

Arlesdene Nursery School and Pre-school

Newsletter 3

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As I sit composing this newsletter, it has made me realise this is my last newsletter of 2023. It has been another busy term as always at Arlesdene, yet it is always my favourite. Especially hearing children singing, reading festive stories and watching the excitement in their faces when they talk about Christmas.

You'll see this month my newsletter is combined, rather than writing separate Nursery and Pre-school editions, I hope that it this works for you all.

Best wishes for the festive season

Claire Cobain



MaD Awards

Making a Difference

Our MaD award last month went to Lynda Lodge our Lead Teacher, Lynda works extremely hard for all the children across the school and this months award was 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.

Nursery & Rainbow



Nativity

Nursery's nativity took place last week for the first time at our local scout hut. We were extremely lucky to be able to use this venue and I'm sure those that were there will agree what a perfect venue it was.

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.

Rainbow Nativity

Rainbow group also performed some of the nativity songs to their parents last week. It was beautiful to watch the children dancing and moving to the songs and even wearing some traditional costumes.

Thank you for all your contributions towards our hampers, so far we have raised over £200 which will go towards our long term fundraising project of building an outdoor classroom.

Well done to all of our winners in Rainbow, Nursery and Pre-school.

Pre-School

Pre-school update

We read our last core story for this term which was 'Dear Santa' on Monday and Tuesday with the parents coming in to listen and join in with us and the children. It was very successful and lovely to see all parents attending.

We've spent this week making and creating Christmas crafts to take home and share with their families. The children have really enjoyed these activities and shown creativity, using a range of resources and imagination.

Christmas songs have been very successful this week, with children singing beautifully. The children loved being able to use the bells to accompany their singing.

The staff have worked really hard ensuring those that are transitioning up to Nursery have everything they need. This has included playing in the big Nursery garden and staff sharing information about the children moving up.



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 are saying goodbye to **Linda Cummins**, Linda worked with many of our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for many years. She will be sorely missed by everyone and we wish her well for the future.

Craig Nottingham our Pre-school leader has been absent from school this term. Craig is fine and well however will not be returning to Arlesdene. The staff wish him well for the future.

Sally Gasson the Key Person for Snail group in Pre-school is taking a short period of absence due to family needs in the Spring term. Sally's group will be covered by Maria Hammond and Shalina Phillpott, a letter has been sent to Snail group with more details.

Ellie Clark who joined us in October will become a Senior Early Years Practitioner and key Person for Butterfly group in Pre-school from January.

Hayleigh Wigg will be joining Pre-school every afternoon from January as we welcome more children in the afternoons.

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 Monday 8th January 2024.

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

A bio from the Governors

I became a Co-opted Governor for Arlesdene in 2022. My role as a Governor is focussed on safeguarding/CLA in addition to staff and children's wellbeing. Vocationally, I am a doctor based at The Princess Alexandra Hospital, where I currently work in paediatrics with a specialist interest in dermatology.

I moved from Somerset to London in 2002 to train as a classical pianist at music college. I then taught the piano as a peripatetic teacher for over a decade at primary and secondary schools as well as privately. In 2017, I made the decision to go back into education and studied Medicine at The University of Nottingham.

Ben Shepherd