond is alive with water life and the children are fascinated by all the movement and development of the newts, tadpoles, dragonfly nymphs and water boatmen, to name but a few.

Transition children have looked at plant life cycles and talked about how plants get food. They have discussed the edible parts of plants with reference to fruit and vegetables. Each child is growing cress in the shape of the initial letter of their name. The children have noticed that the sunflower seeds planted last week are beginning to grow which caused great excitement. The computers are up and running in the new Transition room, much to the delight of the children.

The week commencing 11 May the nursery children will be learning about **planting and growing**, the colour **green**, the number **3** and the letter **r**. Any small toys incorporating a plant / flower and green would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **plants and growing** and the letter **m**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

Class photographs will be taken on Tuesday morning so please send your children in wearing their burgundy jumpers. Children in the nursery classes are invited to attend that morning if it is not a regular session for them.

Bulletin 2 - 1 May 2015

What an enormous **thank you** we have to say to our **PTA**. We have almost £3000 worth of new equipment in our Nursery which you will have seen displayed in the garden on Thursday morning. We have now moved this to various parts of the garden and the children are incredibly excited by everything. For those of you who did not see it we have new climbing / gym equipment, a bamboo balance path, wicker crawl through tunnels, tuff tray adjustable stands, a crate time kit for den

building, an outdoor art storage trolley with all the equipment needed to create wonderful large scale outdoor art, foot stampers, rechargeable torches and some pre-writing wall lines, which will be delivered soon.

This week we have been looking at life cycles of butterflies and the children have created some lovely pictures and have learnt about symmetry by applying paint to one half of a piece of paper and folding it to get the imprint. They have done lots of counting when using a variety of circles to recreate their own "Hungry Caterpillar". We have five live caterpillars in the Nursery so are eagerly awaiting their transformation into butterflies!

The tadpoles in the Busy Bees room are still tadpoles so we are having to be very patient and hopefully legs will appear soon!

Transition children have been looking at plants and how they grow. They have talked about roots and what a plant needs to grow. Sunflower and pumpkin seeds are planted and all await eagerly to see what happens.

The week commencing 5th May the nursery children will be learning about the **life cycle of frogs**, the colour **black**, the number **2** and the letter **q**. Any small toys incorporating a frog and black would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **plants and growing** and the letter **n**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court reception classes do not need to do this.

Request

Please check the name labels on jumpers as named ones belonging to Freddie Frize, Henry Paw and Freddie Ward are missing.

The children remove their shoes when playing in the outdoor sand pit so please do not send them in wearing laced ones unless they are able to tie and untie them independently.

Bulletin 1 - 24 April 2015

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter holiday and feels rested. Term has started really well with lots of happy, smiling faces and the new children seem to be enjoying the company of new friends and their classroom environments.

The new Transition cabin arrived and was successfully set up as a classroom during the holiday and Mrs Duxbury and Mrs Carney are really enjoying their new class who have settled incredibly well. They have all created lovely self-portraits which are displayed in their room.

Miss Green tells me that the older Transition group have been observing the growth of the tadpoles in their room, talking about what they can see outside in our garden area and about the outdoors environment at home. The children all bounced back into the room and have had a very happy week.

The week commencing 27 April the Nursery children will be learning about **life cycles and butterflies**, the colour **purple**, the number **1** and the letter **p**. Any small toys incorporating a butterfly and purple would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about the outside environment generally.

Our PTA have been incredibly generous and provided us with lots of equipment for the outdoors

environment. We are planning on getting this all assembled and on display in the upper garden area for you to see next Thursday before moving it into other positions within our Nursery play area. Thank you for supporting our PTA who are always keen to have new members on the committee.

Reminders

Hopefully we will have lots of sunny weather this term so please sign permission slips and provide sun cream if you wish the staff to put this on your child. Please put sun cream on your child each morning before arriving at the Nursery. Sun hats must be named.

With our large sandpit being used again on a daily basis, and the children removing their shoes before climbing in, please send them in wearing footwear that they can manage themselves. Most children at this age are unable to manage shoe laces without adult support.

Please remember to cut grapes into quarters and do not send in nuts (including nut products such as Nutella) or kiwi fruit as we have some children with allergic reactions to these products. The best drink at lunchtime is water as fruit juices do contain a lot of sugar and the children do not brush their teeth at the end of the meal.

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children registered for Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

Bulletin 11 - 27 March 2015

Transition and Nursery children have started talking and learning about Easter. They have been cutting out and printing related things as well as starting their Easter baskets, carrots, cards, bonnets and enjoying a range of related stories. Transition paraded their hats around the nursery rooms which we all loved seeing.

I feel sure the hunts for eggs will be enormous fun and have a feeling that the Easter Bunny is planning a visit. If it's anything like last year he left muddy footprints throughout the Transition room but was forgiven when lots of eggs were found in the garden!

During the week commencing 30 March the Nursery and Transition children will continue learning about **Easter**. Transition children will also continue learning about the letters **x** and **z**.

The clocks change this weekend but with the "eggscitement" of Easter a few days from now I'm sure the loss of an hour will not cause too many problems for your children!

We wish Miss Webb and her future husband Michael a lifetime of happiness together following their marriage on Tuesday in Florida. We will be welcoming her back next term as Mrs Carney and she will be found in the second Transition class assisting Mrs Duxbury.

Reminders

Term finishes on Tuesday after a full Nursery day and After School Care is in operation for the Nursery Department children only, i.e. not Main School.

The summer term starts on **Tuesday 21 April**.

Bulletin 10 - 20 March 2015

The Nursery children have enjoyed the topic on elephants and have created lots of Elmers (and a Wilbur) and elephant masks. We have talked about the differences between African and Asian elephants and looked for them on our globe and world puzzle.

We have all been very excited about "Hatch Watch" taking place in the Nursery Hall with the children being able to handle the chicks this week and listen to all the cheeping. Seeing the wing feathers growing and the chicks getting so much bigger in a week has been wonderful for the children. We are now following the development of frogs and have some spawn in tanks in the rooms but the children will have to be patient as the change into frogs is going to take rather longer than a week!

Transition children have started talking and learning about Easter and have been cutting out and printing related things as well as starting their Easter baskets.

During the week commencing 23 March, the Nursery children will be learning about **Easter**. Transition children will continue learning about **Easter** and the letters **x** and **z**.

We are looking forward to welcoming the new children who are joining us after Easter this week and to talking to their parents at their information evening at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 26 in the Nursery Hall.

Please accept my very many thanks for buying all the raffle tickets for our "3 for 3" local charities. The winning ticket was drawn during our EYFS assembly and the lucky winner is Cailin Fleischer in Beehive. Thanks to your generosity the Department raised £229.00 this year.

Red Nose Day saw some lovely bright red clothing and accessories in the Department and we raised £68.62 for this worthy cause so many thanks.

Reminders

We hope everyone has enormous fun at the Easter egg hunt at Junior Boys tomorrow, Saturday 21 March and look forward to seeing you there.

Cold Cookery on Wednesday afternoon will see us making hot cross buns using bread mix, sultanas and cinnamon.

Bulletin 9 - 13 March 2015

The Nursery children have enjoyed the topic on nocturnal creatures and have learnt lots of new vocabulary as well as making lovely owl cards for you and classroom displays.

We are all very excited about "Hatch Watch" taking place in the Nursery hall with the 10 live eggs arriving on Monday. We have seen the hatching take place and have a healthy brood of 10 chicks! This coming week they should be strong enough to handle, so there is more excitement to come.

It has been a week of discovery. Life is in our pond again and seeing frogs and newts means that, hopefully, the life cycles will be starting afresh. The new turf in the outside play area is growing so that by the summer term all should be lovely.

Transition children have looked at pets and talked about their favourite ones and if they do not have one at home what they would like to have. They have played with, and really enjoyed the company of, Mrs St. John's guinea pig, tortoise and hamster. The home corner became a vet's practice with lots of operations, injections and bandaging going on.

During the week commencing 9 March the Nursery children will be learning about **elephants**, the colour **grey**, the number **9** and the letter **o**. Any small toys incorporating these would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **Easter** and the letters **v** and **w**.

Please accept my very many thanks for buying all the raffle tickets for the “3 for 3” charities. We will draw the winning ticket during our EYFS assembly on Friday and I will let you know how much the Department has raised in my next Bulletin notes.

We wish all our mothers a wonderful day on Sunday and hope that you love the cards made by your nursery children and flowers made by Transition.

Reminders

- Cold Cookery on Wednesday afternoon will see us making fruit crumbles using yoghurt, fruit puree and digestive biscuits.

Requests

Miss Green would welcome cardboard tubes, egg boxes and the cardboard 4 piece fruit packaging trays.

Bulletin 8 - 6 March 2015

The children enjoyed their “World Book Day” experience of “Once upon a Bus” so very many thanks to our PTA for funding this. The bus looked magical, and going to the upper deck was a great excitement for many of them.

The children all have a £1.00 book token for spending in their favourite bookshop.

There was considerable amount of water play this week and the children have been learning lots about sea creatures. The classroom windows look like the ocean! Transition children have looked at farm animal babies and talked about what they are called. They have played baby / parent matching games and made up lots of silly sentences using alliteration.

During the week commencing 9 March the Nursery children will be learning about **nocturnal animals**, the colour **silver**, the number **8** and the letter **n**. Any small toys incorporating these would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will be learning about **pets** and the letter **e**.

We are all very excited that “Hatch Watch” will be taking place in the Nursery hall over the next couple of weeks with the live eggs arriving on Monday 9 March. Hopefully we will see the hatching take place and have a healthy brood of chicks.

Reminders

Red Nose Day is on Friday and we invite the children to wear something red for the occasion for a donation of £1.00.

“3 for 3” is the Claires Court annual charity fundraising week for 3 local charities and will be taking place 9 – 13 March. As always the Nursery Department will be holding a raffle for a bag of child orientated goodies so please support us. Raffle tickets will be available each day priced at £1.00 each or 10 for £5.00.

Cold Cookery on Wednesday afternoon will see us decorating cakes and the following ingredients will be used: ready-made cakes, icing sugar, food colouring, sprinkles and jellies.

Bulletin 7 - 27 February 2015

There really are not enough hours in the week for all the fun we have in the Nursery Department! Chinese New Year started last Thursday, during half term, and we did not want to let it go by without some form of celebration. The children have been busy creating huge dragons, one of which went for a long stroll (rather than a dance!) around the school and visited the offices, kitchen and Mr Bevis en route, and sampling Chinese food on return. What a delight to see so many young

children prepared to have a go with chopsticks!

The letter of the week has been “**L**” in the Nursery rooms and Transition have been learning about **farm animals** so imagine our delight when Charlotte’s Mummy brought in 2 three day old lambs for the morning on Tuesday for the children to observe and cuddle. A pen was created in our garden area, thanks to our maintenance staff, and the lambs were free to gambol when not in the arms of children and staff. What a wonderful learning opportunity for the children and we cannot thank Ms Vincent enough for doing this for us and for telling the children so much.

It was then on to focus on the topic of lions and big cats. Wonderful paintings and masks have been made representing these magnificent creatures and the children have learnt lots about the topic from stories, factual books and photographs.

Transition children have looked at farm animals and what they give us. Painted pictures and masks were created and they even tried “milking” using rubber gloves filled with water.

During the week commencing 2 March the Nursery children will be learning about **water creatures**, the colour **blue**, the number **7** and the letter **m**. Any small toys incorporating water creatures and blue would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will be learning about **farm animal babies** and the letter **s**.

Reminders

We hope that you enjoyed the emailed observations of your children over the half term and welcome any comments. Remember that we have an open door and are more than happy to discuss progress.

World Book Day is on Thursday 5 March so if the children would like to come in wearing a simple costume representing their favourite book character that day it would be lovely. We have a story bus visiting the school that day so will get the opportunity to enter a magical world of story telling.

“**3 for 3**” is the Claires Court annual charity fundraising week for 3 local charities and will be taking place 9th – 13th March. As always the Nursery Department will be holding a raffle for a bag of child orientated goodies so please support us. I will provide more information next week.

A reminder that the parents of those girls registered to transfer to Junior Girls Reception class in September are invited to a **Coffee Morning** on Wednesday 4 March at 8.45am in the Dining Room. This will be a good opportunity to meet parents of children joining Reception from outside Claires Court.

LOST

Please check the name tags inside your child’s burgundy jumper as Max Woodall’s and Ibraheem Ghafoor’s are missing.

Bulletin 6 - 13 February 2015

The Nursery rooms have visited the southern hemisphere this week and have discovered kangaroos and koalas. We have completed world jigsaw puzzles, looked at our globes, created koala masks and display kangaroos as well as reading lots of related stories and looking at pictures of these amazing creatures.

We have had some lovely conversations about who we love and I hope that you adore the Valentine banners the children have made for you with their footprints (just had to incorporate the colour **red** and the number **five** and the children proved how well they can take off and put on their socks and shoes!).

Transition children have been looking at, and talking about, British wildlife habitats and discussed which animals live underground in burrows and what it would be like living there. The children have made Valentine cards and have played lots of rhyming and alliteration games.

During the week commencing 23 February the Nursery children will be learning about **lions and big cats**, the colour **orange**, the number **6** and the letter **l**. Any small toys incorporating orange or lions would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **farm animals** and the letter **f**.

We wish everyone a very happy half term holiday and look forward to seeing everyone rested and ready for the start of spring.

Reminders

Remember to get your **Easter Egg Hunt** tickets for Saturday 21 March. This is a wonderful occasion for the children and more details can be found on the flyer sent home or on the website.

The Cold Cookery activity on Wednesday afternoon will be pitta bread pizza and we will use pitta breads, grated cheese, tomato puree and mushrooms.

Please return any borrowed nursery clothing as soon as possible as we seem to be running low on the spares we hold for children who need a change during the session. If your children have outgrown socks, underwear and trousers / leggings these are always welcomed.

Bulletin 5 - 6 February 2015

Many thanks to those who came along to the evening with Margaret Goldthorpe who amused us all with her parenting experiences and gave us all a wealth of tips and guidance.

We frequently refer to our GOLDEN RULES and thought it might be useful for you to have a copy of these at home so that we are all singing from the same song sheet so to speak. We will send these home with the children during the next few days.

The Nursery rooms have been learning about jungle birds and have made some lovely, brightly coloured ones which you will see displayed. They have used the iPads to look at these creatures in their environments. They also had enormous fun on Tuesday in the snow on the main school field and perfected their throwing skills having used that white malleable material to make balls! You will also discover their true likenesses on the walls in their rooms as this week they used mirrors and a variety of craft materials to create self-portraits.

Transition children have been looking at and talking about British wildlife and which animals are nocturnal and which hibernate. They have made animal masks, clay animals and tuned their handprints into a hedgehog and a squirrel.

During the week commencing 9 February the Nursery children will be learning about **kangaroos and koalas**, the colour **red**, the number **5** and the letter **k**. Any small toys incorporating red or kangaroos and koalas would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **British wildlife habitats** and the letters **g** and **q**.

Reminders

The Cold Cookery activity on Wednesday afternoon will be making red jam heart shaped sandwiches and the following ingredients will be used:- brown bread and jam.

The session sheets for the summer term commencing 21 April should have been returned by today, Friday 6 February so please return these as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. I will be allocating places for the new children this week so need to know your requirements. Having returned the form if you do not hear from me you can assume that you have got the sessions

requested.

Please return any borrowed nursery clothing as soon as possible as we seem to be running low on the spares we hold for children who need a change during the session. If your children have outgrown socks, underwear and trousers / leggings these are always welcomed.

Please ensure that you do not leave items on display in your cars. A parent has drawn it to our attention that a person on a bicycle and face covered was seen trying to open her car but was disturbed by her older child who was sitting in the back of the vehicle at the time.

Please keep your "Snow flow" letters handy so if we need to start the cascade you are able to keep it going. Information is always available on the Claires Court website and the local radio stations if we have to close the school for any reason.

Bulletin 4 - 30 January 2015

The Nursery rooms have been learning about iguanas and a big thank you goes to Mr Frize, Freddie's father, for allowing us to have his iguana this week. The children have also loved having Shelley, the Reception class tortoise, which they have held and fed. All 3 classes have created huge iguanas which are displayed on the walls and little ones which have gone home.

Transition children have been looking at and talking about endangered animals and why they are endangered. They have discussed the difference between extinct and endangered ones and have made large collages of the latter.

During the week commencing 2 February the nursery children will be learning about **jungle birds**, the colour **yellow**, the number **4** and the letter **j**. Any small toys incorporating yellow would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **British wildlife animals** and the letter **d**.

Reminders

On Tuesday 3 February at 7pm for 7.15pm start, Margaret Goldthorpe will be giving a talk to parents at our Junior Boys site, Ridgeway. She is a wonderful speaker who delivers her messages with enormous humour so a great opportunity to discover strategies for helping all of us caring for children. It would be lovely to see lots of parents there so please return your slips by Monday to give us an idea for catering purposes.

The Cold Cookery activity on Wednesday afternoon will be making pasta salads and the following ingredients will be used:-Pasta, cucumber, tomatoes, sweetcorn and tuna.

The session sheets for the summer term commencing 21 April have been sent home so please return these as soon as possible. Having returned them, if you do not hear from me you can assume that you have got the sessions requested.

Bulletin 3 - 23 January 2015

We could enjoy the topic of dinosaurs forever! The children have had enormous fun creating both large and small scale dinosaurs with the Beehive children deciding to call theirs Mike and the Busy Bees hoping that their pterodactyl doesn't fly down from the ceiling! Honeycomb children have all created individual ones so the variety of shapes and sizes is enormous. We have created pictures of dinosaur skeletons, made large footprints and looked at lots of books and pictures.

Transition children have been looking at animal habitats, considering where certain species choose where to live and why they like that area, have drawn animals using appropriate colours and have used pictures to match animals to habitats.

The week commencing 26 January, the Nursery children will be learning about **iguanas**, the colour **green**, the number **3** and the letter **i**. Any small toys incorporating green would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **endangered animals** and the letter **a**.

Bulletin 2 - 16 January 2015

"Gorilla" has been a wonderful animal to start our topic this term in the Nursery rooms. A variety of activities happened such as creating life sized ones which made the children laugh and want to paint and decorate. We have looked at real ones in their natural habitats using the iPads and pretended to move like them. The children were wonderfully well-behaved, engrossed in the activities they were doing and relaxed during our Open Day, showing our Nursery in a lovely light.

Transition children have looked at wild animals and their appearance. They have made collages of their skin and made junk models of them using skin patterned tissue paper.

The week commencing 19 January the nursery children will be learning about **dinosaurs**, the colour **brown**, the number **2** and the letter **h**. Any small toys incorporating dinosaurs and brown would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **wild animal habitats** and the letter **o**. Miss Green would welcome kitchen rolls and wrapping paper tubes.

The Wednesday afternoon cold cookery activity will be sandwich making. We plan to use brown bread, cream cheese and marmite.

Very many thanks go to our maintenance and gardening team who have lowered the boat into the ground and turfed the surrounding area. This will create a lovely accessible play area for all the children in the spring.

Reminders

Please leave nursery class scooters in the playground area by the ramp wall to avoid congestion outside the Hall entrance (Transition ones should be lined up on the ramp leading up to that classroom as currently happens). Your children will show you if this is unclear. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bulletin 1 - 9 January 2015

We wish everybody a very happy and healthy 2015 from all of us in The Nursery Department.

It has been a wonderful start to the year with children coming in with smiling faces and full of chatter about their holidays and new toys. We have welcomed lots of new children into the nursery rooms and are pleased to say how well they are settling in. The new children in Transition are having a wonderful time too and have had no problems transferring from their nursery classes.

Our topic this term is based on animals. It would be lovely if you could support the children's learning by talking about this at home.

The week commencing 12 January the nursery children will be learning about **gorillas**, the colour **black**, the number **1** and the letter **g**. Any small black or little gorilla toys would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **wild animals** and the letter **c**.

The Wednesday afternoon activity this term is cold cookery and we are conscious of the new

legislation regarding allergens. We are aware of children's allergies listed on their medical forms which you will have completed at the time your children joined us, but will keep packaging and a list of ingredients used for your information if you require it. We will be making fresh fruit salads on Wednesday 14 January using apples, grapes, satsumas, bananas and orange juice.

Bulletin 14 - 17 December 2014

It has been a wonderful term in the Nursery Department and the PTA funded entertainment for the children on Monday was amazing. The children roared with laughter throughout Poz's show and were delighted when Santa visited the classes at the end of the morning with chocolate reindeer, bears and Santas and a soft toy for each child. Again, we would like to say a big 'thank you' to our PTA for these gifts.

The Nursery department staff wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing everyone in January. The start of term is wednesday 7 January 2015.

Reminders: Please check your email as I sent the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term on Monday/Tuesday. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build as a few weeks later, last time, I became aware that some parents had not opened them at the time and their systems must have deleted the email.

Bulletin 13 - 12 Dec 2014

What a pleasure it was for us to see so many parents, grandparents and friends attending our Christmas production on Tuesday morning – evidence of a truly supportive parent body. Your children transported us to a very magical place, so to speak, and we are enormously proud of every single one. The costumes you provided looked wonderful, so thank you. I am looking forward to seeing it again in January when the DVD copy I have ordered arrives.

We have welcomed lots of new children this week who will be joining The Nursery in January and they are delightful. I feel certain that your children will very quickly be talking about their new friends.

Thank you to those who contributed to our Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday for "Save the Children". Our Department raised £46 for this worthy charity.

Reminders

Monday 15 December - The Nursery Christmas entertainment morning to which all Nursery children are invited to attend, even if they do not usually come on a Monday. The children may wear party clothes for the occasion. The PTA is very kindly funding a children's entertainer called Poz.

Wednesday 17 December at 11.15am we have our Christmas carols and songs to which the parents are invited. If your child does not usually come on Wednesdays please join us at 11.15am in the Chapel (pass the Finance Office and Dining Room in the main School entrance, through the door, up the stairs and the Chapel is immediately in front of you).

Please check your email on Tuesday as I will be sending the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build.

Bulletin 12 - 5 Dec 2014

December arrives and Christmas is upon us. Trees seem to have magically arrived in the halls and classrooms, the children have been busily making all sorts of glittery things and the staff have been arriving at Waitrose or other food stores on their way home looking like the fairy on the top of the Christmas tree!

We had a lovely time on Wednesday when the Lower Junior Girls entertained us to their production "The Innkeeper's Breakfast". The children were mesmerised and sat spellbound throughout with many of them recounting the story of the nativity on our return to the classrooms.

It really is a magical time of year and never more so than seeing the children on the stage singing to their parents. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 9 December in the Main School Hall. Please take your seats before 9am and enjoy the Lower Junior Girls' Nativity whilst we get the Nursery children dressed and ready to perform. After the performance please remain in the Hall for refreshments which will allow us time to get the children back to their rooms and out of their costumes before you collect them. Seeing parents on the walkway as we return can cause upset. Of course if your child is booked in for the Tuesday sessions they may stay until their usual collection time.

Reminders

Don't forget to order your **Wizard DVD** as a memento of our Christmas production! Please return your order form (more available from the Office) by Tuesday.

Monday 8 December is our dress rehearsal so we would like all children to attend even if it is not a regular session (no charge). Please arrive at the usual start time and collect at 12.00 if this is an additional session.

Thursday 11 December is Christmas jumper day so if you wish to donate £1.00 and send your child in wearing something festive the money will go to "Save the children".

Monday 15 December - The Nursery Christmas entertainment morning to which all Nursery children are invited to attend even if they do not usually come on a Monday. The children may wear party clothes for the occasion. The PTA is very kindly funding a children's entertainer called Poz.

Wednesday 17 December at 11.15 am we have our Christmas carols and songs to which the parents are invited. If your child does not usually come on Wednesdays please join us at 11.15am in the Chapel (pass the finance office in the main school foyer, through the door, up the stairs and the Chapel is immediately in front of you).

Please check your email during the final week of term as we will be sending the "2Build a profile" observations we have carried out this half term. It would be really helpful if you could acknowledge receipt via 2Build.

Bulletin 11 - 28 November 2014

The nursery children have loved the topic about fire engines and have used large boxes to create their own. The children watched the work of a firefighter on the Smart board in Transition and enjoyed the visit to a new room.

Transition children have been learning about farm machinery and its use. Charlotte has been a great help telling everyone about the machinery used on her farm. The children have drawn and made tractors and played different instruments to accompany the song "Old MacDonald had a farm".

The week commencing 1 December, Nursery and Transition children will listen to and discuss the Christmas story and do a range of related crafts.

For your information we have enclosed the “NHS Healthy Lunch Boxes” leaflet as we are sometimes asked about ideas for eating at Nursery. Please note that we have a NO NUTS / Kiwi policy and items such as grapes should be cut into quarters to avoid choking hazards.

Requests:

The Nursery department is supporting the School with the charity Christmas hampers and our contribution is biscuits. Please donate these any day from 1st–12 December. With many thanks.

Reminders:

For parents of children transferring to Transition in January 2015 there is a meeting on Wednesday 3 December at 18.30 in the Transition room and we look forward to welcoming you there.

On the morning of our production please leave your children with us just after 08.30 a.m. to give us plenty of time to get them changed into costume and lined up ready. Be aware that parking is limited outside the school and you might have to leave your car some distance away to avoid parking fines.

Please return your child’s costume and seat requirements for our Christmas production as soon as possible.

If you wish to do any filming during the Production using a phone, tablet or camera please DO NOT occupy a seat but stand at the side or the back. Last year many parents had the experience spoilt as their view was obscured by other people’s equipment popping up in front of them. Wizard always produce a wonderful DVD of the event so enjoy the experience through your eyes rather than a small screen!

Please note that the Lower Juniors will be putting on their Nativity at 9.00am with the Nursery Production starting immediately afterwards so please take your seats in the Main School Hall before 9.00am.

We will be joining the Lower Junior girls at 11.15 a.m. for approximately 30 minutes to sing carols on Wednesday 17 December. You are more than welcome to join with us and sing along to get the spirit of Christmas started.

Bulletin 10 - 21 November 2014

The Nursery children have painted pictures of helicopters and played with airports this week. Their singing of transport songs was wonderful today, and they seem to be developing quite a repertoire, so fingers crossed that they perform as well for you.

The week, commencing 24 November, we will discuss fire engines and do a range of related crafts. Our number is **10**, the colour is **red** the letters is **f**.

Transition children had a **lovely** week doing crafts related to construction vehicles. They set up a site with toy diggers and an array of different stones. They created tracks in paint with the vehicles and looked at the different patterns made by the various wheels. Some great models were made out of boxes. Transition letter of the week, 24 November, is **t** and they will be exploring the topic related to **farm vehicles**.

Bulletin 9 - 14 November 2014

The nursery children have had a very busy week. We started by making poppies using clay, paint, glitter and card which I am sure you will have appreciated when they brought them home on Tuesday. The children never cease to amaze us and having told them a little bit about Armistice Day they listened attentively to the bells of Big Ben on the classroom radios and managed to remain silent for the 2 minutes! We then read a lovely story “Where the poppies now grow” written

by Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey which the children listened to really well.

We have been having fun with trains and learning related songs. I am sure that the children have told you about going over to the big Hall where they have discovered the stage. They are showing great confidence standing and singing their transport songs, albeit quietly. Fingers crossed that they use their “outside voices” on the stage on 9 December!

This week, commencing 17 November, we will discuss and listen to stories and information about **helicopters** and do a range of related crafts. Our number is **9**, the colour is **purple** the letter is **e**.

Transition children have role played hospitals and ambulances, as part of their emergency vehicles topic, with major heart surgery going on!! One child was keen to perform heart surgery on another. Thank goodness both survived the experience! They looked at the importance of the emergency services with all children recognising the significance of 999. On Tuesday they talked about why we have poppies for Armistice Day and they observed the 2 minutes silence.

Their letter of the week, 17 November, is **I** and they will be exploring the topic related to **“construction vehicles”**.

Important Notice

Mr Justin Spanswick, Head of Junior Boys, will be in the Nursery Department Hall first thing on Wednesday morning to talk about boys’ education at Claires Court, after Nursery. If you wish to find out more this is an ideal opportunity to have an informal chat with him and discover what makes our Reception classes and beyond exceptional.

Reminders

Please return your seating requests for the Nursery Christmas Production as soon as possible.

Requests

With Christmas rapidly approaching any cardboard tubes from rolls of wrapping paper will be gratefully received as during the year we do a range of craft activities for which these are ideal. Miss Green would welcome any empty Ferrero Rocher plastic containers at any point during the year.

Bulletin 8 - 7 November 2014

The nursery children have loved this week with its focus on festivals of light for which we have made divas out of clay, paint, glitter and tealights and danced to Indian music as part of the Diwali celebrations and created fireworks pictures and rockets for bonfire night displays. The topic on cars was greatly enhanced when Ken the lollipop man came in to talk to us about road safety and helped the children to learn about crossing roads. Hopefully the children have all come home with the message about “Stop, Look and Listen”. A big thank you goes to him for his time and the school crossing patrol Logobugs which he kindly gave each child.

The week, commencing 10 November, we will discuss and listen to stories about trains and do a range of related crafts. Our number is **8**, the colour is **silver** and the letter is **d**.

Transition children had a great week learning about travel on rails and have created an enormous train in the blue room using boxes which they can sit in. Fireworks pictures have lit up their walls metaphorically speaking!! Their letter of the week, 10 November, is **i** and they will be exploring the topic related to **emergency vehicles**.

Reminders:

Please send in named mittens, hats and scarves now that the weather is getting colder. If you

prefer gloves please practise putting these on at home so that your child is able to do this without help.

Please let your child's teacher know if you did not receive the email from 2Build a profile containing the first half term observations. From our end it appears that all were successfully sent but I am aware that some parents do not seem to have received them.

Bulletin 7 - 17 October 2014

We wish everybody a wonderful 2 week half term holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again the week commencing 3rd November.

The Nursery children have loved the topic on boats and have sailed the high seas and back sitting in a large cardboard box with a cardboard mast and sail ! Lots of little boats have been made (which they used their own names and writing skills to name) and then discovered how to blow them across some water and see if they floated or sank. Language has been developed during this topic and their imaginations have taken them to wonderful places.

Transition children had a great week looking at boats and how they move across water. They made a giant boat out of boxes which they used to travel in to Chocolate Land where everything is made of chocolate! Little boats were made and the children raced their creations across water.

The week commencing 3rd November the Nursery classes will be learning about, and discussing, **cars** and doing a range of related crafts. Our number is **7**, the colour is **orange** the letter is **c**. Transition children will be looking at, and learning about, **transport on rails** and the letter **p**.

Reminders

- Please return your photograph orders asap and at the latest by 7 November.
- Please check your email for your child's "2build a profile" observations which have been done during this first half term of the year.

Bulletin 6 - 10 October 2014

A big thank you goes to Mrs Davy (mother of Isabella in year 3) who came back to our Department on Friday with Rosie, a large rag doll, to talk about treating injuries and ambulances. The children were fascinated by all that she said and learnt a lot.

The Nursery children have played in the ambulances they made with large cardboard boxes and have taken their patients to hospital (transformed home corners)! They thoroughly enjoyed playing with the unihoc sticks and soft balls on the Astroturf and it makes us realise how lucky our Nursery is to be part of a school with great facilities.

Transition children had a great week looking at and talking about rockets, shuttles and planets. They have constructed a giant rocket out of large boxes and shapes to take them to the moon!

The week commencing 13 October the Nursery children will learn about **boats**, sing some boat songs and do a range of related crafts. Their number is **6**, the colour is **brown** the letter is **b**. Transition children are investigating **transport on water** and the letter **k**.

Reminders

Please inform us if your child will be away at the time of our Nursery Department Christmas production which will take place on Tuesday 9 December at 9.15 a.m. with the dress rehearsal happening the day before. We ask that all children attend both mornings even if it is not a booked session.

Flu Vaccination The nasal spray Flu Vaccine for 2014/2015 is now being offered routinely on the NHS to all children who are aged 2, 3, 4 on 1st September 2014 i.e. children with a birth date on or after 2nd September 2009 and before 1st September 2012. Children with long term health conditions who are at extra risk from flu will continue to be offered the vaccine. You should be contacted by your GP about getting this before the winter sets in but if not talk to your GP or Practice Nurse about this.

Bulletin 5 - 3 October 2014

The Nursery children have learnt about lorries and vans this week and have made individual ones with moving wheels using milk bottle tops, and a large Class one for 2 or 3 children to sit in at a time to make their deliveries, whilst singing the song about trucks.

Transition children had a great week learning about transport in the air and enjoyed their snack time aboard a 'jumbo jet' whilst Miss Green and Miss Webb served them! They made paper aeroplanes which they took outside to fly and have drawn some lovely pictures.

The week commencing **Monday 6 October** the nursery classes will be looking at the colour **green**, the letter **a**, the number **5** and **ambulances**, whilst Transition children will be learning about **transport in space** and the letter **b**.

Reminders

Please remember to get your tickets for the Fireworks Evening on Saturday 11 October as it is always a wonderful family occasion for all ages.

Please return your sessions sheets for the Spring Term, which commences Wednesday 7 January, by Friday 10 October at the latest as I will be allocating spaces for the new children very shortly.

Please return any clothes which your children have borrowed from the Nursery and remember to name all outdoor clothing, jumpers, tee shirts, boots and shoes.

Bulletin 4 - 26 September 2014

A very big thank you goes to Mrs Koinzack, Mark's mummy, who came in to talk to the children about Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year celebration). We learnt so much and the children loved listening to the sound of the shofar (a horn) and tasting the bread from the kosher shop at the synagogue. Afterwards we all returned to our classrooms, enjoyed dipping our apple slices into some honey and wished each other a sweet and happy new year.

Many thanks for your support in donating provisions for those in need in our local area which the Salvation Army will be delighted to receive. We will accept donations this coming week.

We have received lots of sand-box toys, bats and balls from the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers which you kindly donated during the summer term. The children are really enjoying playing with these so a big thank you comes from them.

The Nursery classes have talked about tricycles and scooters with 3 wheels and have had lots of play with these. We have talked a bit about road safety and made traffic lights and some other road signs. Transition children have talked about, and looked at, different parts of vehicles e.g. engines and headlights, and have printed with shapes to make vehicles. With autumn on its way leaf printing has started. The children said goodbye to Flubber, the classroom fish, who passed away on Monday.

This week Nursery will be looking at lorries / vans and doing a range of related crafts. Our number is **4**, the colour is **blue** the letter is **z**. Transition children will be looking at transport in the air. Their letter of the week is **p**.

Reminders

With autumn approaching, please leave **named wellington boots** in your child's classroom and send in outdoor clothing each day. We would be enormously appreciative if **you helped your child in learning to take off and putting on their shoes and coats**. Please avoid shoes with laces as very few children of this age are able to tie them without help. Getting 16 children in each room dressed to go outdoors is very time consuming if they are unable to do this for themselves, meaning we have less time to play!

If your child attends the ballet class on Monday afternoons please provide named ballet shoes which can be bought from Goyals, our school uniform supplier.

Please name your child's lunch box on the outside of the box.

We have a healthy eating policy so please do not send in any nut or kiwi products as these may cause a severe allergic reaction for some children. We have been advised by our paediatric first aid trainers that **grapes should be cut into quarters** to reduce choking hazards so please do this if sending in these fruits in the packed lunches. If you wish to send in treats for your child's birthday please avoid cakes and sweets.

Bulletin 3 - 19 Sept 2014

A very big thank you goes to everyone who joined in our "Jeans for Genes" day on Friday. It was lovely to see lots of lovely dressing-up costumes on the children and they were very happy to show them to all their friends. We raised £40.20 for this very worthy cause.

We have made pictures of bicycles this week and have been learning our bicycle song which is to the tune of the "wheels on the bus" song. The week commencing 22 September we will be looking at tricycles as part of our topic on transport and doing a range of related crafts. Our number is **3**, the colour is **yellow** the letter is **y**.

Transition children have been busy this week looking at the types of transport which travel on roads and have made pictures of these. They have considered the sizes of different vehicles and the various parts such as wheels. They will continue with this topic during the week starting 22 September.

Friday is Harvest Festival and we would be delighted if you were able to send non-perishable food items and products such as shampoo, soap, deodorants etc. which the local branch of the Salvation Army will collect. We will be collecting from Monday and a box in Transition and one in the Nursery Hall will be available for your kind donations.

Bulletin 2 - Autumn 2014

What a week of travelling it has been for the nursery children with our theme based on "Aeroplanes". The children have been telling us where they are going to and places as far afield as Mumbai, America and Legoland have been mentioned! Singing our aeroplane song, making tickets and organising chairs and large boxes to create a plane was enormous fun.

This week commencing 15 September, we will discuss bicycles and scooters and do a range of related activities. Our number is **2**, the colour is **pink** and the letter is **x**. Any toy incorporating pink would be lovely as a "Show and Tell" item.

Transition children have been exploring transport. They have talked about, looked at and drawn pictures of their favourite form of transport. Miss Green tells me how incredibly well the children have settled in the Transition class, are managing a range of independent skills and have been talking about the "Golden Rules". This week the Transition children will be investigating transport "on the road".

Friday is a fund-raising day for "Jeans for Genes". Because many of our children wear these anyway if you would like to take part and donate £1.00 your child may come wearing fancy dress.

Bulletin 1 - Autumn 2014

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year with children coming in with smiling faces and full of chatter about their holidays. We have welcomed lots of new children into the three Nursery rooms and are pleased to say how well they are settling in. The Transition class children are having a wonderful time too and have had no problems transferring from their nursery rooms. They are showing great kindness to their new friends who have just started at Claires Court.

Our topic this term is based on transport and it would be lovely if you could support the children's learning by talking about and looking at different forms of transport at home.

For new parents who have not accepted the invitation to join the "2Simple 2build a profile", in order that we can send our observations of your children by email please check your emails and spam / junk mail content. We can only send to you after you have accepted. If you are having any difficulty with this please see your child's class leader.

Bulletin 11 End of Summer Term

Another year draws to a close and it has been a wonderful one. Our EYFS vision to provide an environment that is **Stimulating** and safe, **Tactile** and creative, **Active** and physical, **Real** and relevant, enabling our children to **Shine** as independent, successful **STARS** seems to have produced just that!

Seeing the children on the stage at Christmas, to running in front of a huge crowd last week on Sports Day, alongside everything they have done on a weekly basis shows me how amazing your children are. The children are real stars and deserve a very happy and healthy summer break.

It has been a very busy week with 35 new children visiting the Transition and Nursery classes and we have to say that the existing children have shown great kindness in welcoming them. The new children have been delightful and we look forward to them joining us in September.

As I sit here writing this, the last possible child in Busy Bees has developed chickenpox! I have never experienced so many in one class, at one time, succumbing as Busy Bees has this term so all I can deduce is that they must be incredibly sociable! They have certainly been a lovely class.

All that remains is for me to wish all the children, parents and my staff a well-deserved happy holiday.

Reminders:

If you love the class photos as much as we do please get your order in by Wednesday 16 July at the latest to avoid additional postage costs to yourselves. They will be available for collection from us at the beginning of the autumn term.

Important Dates:

Monday 14 July - Nursery Department Fun Morning and all children are welcome to attend even if it is not one of their regular sessions. Please send in a spare set of clothing as we are likely to have lots of water play and the inevitable will happen!

Tuesday 15 July - End of Term.

Thursday 4 September- Autumn Term commences and we look forward to welcoming you for the new academic year.

Bulletin 10 Summer 14

What amazing children we have in the Nursery Department!! They ran, pushed prams and carried bean bags on spoons so incredibly well and when in their seats could be heard laughing and cheering their friends on. We hope that you all enjoyed watching them as much as we did.

The final event for the Department is the fun day on Monday 14 July when all children are invited in for the morning even if it is not a regular attendance day.

Bulletin 9 Summer 14

This week Transition children have been busy looking at the life cycles of frogs, bees and snakes and had the chance to look at and feel the skin shed by a snake. Paper plates were used to make frogs.

The Nursery classes have made prints of leaves collected in the garden and talked about the different parts of a plant / tree. The classes have been on nature walks around the grounds looking at the trees and plants. We have practised for Sports Day and are getting better at remaining within the lanes of the running track!

During the week commencing 30 June the Nursery children will continue learning about **woodland and parkland**, the colour **white**, the number **9** and the letter **t**. Any small toys incorporating our topic or white would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **mini beasts**.

Busy Bees are the spotty class at the moment with a third of the children off with chickenpox!

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sunhats.

Important Dates

Friday 4 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We look forward to seeing you at the track side on the main school sports field, cheering the children on. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session and for the children to wear suitable footwear and shorts. Please note that if we are rained off we are unable to reschedule as all the new children for September will be visiting us the following week so fingers crossed for a lovely warm day.

Bulletin 8 Summer 14

Transition children have been busy looking at the life cycles of ladybirds and caterpillars and extended their language-learning when talking about the different stages of development that these little creatures go through. They have cut out and sequenced pictures of the life cycle of a butterfly and made some lovely butterflies to hang from the ceiling.

The Nursery classes have made ladybird paintings and masks and created some mini beasts using clay and matchsticks. They are hugely enthusiastic when they discover little creatures under the logs in the garden and in the long grass near the pond. Some large frogs have been spotted which causes great excitement, particularly when one jumped on to Miss Green's face!

During the week commencing 23 June, the Nursery children will continue learning about **woodland and parkland**, the colour **brown**, the number **8** and the letter **s**. Any small toys incorporating our topic or brown would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **life cycles**.

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sunhats.

Important Dates

Saturday 21 June is the Claires Court Fete held on the Junior Boys site at Ridgeway. Please turn up and support the event as the PTA very generously support our Department by funding events such as the recent farm visit to us, our Christmas entertainment and Sports Day ribbons. It is an event full of fun for all and helps to raise funds for those extra special things for the children.

Friday 4 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are now practising so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running.

Bulletin 7 Summer 14

The good weather has been lovely for the children in their hunt for mini beasts in the garden. We hope all the fathers will enjoy their cards on Sunday based on this theme and have a wonderful day with the children. The children have been busy making caterpillars by threading pasta, painting pictures of mini beasts and creating some masks of these little creatures.

Transition children have done some lovely pictures of their Daddies for their Father's Day cards which we are sure you will enjoy, and have had a busy time acting out "Going on a bear hunt" and making leaf rubbings.

During the week commencing 16 June the Nursery children will continue learning about **mini beasts**, the colour **red**, the number **7** and the letter **r**. Any small toys incorporating a mini beast or red would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **Life Cycles**.

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sunhats.

Important Dates:

Sunday 15 June Good luck to Mrs Freeman with your London to Brighton cycle for the British Heart Foundation. Very many thanks to those who have already sponsored her via Just Giving Noelle Freeman and there is still time to support this worthy cause. Visit the Just Giving website if you wish to donate.

Tuesday 17 June Transition and Nursery class photos will be taken and all children are invited to attend the morning session even if it is not their regular day.

Saturday 21 June is the Claires Court Fete held on the Junior Boys site at Ridgeway. Please turn up and support the event as the PTA very generously support our Department by funding events such as the recent farm visit to us, our Christmas entertainment and Sports Day ribbons. It is an event full of fun for all and helps to raise funds for those extra special things for the children.

Friday 4 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We are now practising so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running.

Bulletin 6 Summer Term

A huge thank you goes to our PTA this week for funding the farm visit to the Nursery Department. The children in the Nursery classes, Transition and Reception had enormous fun in the garden feeding the lambs, guinea pigs, hens, turkeys, ducks, goats, tortoises, Marble the donkey and Max the pony, as well as grooming the larger animals. The cockerels regularly called out to let us know that they were with us and the other animals “talked” to the children so that we all know the sounds as well as the appearance of these wonderful creatures. ‘Basil and Crew’ had two lovely staff, Shaun and Sophie, who helped the children in handling and feeding their animals and were very informative. Needless to say we have based our learning this week on the farm with the children creating some great pictures of animals and developing their language skills and related vocabulary.

Transition children have been busy making animal masks which they related to the story of “Percy the Park Keeper” as part of their topic on forests and woodlands. They have collected leaves and created pictures by making paintings and rubbings. They have looked at the life cycle of a tree and discussed the importance of trees in our environment.

The children who will be transferring to Transition in the Autumn Term have started visiting their new class this week and seem to have loved the experience.

During the week commencing 9 June the Nursery children will be learning about **minibeasts**, the colour **orange**, the number **6** and the letter **q**. Any small toys incorporating a minibeast or orange would be ideal as their “Show and Tell” item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **forests and woodlands**.

Reminders

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sunhats.

Important Dates

Sunday 15 June will be an exhausting day for Mrs Freeman (Busy Bees) as she is cycling from London to Brighton in aid of The British Heart Foundation. If you see her sitting on a cushion when the children arrive on Monday morning you will understand why! If you wish to help her fundraising she has a Just Giving website where you enter her name, Noelle Freeman, and donate.

Tuesday 17 June Transition and Nursery class photos will be taken and all children are invited to attend the morning session even if it is not their regular day.

Friday 4 July will be the Nursery Department Sports Day, starting at 9.15am and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We will begin practising after half term so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running.

Bulletin 5 Summer 14

We hope you all enjoyed reading our ISI Report as much as we did!

Sunflower seeds have started to grow and been sent home with your children. If they grow successfully we would love to have a picture later on in the year. The caterpillars have emerged as butterflies from their cocoons before half term! Lots more planting has taken place in the Nursery rooms this week so let's hope that we have pumpkins for Halloween!

Transition children have had a busy week looking at weather and used a bubble machine to simulate snow in their classroom! They discovered dinosaurs in huge blocks of ice in the water trays in their room and had fun with the icebergs. Masks were made using weather symbols and as always it was a week full of fun, laughter and learning.

We all wish you a relaxing and happy half term.

During the week commencing 2 June, the Nursery children will be learning about **the farm**, the colour **pink**, the number **5** and the letter **p**. Any small toys incorporating a farm animal or object and pink would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **parks and woodlands**.

Reminders: If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sun-hats.

Important Dates:

Tuesday 3 June, **Basil and Crew**, the petting farm, is due to visit the Nursery and all children are invited to attend the morning session even if it is not their regular day.

Tuesday 17 June, **Transition and Nursery class photos** will be taken and all children are invited to attend the morning session even if it is not their regular day.

Friday 4 July, will be the **Nursery Department Sports Day**, starting at 9.15 and ending approximately an hour later. We would like all children to take part even if Friday is not a regular session. We will begin practising after half term so please send your children in wearing footwear suitable for running.

Bulletin 4 Summer 14

This week the Nursery classes have made triangular sandwiches with a lemon and lime marmalade filling (green week) which they spooned, spread and cut very well and the majority of the children thoroughly enjoyed eating during snack time.

Sunflower seeds have been planted and the caterpillars have made their cocoons so fingers crossed that they emerge as butterflies before half term! Transition children have looked at roots and stalks on plants and planted carrots, pumpkins, sweet peas, nasturtiums and seeds to attract butterflies. They have made 'Mr Grassheads' and are eagerly waiting for the hair to grow! As in the Nursery rooms, the caterpillars have developed their cocoons and more tiny frogs have been taken to the pond.

The week commencing 19 May, the Nursery children will continue learning about **planting and growing**, the colour **yellow**, the number **4** and the letter **o**. Any small toys incorporating a plant / flower and yellow would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **weather**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

If sunshine is forecast please apply sun cream to your child before coming in and provide named sunhats.

The sheets were due back by Friday 16 May for morning, lunch and afternoon sessions in September so, if you have not returned yours, please do so as soon as possible. I will be allocating sessions this week for the new children starting in September and this may limit choices.

Bulletin 3 Summer 14

This week we have been looking at life cycles of frogs and the children have created some lovely masks and hopped around the rooms pretending to be these jumpy creatures. The tadpoles in the Busy Bees room are still tadpoles so we are having to be very patient and hopefully legs will appear soon!

Transition children have looked at the life cycle of a sunflower, planted seeds, made flowers and have sown cress seeds in the shapes of their initials. They said farewell to the little frogs in their room as they have now returned to the pond but hopefully we will see them develop further when we are outside.

The week commencing 12 May the Nursery children will be learning about **planting and growing**, the colour **green**, the number **3** and the letter **n**. Any small toys incorporating a plant / flower and green would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will continue learning about **plants and growing**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

Request

Please check the name labels on jumpers as a named one belonging to Ellie Baker is missing.

Bulletin 2 Summer 14

We hope that everyone has a wonderful Bank Holiday Monday.

This week we have been looking at life cycles of butterflies and the children have created some lovely symmetrical pictures of these pretty creatures. The Honeycomb class went exploring the School grounds to show these to the new children and had their snack as a picnic in the outdoors classroom which caused great excitement.

Transition children were fascinated by the tadpoles in their room as they are now developing back legs. The children have walked around the outdoors environment here and have talked about the differences between the school grounds and their gardens at home.

The week commencing 5 May the Nursery children will be learning about **life cycles and frogs**, the colour **black**, the number **2** and the letter **m**. Any small toys incorporating a frog and black would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **plants and growing**.

Reminders

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

Request

Miss Green would welcome shoe boxes for a forthcoming activity with the Transition children.

Bulletin 1 Summer 2014

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter holiday and feels rested. Term has started really

well with lots of happy, smiling faces and the new children seem to be enjoying the company of new friends and their classroom environments.

Next week, the Nursery children will be learning about **life cycles and butterflies**, the colour **purple**, the number **1** and the letter **L**. Any small toys incorporating a butterfly and purple would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about the **outside environment** generally.

Reminders

Hopefully we will have lots of sunny weather this term so please sign permission slips and provide sun cream if you wish the staff to put this on your child. Please put sun cream on your child each morning before arriving at the Nursery. Sun hats must be named.

Sometimes parents ask for guidance on packed lunches so a copy of an NHS leaflet about this accompanies the Bulletin for your information. Please remember to cut grapes into quarters and do not send in nuts (including nut products such as Nutella) or kiwi fruit as we have some children with allergic reactions to these products.

If your child is leaving Claires Court Nursery at the end of this term please ensure that you put notice in writing as soon as possible but at the latest by half term. Children moving into Claires Court Reception classes do not need to do this.

Bulletin 11 2 April (End of Term)

We hope you had a lovely day on Mothering Sunday and enjoyed the cards which the children had made for you. They all talked about how they loved their Mummy. There was lots of messy play with jelly (**j** week) and compost (**brown** week) and some lovely things were created using the trapezium shape such as the cards and houses.

It was a stressful week for the staff with the inspectors in School but the children rose to the occasion showing how well they learn and play together, how confident, happy and well behaved they are, and how much they enjoy being in Claires Court Nursery. A big thank you for responding so positively to the parent questionnaire which we were told you had done.

We are welcoming lots of new children this week who will be joining us in April.

We wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to the Summer Term, which commences Wednesday 23 April, when our topic will be "The Great Outdoors".

Reminders

Hopefully we will have lots of sunny weather next term so please sign permission slips and provide sun cream if you wish the staff to put this on your child. Please put sun cream on your child each morning before arrive at the Nursery. Sun hats must be named.

Bulletin 10 21 March 2014

Nursery children have had a lovely week with warmer weather for their outside learning. We have made kites using our topic shape of a rhombus which we have taken out on to the main School field to fly. We have lots of flower pictures using the rhombus to create petals and leaves. We celebrated St Patrick's Day on Monday by listening and moving to Irish music and making shamrock pictures.

Transition have talked about seasonal colours, have drawn still life pictures of blossom, have gone on walks around the grounds to observe the spring colours and made collages of the colours which represent the four seasons.

Our tadpoles are developing well and the children are enjoying watching the change in size and shape. We had huge excitement when the children discovered a large frog under a log which we put in a container for a short time for the children to observe.

The week commencing 24 March, the Nursery children will be learning about **the trapezium shape**, the colour **brown**, the number **10** and the letter **j**. Any small toys incorporating a trapezium and brown would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **Easter**.

We are looking forward to welcoming the ISI team of inspectors on Tuesday and hope that they enjoy their time with us. Please take a moment to respond to their parent questionnaire.

Reminder: on Thursday 3 April all Nursery and Transition children are invited to come dressed up as their favourite story character as part of our '3 for 3' charity fundraising , for a minimum donation of £1.

Bulletin 9 14 March

If you suffer from arachnophobia, stay clear of the Nursery rooms as they appear to be full of spiders! The children have had enormous fun making these 8 legged creatures this week with some on pulleys climbing up the walls. The octagon shape has been used to create their webs so lots of learning has happened with number and shape.

Transition children have looked at colours in animals, camouflage, made pictures of animal skins and have enjoyed looking and handling Tiny Tinsel the tortoise, the guinea pigs brought in by Mrs St John, and Smokey, Lois's hamster.

Tuesday saw a visit from the Easter Bunny who provided the children in the department with yellow cake cases filled with strawberries, grapes and oranges which made a lovely change from the usual fruit of apples and grapes. We hope that we will see lots of children during the Easter Egg Hunt at the Junior Boys site this Saturday where more Bunnies will be there to entertain them.

All children in the department are enjoying watching the development of frogspawn in their rooms and in the pond outside. Tadpoles are beginning to develop and the children are starting to understand the life cycle of a frog.

Next week the Nursery children will be learning about the **rhombus shape**, the **colour white**, the **number 9** and the **letter i**. Any small toys incorporating a rhombus and white would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **seasonal colours** and the letters **v** and **w**.

Bulletin 8 7 March

March has brought a lovely feel of Spring and we have really enjoyed being outside this week with some blue sky and a pond full of frog spawn! The children have loved seeing the frogs again and we will be enjoying watching their life cycle over the next few weeks.

Pancakes were speedily consumed by all the children in the Nursery rooms and Transition on Shrove Tuesday. Apologies if there was a lack of appetite at lunch time!

Our Nursery investigation of the oval shape has resulted in some lovely pictures of Humpty Dumpty, eggs and chickens in eggs. The children have also created some oval shaped printing using a variety of objects. The letter "g" resulted in a visit from Mrs Freeman's 2 guinea pigs which the children enthusiastically, but very gently, cuddled and stroked.

Transition children have created still life drawings and paintings of flowers, made leaves for their seasons' tree and learnt a lot about colours in nature.

The week commencing 10 March the Nursery children will be learning about **octagons**, the colour **grey**, the number **8** and the letter **h**. Any small toys incorporating octagons and grey would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **animal colours** and the letter **e**.

Bulletin 7 28 February

Hexagon is a perfect shape for children in our Nursery classes as it links so well with the room names! We have looked at a very large bee that was flying around the Honeycomb room, tasted honey, looked at real honeycomb and made bees and printed hexagons to create lovely displays. Transition have tasted a range of exotic fruits and created still life pictures of them, printed with vegetables, and cut out and stuck pictures of healthy foods on paper plates.

Next week, the Nursery children will be learning about **ovals**, the colour **orange**, the number **7** and the letter **g**. Any small toys incorporating ovals and orange would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **colours in nature** and the letter **p**.

Reminders:

We hope that you enjoyed the emailed observations of your children over the half term and welcome any comments. Remember that we have an open door and are more than happy to discuss progress.

Bulletin 6 14 February

A big thank you goes to Michael Davies, one of our Sixth Form students and captain of the football team, who came down to the Nursery Department on Monday to talk about his sport. Linking this week's topic shape of the pentagon he told them about the shapes seen on a football which helped the children visualise a shape which is not often talked about or seen in many places.

A well-deserved thank you also goes to several of our Year 10 girls who have given up their lunchtimes this half term on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to help in the Nursery Department. The children love their company and the extra hands are much appreciated by the staff.

What excitement we had when we visited the Science labs this week and were able to hold the chicks! The children were amazed by how quickly they had grown and loved the tickly feel of them in their hands. We are very grateful to the Science Department for organising this again and inviting us to share the experience.

All the children have made Valentine cards and have been eager in telling us who they love! The week commencing 24 February the Nursery children will be learning about **hexagons**, the colour **purple**, the number **6** and the letter **f**. Any small toys incorporating hexagons and purple would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. We are also looking at farms, animals and their young and thought it would be lovely if the children could bring in a baby photo of themselves to show.

Transition children will be learning about colours in food and the letter **k**.

Reminders: please check your email for your child's "2Build a Profile" observations which we have done this half term and which we hope you will enjoy. Miss Green would welcome boxes of any size for creative play.

We wish everyone a very happy, and hopefully dry, half term and look forward to seeing you again the week commencing 24 February.

Bulletin 5

7/1/14

We've had fun with squares in the Nursery rooms this week, making Elmers out of milk bottles and lovely pictures of the patchwork elephant. Even more exciting was the arrival of the eggs for "Hatch Watch" and when we went over to the science laboratories to look at them in the incubator we were delighted to see that 6 had hatched by Wednesday and 7 the next day. Hopefully we will be able to hold them towards the end of next week. Pictures are on the School website.

Transition have been on an adventure looking for cylinders in the environment and have discussed the properties. Pencil fences, drain pipes and bins were found amongst a lot of other things. Lots of shapes games have been played and musical shakers have been made.

The week commencing 10 February the Nursery children will be learning about **pentagons**, the colour **blue**, the number **5** and the letter **e**. Any small toys incorporating pentagons and blue would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about **boxes** and the letter **b**.

Reminders:

We have a healthy eating policy and request that snacks for Transition children should consist of fresh fruit, vegetables or foods such as wholemeal bread. Please avoid high sugar, fat and salt foods and no nuts or kiwi products should be sent in because of the severe risk for some children with allergies. Please note that products such as chocolate spread often contain nuts and are high in sugar. Similarly, please send in healthy foods if your child is having a packed lunch and remember to cut foods such as grapes, cherry tomatoes and olives into quarters and cut sausages lengthwise rather than into circles.

Birthday treats, which some children like to give, are wonderful but we suggest items such as fruit as this can be shared at snack time. We generally provide apples and grapes so other fruits would be a real treat for the children.

Bulletin 4

31/1/14

Chinese New Year has been a wonderful topic this week as we have been able to incorporate our triangle shapes onto the large dragon made by the children which they took for a walk to the School Offices. The year of the horse has seen the children making hobby horses and using lots of imagination as they created and played with them. The food went down well as well!

Transition children have been looking at holes in their classroom and fortunately not in the ceiling or walls! They have discovered toys and equipment with holes and threaded cardboard initials using the punched holes and wool. Chinese New Year has been an enormous success and the children loved tasting the rice and noodles.

The week commencing 3 February the Nursery children will be learning about **squares**, the colour **pink**, the number **4** and the letter **d**. Any small toys incorporating squares and pink would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about tubes and the letter **h**.

Reminders

Please leave a change of clothes on your child's peg as the rain has created a huge amount of mud in our outside play area which the children love but their clothes don't! At times we need to put them into something clean.

Bulletin 3 24/01/14

The fire drill early on Monday morning showed how incredibly well our young children respond to and follow instructions. We may have felt a little chilly but we all arrived at our assembly point in record time and spent a few minutes shaking our bodies to keep warm!

The rectangle shape seems to have been easily discovered on our walk around the school by the children in the three nursery classes. Some children, later in the week, pointed out the running green man signs telling us where to go in the event of a fire.

Transition children have been looking at patterns in the environment and recurring patterns and have created pictures of these during the week. If any parents managed to take photographs of patterns in the environment which they discovered with their children, Miss Green would be delighted to have them so that your child can share them with the other children.

The week commencing 27 January, the nursery children will be learning about **triangles**, the colour **red**, the number **3** and the letter **c**. Any small toys incorporating triangles and red would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about holes and the letter **m**.

Reminders

Unless you hear from me in the next week or so please assume that any additional sessions that you have requested for the summer term are booked. We currently have a lot of interest for places in our Nursery so a big 'thank you' to all parents for your recommendations.

Bulletin 2 17/01/14

"Circle" has been a wonderful shape to start our topic this term in the Nursery rooms. A variety of activities happened such as bubble painting, watches and spinning pictures (those created in a salad spinner) and when we went on our walks around the School grounds the children were enthusiastically pointing to every circle they spotted.

Transition children have performed and acted out "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" as part of their topic on shapes and sizes and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They have done size comparisons with boxes and estimated which would hold the most. Their artistic skills have been demonstrated in their pictures of shapes in the environment such as houses.

The week commencing 20 January the Nursery children will be learning about **rectangles**, the colour **yellow**, the number **2** and the letter **b**. Any small toys incorporating rectangles and yellow would be ideal as their "Show and Tell" item this week. Transition children will be learning about patterns and the letter **n**.

Reminders

Please return your session request sheet asap indicating which morning, lunch and afternoon

sessions you would like for your child in the summer term commencing Wednesday 23 April.

Please leave prams and buggies outside the Nursery hall. The mud on the wheels is making a very dirty floor which is unpleasant for the children to sit on and play. Thank you for your cooperation.