

**December/January Newsletter 2020**

**Dates for your diary:**

* **Christmas dinner-16th December 2020 from 12-13:30**
* **Christmas party & Jumper day – Thursday 17th December 2020**
* **Family bake off competition 18th December 2020**
* **Parents Evening: Baby Room-8th January 2021; Toddler room-15th January 2021; Pre-School Room 22nd January 2021.**

What a year! A year full of self-discovery, well being and most importantly family. Change is a construct of life and this year has shown us that we are stronger when we work together. We at the Orchard Day would like to say thank you for sticking with us through these testing times.

As the weather begins to change, it is highly important that all children are wearing appropriate clothing for such conditions. All we need is for your little ones to have weather appropriate shoes, hats, coats and gloves to enjoy the outdoor conditions we have at the nursery.

We have had many new voices joining the nursery over the past few months, consequently, it is inevitable that the noise level will increase while settling. This is normal and we have means of helping children to settle, however, time is the real aid for a smooth transition. Remember, we are always here to help, so feel free to call, message us via the app or even email us no matter how big or small, it is welcomed. For those of you joining us in coming weeks – we are looking forward to getting you started with us :)

**Our Monthly topic for the upcoming month for each room is:**

 Pre school

The magic of Christmas is in the air again. The joyous and festive month of December will bring loads of learning, fun, bonding, sharing etc. Our pre-schoolers are ready to give a touch of technology to make their own digital Christmas tree. They will use a special Polaroid camera to click each other’s picture which will be used to decorate the X-mas tree.

Keeping the ‘Best Out of Waste’ theme in mind, pre-schoolers will create their own Derder Santa or Snowman or an elf. Their Santa will come on their special egg carton sleigh and the big Christmas wreath will be crafted of derder again. The emphasis will be on Christmas Cooking without fire in which yummy treats like Melted Snowman Biscuits and Christmas Tree Cones will be created. Fingerprint photo frame and wheat flour baked trees will be crafted to give a personal touch to the festival. Q-tip painted lights will be crafted to welcome the new year

2-3’s

This is one of our favourite months here at the Orchard Day Nursery, for the month of December 2-3's will be taking part in many creative activities and well as having an opportunity to enhance their senses.

We are making thorough use of our art supplies this month, both to put on our wonderful display board as well as taking some pieces home. We will be making some winter mittens to highlight the importance of appropriate clothing in these cold times. As well as this we will be making many Christmas themed art, such as, candy canes made from pasta and some feet inspired mistletoe which will be fantastic to keep as a memory at home. Keeping in mind our topic of senses we will be making scented playdough, the “artic in a tray” and much more… look out to see what wonder your child will be creating!

Baby room

The under 2s will be focusing on setting up a Christmas treasure basket and making a group Christmas tree where the children will decorate the tree using tinsels and pipe cleaners. This supports personal, social, and emotional development, which in turn provides the children to make choices, play independently as well as explore objects with their senses with interest and curiosity. They will also learn about weight, the texture and shape of the resources that will be used. The practitioners will also make paper snowflakes and talk about it to the children which will also promote attention, language and listening skills as well as understanding of the season.

Here are a few important reminders

* A gentle reminder, to please refrain from getting general feedback from staff at the door. All communications are primarily constructed via the app. If you still feel you need more clarity, please give the keyworker a call and we will be more than happy to help.
* PLEASE remember to wear a face mask whilst dropping off and collecting children at the nursery.
* PLEASE give as much information as possible on the methods in which potty training is conducted from home so that we can apply the same or similar methods too.
* PLEASE If your child is unwell or has time off from nursery, it is a part of our compliance that we are notified of such changes to the setting.
* As you are aware the symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 are:
* A new, continuous cough
* A high temperature (38. degrees or more)
* A loss of smell or taste. If you or anybody in the household has experienced this in recent days, then please contact your doctor and follow the advice given.
* Fees Query- Please email the manager and cc accounts@theorcharddaynursery.org and we will investigate further.

**Winter Menu:** Our jubilant Chef Santiago created a new Christmas Menu which is now available on our website. We are all very much looking forward to it 😊.

**Christmas dinner:** It will be our Christmas dinner for all children on 16th December 2020.

**Christmas Party:** Probably the most festive time of the year, it’s finally time for our Christmas Party! This year, we will be going live to conduct some festive songs and well wishes from pre-school to 2-3’s on Zoom. The appropriate details will be sent out in due course for the required rooms. ; all children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper– Thursday 17th December

Keep a look out for some exciting events happening in the build up to this! ☺

**Family Bake off:** As this lockdown has unearthed hidden talents that most of us never knew we had; we would like you alongside your little ones to join us in a family bake off. Show us your creations with your assistant by the 18th of December via the app, we will then be happy to announce a winner.

**Parents evening:** As each day emerges, subtle changes occur with your little ones. However small or mighty it maybe, we are happy to give you a general feedback on these changes from the New Year. Communication on times will be shortly delivered to you, so please indicate to staff of your desired timings.

**Term dates:** For our term time families our last day of term is Friday 18th December. Children will return on Monday 4th January 2020.

**The Nursery will close on 22nd December 2020 and reopen on 04nd January 2021**

**Regards,**

**Ugonna Orji**

**Deputy Manager at**

**The Orchard Day**

**Nursery**