

## Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read our December newsletter! This month, we are pleased to welcome Jordan from our Woking team, who will be supporting the Ottershaw nursery. We are incredibly proud of the way our nurseries work together as one family, and this support ensures that the children can continue to enjoy a calm, well-staffed, and nurturing environment every day.

*"Hello, my name is Jordan, I have been a part of the Toad Hall family for 9 years, starting as a Nursery Assistant and working my way up to Team Leader. I really look forward to meeting all of you and continuing to provide the children with a safe, nurturing environment."*



## What's to come...

December will be full of Christmas spirit as we prepare for the festive season!

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of December** - Christmas Jumper Day. Please come to nursery in a festive jumper and join in the fun.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of December** - Children's Christmas Dinner.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of December** - Christmas Party Day. Please come to nursery dressed in your festive wear!

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of December** - Pyjama day at nursery.

## What we have been up to...

### Hedgehogs

This month in Hedgehogs we have enjoyed lots of autumn activities. We especially enjoyed our *Dear Zoo* tuff tray looking for the animals. We had a cosy Pyjama Day for Children In Need and made some Pudsey Bear hats. We will now be focusing on Christmas activities, making crafts and singing Christmas songs. We cannot wait for our Christmas party!

### Little Toads and Owls

In Little Toads and Owls, we have been learning all about autumn, we have been exploring various tuff trays based around autumn and discussing the changing seasons. The children have enjoyed lots of craft activities including leaf rubbing, pinecone printing and making our own winter warmer soup, using various materials including, citrus water, gloop and paint.

In December, we will be doing lots of Christmas activities, reading Christmas stories and singing lots of Christmas songs to get into the festive spirit.

# Parent Notices

## Children's clothing

Please ensure that the children are provided with weather appropriate clothing now that it is getting colder. Can we ask that this clothing is clearly named.

## Children's collection

A friendly reminder that if somebody else is collecting your child, please remember we need prior consent from the parent. We will also need a photo of the person collecting and a password that they can provide at pick up time.

## Christmas party

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, we are hosting a Christmas party at the nursery. Parents are invited to join their children 3pm-5pm on the day. Please come dressed Christmassy.

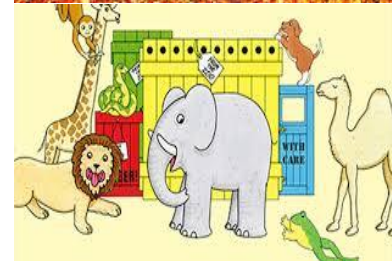
## Dates for your diary 🎄

Date	Event
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (families welcome)
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Pyjama Day for Christmas Eve!

## Extend learning at home

Here are some ideas on how you can extend the children's learning at home:

- Washing animals in a bowl of soapy, warm water, encourage the children to clean them before sending them back to the zoo. This is great for developing fine motor skills and sensory play.
- Go on a walk and look at the different resources you can collect that are autumnal themed. This supports the children with noticing changes and developing language by introducing descriptive words.



## 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.

Kind Regards

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