

Arlesdene Nursery School and Pre-school

Newsletter 2

December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Our last week of the Autumn term is very busy with the build up to Christmas, however it is my favourite time of year. As I sit here writing this section, I can hear the Nursery children singing, practising for the Nativity. Throughout the school, staff are looking festive, along with the decorations throughout the rooms. I love listening to the children reading festive stories and watching the excitement in their faces when they talk about Christmas.

Best wishes for the festive season

Claire Cobain

Headteacher



MaD Awards

Making a Difference

Our MaD awards for the last two months went to Karen Evans and Hayleigh Wigg both Early Years Assistants who work extremely hard in our Rainbow classrooms. Both were nominated for going over and above in their role and always putting the children first, both very well deserved.

Please remember that you can also make nominations when you feel staff have made an extra difference to you or your child.

Slips are available in either the Nursery or Pre-school office or you can email a nomination to:

mad@arlesdene.herts.sch.uk

Continue to watch this space for our MaD awards.

PS, N & R

Nursery Nativity

Nursery's nativity this week had to be re-scheduled, I apologise again for the inconvenience that this caused. A few parents asked why we cannot hold this at the school. As all of our classrooms are occupied by children, we do not have any spare space so are heavily reliant on additional venues. However the extra few days gave the children more opportunity to practise. I'm sure you will agree it was such a lovely performance, the children did extremely well, considering it was the first time they had been to the hut. It is also incredibly daunting when you are 3 or 4 years old to be in front of that many people and then be expected to sing all the songs that they have learnt. For those children who did experience stage fright, it is completely understandable.

Confidence comes with development, and the more children experience performing throughout the year the more this will help them to achieve our Curriculum Goal 8 - To be able to perform in an end of year performance.



Hampers

Thank you for all your contributions towards our hampers, we have raised over £316 which will go towards our Rainbow outdoor area.

Well done to all of our winners in Rainbow, Nursery and Pre-school. If you were lucky enough to win, please can we ask you to return the empty basket to us in the new year.

PS, N & R

Pre-school songs

It was lovely to see so many parents attend the Pre-school singing, the children sang beautifully along with the staff.



Rainbow coffee morning

Thank you to all the parents that came to our Rainbow coffee sessions, we will be holding these termly throughout the year in our staffroom. It is an ideal informal opportunity to talk with other parents and get any useful updates. Look out for the next date.

Nursery Workshop

A hug thank you to the staff for making this so special for the children. It was a lovely opportunity for parents to do craft activities with their child and let us clear up the mess! The items made will make treasured memories for years to come.



PS, N & R

Father Christmas

We were very lucky to have Father Christmas visit the school today, he met the children in every room and gave them all a gift from us all here at Arlesdene. Although hesitant Mabel even received a small treat.



Pre-school activities

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas crafts and activities that have been on offer this week.



PS, N & R

Illness

We have had a number of illnesses and viruses sweep through both Pre-school and Nursery. This impacted heavily on attendance of children and staff. While we do carry out extra measures during winter months, such as deeper cleans and encourage regular handwashing we also need your help. Please follow our guidelines of keeping your child off for 48 hours after sickness & diarrhoea, please ensure your child's temperature has returned to normal before sending them back and please do not give your child Calpol or Nurofen before school, this quickly wears off and children can then feel very poorly. If you have needed to give your child Calpol or Nurofen before school, they really are not well enough to be here. I thank you in advance for your co-operation.



Staffing update

We have welcomed some new faces to Arlesdene this term and have some more joining us in January.

We welcome Michelle Roberts our new teacher in Rainbow 2 class. Michelle has a wealth of Early Years experience and a passion for working with children with SEND. Michelle will work full time in Rainbow 2 and will be supported by myself and Charlotte. This will give Charlotte the opportunity to start to take on the role of SENCo.

We say goodbye to Amelia who has worked in Rainbow 2 this term, Amelia was on loan to us from Amwell View until we recruited a full time teacher. We wish her well.

We also welcome Ola Marku in the role of Key Person for Purple group allowing Danielle to take on a new group of children full time. This will expand the Nursery taking us to 5 key groups in the Spring term.

We welcome Krissie and Anna to our team in January, Krissie will be working in Rainbow 2 and Anna in our Nursery lunch club.

Lastly we are saying goodbye to Elle who has worked in Nursery lunch club and wish her all the best at her new school in January.

PS, N & R

Winter safety

Over the last few years Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue have attended water and ice incidents where people have been at risk of falling through frozen lakes and rivers due to rescuing a pet or not seeing the dangers of such activities.

Children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.

Taking a nice walk in cold weather with your family, friends or dogs in tow can be really refreshing, just make sure you know some simple tips on how to stay safe in winter.

Areas with frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can be beautiful places to visit during the winter months but all too often many people risk their lives by venturing onto frozen water.

Here are some useful tips to help you know what to do in an emergency.

Teach children not to go on the ice

Teach children not to go onto the ice under any circumstances.

Don't go on the ice to rescue a dog

Don't go onto ice or into the water to rescue a dog, move to somewhere that the dog will be able to climb out and call them towards you.

Keep dogs on their leads Keep dogs on their leads when near ice and don't throw sticks or toys onto the ice.

Only use well-lit areas

Time your walks to make the most of the daylight; if you need to walk in the evening only use well-lit areas or take a route not alongside water.

Keep back from the edge When walking alongside water keep back from the edge.

Please visit the RLSS website on this link, to see useful tools on how to get your children talking about winter water safety: [Winter Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)

PS, N & R

Reminders

A gentle reminder for the new year to try and bring your child on time to Pre-school & Nursery, it can be really unsettling when children arrive late, they often miss out on group times and this really does then impact on their learning.

Please remember to label all children's belongings, especially this time of year when children have more clothing.

Important dates

School closed until Tuesday 7th January 2025.

All the staff wish all the families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
DECEMBER 20, 2024

Christmas Trees

We have two real Christmas trees that are still in great condition that will need homes as we finish school today. If you would like them or know someone that would benefit from them please contact the school office.



They do not come with the decorations though :)

As the term comes to an end, I would like to thank all the staff for working so hard as always. Wishing them all a well deserved rest over the Christmas period.