

## Winter News from Singleton Day Nursery

The Nursery Team would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy time over this magical season.



### Nursery Opening and closing Hours over the Christmas period:

**Christmas Eve, 24th - 7am til 5pm**

**Christmas Day – CLOSED**

**28th—Closed**

**29th, 30th- 7am til 7pm**

**New Year's Eve, 31st - 7am til 6pm**

**1st Jan - CLOSED**

The nursery will return to their normal hours from 4th January 2020.

### Dates for your Diary in December

**Christmas Jumper Day Friday 11th**

We would like to encourage the children to join the staff team in wearing their Christmas jumper for this day.



**Christmas Party Wednesday 16th from 1pm**

Our Under 2's, Toddler's and Pre school rooms will be having a Christmas party for the children to enjoy! There will be a variety of party games, a surprise visit from Father Christmas and an afternoon tea party.

**Christmas Lunch Friday 18th**

Our Nursery Cook, Ali will be preparing a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings for the children and staff to enjoy together.

If your child does not attend any of the above days and you would like your child to join in the festive fun, please speak to a member of the management team to book an extra session.



### **Christmas Post Box**



A Christmas post box will be in nursery from the 1st of December for the children to post their letters to Father Christmas. The post will be emptied every day and all letters to Father Christmas will receive a Magical reply from the North Pole.

### Staffing News



#### **Welcome to:**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest staff member's to the Singleton Team: Lauren who is based in our curious under 2's room and Sarah who has joined our friendly Pre School room, Sarah will also be our school run chaperone. We would like to say thank you to all staff and children for their help in helping the girls settle. *'Together we enjoy learning, encourage confidence and love life'.*

Also a warm welcome to all our new children and their parents.

**Staff changes:** Due to Jess's son Tommie moving into the toddler section. Jess is temporarily moving to the pre school section where she will plan a variety of activities to make learning fun.

We are currently looking for a new Toddler Room Supervisor. Due to personal reasons Amy has made the very difficult decision to step down in her role and is currently being safely furloughed.

**Congratulations** to Janina Bija for being chosen as employee of the month for October.

Janina was awarded this due to her lovely conversations in the mornings with children coming into nursery.

Singleton's management team are wishing all the girls ready for Novembers votes—we wonder who it will be?

Also, congratulations to Sian on completing her Playworker qualification.

**Baby news** - Congratulations to Tillie who gave birth to a healthy baby boy on the 23rd September. Welcome to the world Louis.

**Nursery developments:** Over recent months we have had lots of zoom meetings to share all the wonderful ideas we have as a company to ensure the children continue to get the best play and learning experiences.

**A Special Thank you** to Amanda for our new staff room! We have recently had it refurbished and decorated so that it is a nice and relaxing space for staff to take a well earned break during their busy days.



### Winter is DEFINITELY here.....

Brrrr, it's cold outside! Please be sure to send your child in with appropriate coats, hats and welly boots as we will continue to go outside as the weather allows us to! Please make sure all items of clothing are labelled.

Please can you make sure that you provide your child with some spare clothes that can be left in their bag whilst at nursery— include some warmer items such as long sleeve tops, vests, Trousers/ leggings, socks/ tights and underwear if potty training.

The staff would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all parents for adhering to the nurseries guidelines.

As a reminder of our safety measures:

- We are monitoring symptoms and temperature checks
- Only one parent to drop off/collect from nursery whilst wearing a mask
- Carefully managing bubbles within the nursery sections
- Excellent personal hygiene with regular handwashing
- PPE provided for all team members and masks to be worn when away from bubble group
- Frequent and robust cleaning practises in place throughout the day

## Our Children's Themes and Activities....

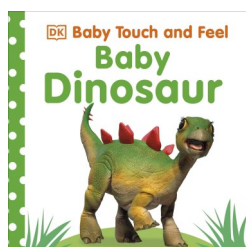
### Under 2's

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank all the new families that has joined us recently through these difficult times. Laura and her team have been busy providing a lot of fun themes and activities for the under 2 children. We have been exploring a range of different dinosaur activities and of course ROAR-ING!

They have enjoyed going on new adventures, outdoor searching high and low for the friendly dinosaurs.

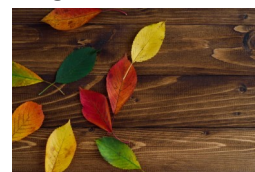
They have listened to different dinosaur stories and had lots of fun getting messy with shaving foam. Their favourite thing to do was to paint footprints with the dinosaurs.

Their favourite story was Babi Dinosaur where they can touch and feel the different dinosaurs and learn some welsh words and phrases.



### Toddlers

The Toddler section has been very busy exploring the outdoors- looking for squirrels and stomping in the puddles with their wellies. They have particularly enjoyed watching the leaves change from green to red, orange and brown.



Over the next couple of weeks the Toddler children are going to be busy making lots of Christmas things to take home in their Christmas bags.

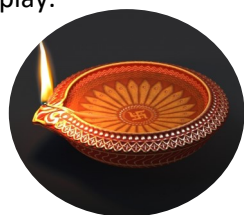
They will also be looking at and experiencing 'ICE' play -how it starts as water and then melts when they warm it up in their hands. We will enhance the children's play by using our polar bears and penguins in our messy materials and smells. Abi, Megan and Ellie will also be teaching the children some new Christmas songs.



### Pre-school

Jess and her pre school children have been very busy learning all about Autumn over the last few weeks. They have been on lots of Autumn walks around the nursery garden. They have also taken part in different creative activities from leaf printing to autumn collages and going on a leaf hunt- did you know what they found? Pre school also took part in Diwali celebrations where they tasted Indian food and made their own traditional lamps and decorations.

Over the next couple of weeks Pre school will be looking at winter. The children will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of invitations to play including messy play, winter walks and frozen ice play.



### Play scheme

During October half term our Playscheme children had lots of fun carving pumpkins, taking part in experiments with mints and fizzy pop as well as dressing up for our Halloween celebrations and monster mash party.



Our Christmas Playscheme will be running week commencing 21st December and then on the following dates in December, 29th 30th and 31st

Our Playscheme will feature a range of festive themed activities for our 4-11 year olds that includes making a special Christmas decorations to take home.

We will also be playing exciting party games on our Christmas party day such as musical statues and musical chairs.



If you wish to book a space for your child for the Christmas playscheme sessions then please get in touch on 01792 202900



## Things To Do Together At Home

As we're heading into the winter months there are lots of fun and easy activities that can be done at home. Here are some ideas that we know the children would enjoy doing with you:

- **Paper plate Christmas wreath**—Paper plate, glue, paint, pom poms and a pipe cleaner
- **Pine cone Christmas tree**—Pine cone, paint, glitter, glue and yellow paper/Card
- **Christmas sensory bag**—Hair gel, sequins, pom poms, glitter and draw tree on the bag.
  - **Santa Strawberries**—Strawberries, whipped cream, icing pens



Christmas is a magical time and reading books together can certainly help bring about the magic of Christmas. Here are some of our favourites: Dear Santa by Rod Campbell, That's not my snowman by Usborne books, The Christmas Bear by the author of the Gruffalo and The Jolly Christmas Post man who touches everybody's hearts.

### Ali's Nursery Winter Warmer

#### Ingredients:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 ¼ kg beef mince
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 850ml beef stock
- Gravy to thicken
- Broccoli and cauliflower

#### For the Mash

- 1.8kg potatoes chopped
- 225ml milk
- 25g butter



Home made cottage pie for you and your family!



#### Method:

1. Heat 1 tbsp olive oil in large saucepan and fry 1 ¼ kg beef mince until browned – you may need to do this in batches. Set aside as it browns.
2. Put the other 2 tbsp olive oil into the pan, add 3 chopped carrots and cook on gentle heat until soft.
3. Add 2 finely chopped garlic cloves, 1 tbsp tomato puree, increase the heat and cook for a few mins, then return the beef to the pan.
4. Reduce slightly and add the 850ml beef stock, 4 tbsp Worcestershire sauce and gravy.
5. Bring to a simmer and cook uncovered for 45 mins. By this time the gravy should be thick and coating the meat. Check after about 30

We would like to wish all children and their families, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please visit our website for up to date information and useful child related articles and links.

### Local Christmas Events

**November 12th-3rd January**—Christmas at the castle (Cardiff)

**Monday 16th December**— Swansea's alpine village is open where you can enjoy Swansea's winter wonderland.

**Monday, December 7—Friday, December 11 -Drive in cinema at Porthcawl Hi-Tide car park-** Visitors will be able to enjoy classics such as Elf, Home Alone, Muppets Christmas Carol, Nightmare before Christmas and The Polar Express from the comfort of their own car.

**December 12th—31st.**—Owen Money's drive in panto Locations are Porthcawl's Hi-Tide car park from **December 12-31**, Cardiff City Stadium away car park from **December 14-31**, Ffos Las Racecourse, Carmarthenshire, from **December 18-31** and Merthyr's Cyfartha Castle from **December 18-31**

