

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read our December newsletter! November was a wonderful month, the children have been busy learning, exploring, and having lots of fun. Take a look at some of the highlights from last month, as well as the exciting things we have planned for December.

This month

This month we begin our festive celebrations. We have lots planned and are super excited to begin singing and dancing to Christmas songs, getting crafty and making cards, tree decorations and more.

In December, we will be inviting all families and children to bring their own special tree decoration to place upon our nursery Christmas tree.



We are excited to welcome a surprise visitor on 3rd December. A very special Elf, all the way from the North Pole, will be paying a visit to all the children and delivering some exciting news as well as having some musical and magical fun.

Don't forget to pick up your copy of our Dates for the Diary and keep yourself in the know about all the upcoming events!

What we have been up to...

Hedgehogs have been exploring autumn in its element. The babies have been spending time outside in the garden, collecting and exploring all the natural items they can find – from big leaves to pinecones. We have been using these findings and adding them to our natural treasure basket within the room.

Butterflies have been enriching their environment with new resources, including an exciting role play space to explore. The new space offers a more authentic approach to imaginative play, having added in natural resources for the children to get creative with.



Our **Little Toads** have been having roar-some fun during this month's Dinosaur Week. The children explored a variety of fun and exciting activities such as dinosaur footprint printing, dinosaur playdough, exploring a natural themed tray, fossil digging in the sand and hatching their very own baby dinosaur.

Owls celebrated Bonfire Night by creating their own firework pictures using glue and a variety of different coloured sand and glitter. The children also made their own firework patterns in the coloured sand, by using paintbrushes to make their own firework display. The children discussed how to keep safe around a bonfire or when watching fireworks.



Parent Notices

As the Christmas season approaches, we kindly ask parents to inform us of any upcoming holiday dates. Having this information in advance helps us with our planning for the festive period. Thank you very much for your cooperation and support.



Staff updates

We would like to congratulate Libby as she celebrates her 5 years of hard work with Toad Hall!

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 3 rd December	Elf Visiting from the North Pole
Friday 5 th December	Mince Pie & Coffee Morning
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 25 th December	Nursery Closes for Christmas Period
Friday 2 nd January 2026	Nursery Opens

We want to take this opportunity to wish all the children, parents and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



We look forward to seeing you all in 2026!

Recipe of the Month – Parsnip, Butterbean & Apple Soup

(Serves 4-6)



Ingredients

Parsnips - (peeled & diced) - 500g
Potatoes (chopped) - 3
Onion - (roughly diced) - 1 whole
Carrot - (roughly diced) - 2 whole
Garlic clove - (chopped) - 4 cloves
Butterbeans - 1 can
Apples (cored and chopped) - 2 whole
Veg Stock - 1 cube
Rosemary - 1 tsp

Method

1. In a large pan, sweat the onions and garlic until cooked (but with no colour) in a bit of butter.
2. Add the carrots, potatoes and parsnips and apples.
3. Fill the pan with water to a level just above the vegetables.
4. Add butterbeans.
5. Bring back to the boil and then allow to simmer until all the ingredients are soft.
6. Blend to a smooth consistency.
7. Serve with half a baguette.