



# Autumn newsletter

2020

## Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn term. The last few months have again been trying for us all. We would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout these difficult times and for bearing with us through any changes and adjustments that have needed to be made. Christmas is going to be very different for us all this year but we are hoping to make it a positive experience for the children. We have lots of Christmas activities planned and we are looking forward to spreading some joy with you all.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a very warm welcome to Zara and Ashlee who are new members of our team. Zara is settling well into her role within the over 2's section of the nursery and Ashlee has been appointed our new school run chaperone. With the school term in full swing our school run service is now fully occupied and we love having our older children join us at the end of the school day. We would also like to say a big hello to all of our new children and their families. We appreciate that these times must be very strange for you but we can assure you that your children are having a wonderful time with us and we hope that with the addition of the Family app you are enjoying seeing their progress.

## Important Dates

- 9-15th November - Children in Need
- 11th November - Remembrance Day
- 14th November - Diwali
- 17th November - Homemade bread day
- 1st December - Walt Disney Day (Dress up)
- 14th December - Christmas celebration week
- 16th December - Christmas party (Christmas jumper/ fancy dress)
- 24th December - Hours to be confirmed
- 25th December - Christmas Day (Closed)
- 26th December - Boxing Day (Closed)
- 31st December - New Years Eve - Hours to confirmed
- 1st January - New Years Day (Closed)



## COVID-19

We would like to thank you again for your continued support through the ongoing pandemic. Guidelines and procedures are changing regularly and we appreciate your patience with the new procedures that we have in place. We are continuing to follow the Welsh government guidelines closely and will keep you all updated through Famly should anything else need to change. We are now operating temperature checks daily on staff and children before they enter the premises. The children have been wonderful with this new procedure and it has helped with the smooth running of the nursery. We would like to remind you that if any temperature exceeds 37.8 then the persons' will not be able to enter the building that day. We would then ask you to follow the government guidelines and get a test. We do ask that the results of the test are sent through to us through Famly for our records. We now have a fogging machine in all of our Schoolhouse sites which is used weekly to ensure extra measures are taken to eliminate any potential risks. As you are now aware we are operating the setting using two doors. The under 2's are now required to enter and leave the building through the side gate and the over 2's are to use the main door as normal. Again you have all been fantastic in complying with these measures and we are very grateful.

If you or your child is showing any symptoms of COVID-19, we kindly ask that you do not bring your child to nursery and to follow the governments isolation guidelines. These symptoms are:

- A new continuous cough
- A loss of taste or smell
- A high temperature

## Rainy days

As the Autumn weather kicks in we are starting to see more wet and windy days. We have asked that all of the children now have wellies either in nursery or kept in their bags for everyday usage. We would also ask that warm coats are provided as we would still like to use our outdoor facilities as much as possible.

## Parents Evening

Week commencing - 23rd November

Due to Covid-19 this year's parents evening will be done via zoom or phone call. Please request a suitable timeslot through the Famly app with your child's key worker. There will also be developmental notes sent home with your child for your record.

We will be having a Children in Need themed week between the 9th and 15th of November. We are inviting children to wear their Pudsey tops or spotty/colourful clothing if they wish.



## Under 2's

In the under 2's room we have been focusing on Autumn themed activities. We have enjoyed investigating this beautiful season indoors and out. We have explored different coloured leaves and made rubbings and pictures with them. We have made leaf monsters and investigated sensory trays with cinnamon and pumpkin. The children have loved learning the song Autumn leaves are falling down and taking part in music and movement sessions. One of our favourite things to do was make cinnamon swirls and play with the pots and pans in the water tray.

## Toddlers

In the Toddler section we have been getting very creative. We have explored Autumn colours through painting and printing. We enjoyed using acorns to roll in paint and create wonderful patterns. We have used leaves for printing in different colours and also enjoyed using our fingers to create colourful leaves on a tree. We have been in the garden in our wellies and jumped about in the leaves and the muddy puddles, just like Peppa Pig! One of our favourite activities has been playing the spooky Halloween party games. We loved trying to tumble the ghost tower.

## Pre-School

In Pre-school we have enjoyed all things Autumn and have really loved using some of our skills to explore nature. We have enjoyed cutting and sticking leaf pictures, painting with beautiful Autumn colours onto cling film and we have thoroughly enjoyed our cooking activities every week. We have made bread hedgehogs, jam tarts and mummy pizzas. One of our favourite activities was using our scissor skills to cut the squirrels tails (cooked pasta). It was a challenge but very fun.

## Gallery



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[www.schoolhouse-daycare.co.uk](http://www.schoolhouse-daycare.co.uk)

Email: [pow@schoolhouse-daycare.co.uk](mailto:pow@schoolhouse-daycare.co.uk)

# Christmas task

This year we would like to get everyone involved in a little Christmas activity together. As some of us may be spending it at home we have come up with a little activity that we can all participate in. This year we are asking you to design your very own Christmas jumper using the template below. The children can decorate the jumper in any way that they like. Once your design is complete, we would love you to upload it onto the Family app as an entry into our little competition. There will be a prize for the best design. More information on this to follow. Below is the template that we would like you to use.

As this Christmas may be a little bit different to most, we will be joining in the Christmas jingle on Christmas Eve. We will be standing outside our houses at 6pm and shaking our bells to tell Santa that we are ready waiting. I think we can all agree that we will do anything we can to make this Christmas a special one so maybe you could join in with us too. You could even pop a little picture on Family or our Facebook page to show us.



## Try at home recipes



225g cold butter, diced  
350g plain flour

100g golden caster sugar

280g mincemeat

1 small egg, beaten

icing sugar, to dust

Preheat oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

Rub the butter into the flour and add the almonds, caster sugar, orange rind and salt until the mixture is a bit crumbly.

Combine mixture with the egg yolk and 1-2 teaspoons of water until it forms soft dough, then put it into a plastic bag and chill for 20 - 30 minutes.

Roll out the pastry to a thickness of 2-3mm(0.1in) and cut out about 18 rounds measuring 7.5cm(3in) with a pastry cutter.

Place in lightly greased patty tins and spoon the mincemeat evenly into the pies.

Re-roll the leftover pastry and cut out round lids, stars or other festive shapes to fit on top of the mincemeat.

Lightly brush the pastry tops with the beaten egg and bake in the oven for 12 - 15 minutes until golden.

Remove from oven and leave for a few minutes before removing from tins and cooling on a wire rack.

Dust with icing sugar.



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