



6<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year. I hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas. Thank you so much for all of your gifts and cards they were very much appreciated.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to all of our new parents and children who are starting Kindergarten with us this term.

#### What we have been learning

Last term we enjoyed the book 'Dear Zoo'. The children enjoyed lots of fun activities based around the story including: writing our own letters to the zoo; using our vet's role play area; making zoos out of play dough; etc. The children enjoyed telling the story themselves using puppets and soon became very familiar with the language used in the story. The story also encouraged the children to engage in discussion about their own pets, favourite animals and their experiences of visiting zoos/wildlife centres.



The children's interest in the story 'Dear Zoo' was extended when we enjoyed the book 'Dear Santa'. Linked to this we had a great time making our Christmas cards and decorations. Santa even came to visit and brought some presents for us all to share at Kindergarten. These were knights to play with in our castle, some animals and new car garage. We shall enjoy playing with them this term.



### What we will be learning this term

We will be learning all about winter this term through a range of activities including: making snowflakes; playing with pretend snow (maybe real if we're lucky!); making igloos; etc. The story we are going to be focussing on will be 'We're Going on a Penguin Hunt' which I have attached if you wish to tell/act out the story with your child at home. We will be learning the story through a method called 'Story Making'. I have attached information on the benefits of 'Story Making' for you to read.

We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year in February and enjoying activities linked to this.

### Sharing information

As many of you will have already seen we have now started using a digital photo frame in the annexe. This shows photographs of the children enjoying a range of activities throughout the day. We will take different pictures daily and I hope seeing the photos will give you a better idea of the fun things your child experiences at Kindergarten.

In the previous newsletter I attached a link to some information on the Early Years Foundation Stage (the framework which we follow) which explained different areas of learning and how development within these areas can be encouraged. There are now paper copies of these documents for you to borrow should you wish. Please let me know and I will lend you a copy.

I will be putting together 'links with home' sheets which will encourage you and your child to participate in fun activities at home linked to a specific area. The focus this term will be on maths. If you could complete the challenge and let us know how you got on that would be great. The information will go in your child's learning journal and will be used by your child's key person to gain a wider picture of your child's development.

We will be holding parents evenings on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February where you will get a chance to speak to your child's key person, as well as myself, about your child's learning and development at Kindergarten. I will put up lists with time slots nearer to the time.

### Parent's information session

I am going to be holding a parents information session on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February between 4-5pm. The information session will explain how we implement the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum at Kindergarten as well as providing ways to develop children's communication and language development as supported by the Every Child a Talker (EcaT project).

**The information session is for adults only.**

### Items from home

Please avoid sending toys in from home unless they are for comfort purposes (these can be kept in your child's bag and accessed as necessary, just let a member of staff know). The children often misplace their toys or they prevent them from playing with and sharing our Kindergarten toys. We will be discussing this during circle times with the children so they are aware of why it's best to keep their toys at home!

Please remember that I am always available if you have any concerns or queries.

Kind regards

Gemma Howie

(Lead Practitioner)