



Hollybank Pre-School News Sheet

December 2019

Topic & Concept - Christmas/Post Person - Full & Empty

Colours - Red & Green / Shape - Star / Number - 4

Welcome to the last News Sheet of 2019, the last few months have passed so quickly and the children are now all well settled into the school daily routines and looking forward to a special visitor on the 25th!!

This year our Pre-School Nativity features Mr Hullabaloo and is being held on **Wednesday 11th December at 11.30am** in the main assembly hall, if you haven't been before you are in for a treat! The Junior School will be performing their Christmas Cracker for family and friends just before we begin so entrance will only begin at 11.20am

Please come and join us, show the children your support, it is very much a family activity with Mr Hullabaloo providing us with great interaction and entertainment.

Only one November Birthday celebration last month, Zak who joins our Fantastic Four Club got to wear the Birthday Hat, we all joined in singing Happy Birthday and had some delicious cake!

Each year we invite Mum, Dad or Granny or another available family member to come into the Pre-School to produce a decorated Christmas Log with their child, all resources will be provided and we would love you to join the fun;

The **Art & Craft activity will take place on Thursday 5th December at 11.00am in the Art Room.** Just to clarify, they are WOODEN logs. :-) If you are unable to attend due to other commitments please do not worry as we will have additional adults on duty to assist the children.

November was another very busy month, we received a visit from Amanda from the Library and Jo Jingles proved to be very popular with the children when she also came to visit.

Jump Jiggle & Jive is coming for a visit after Christmas to share some interactive physical movement with dance and music, again to encourage the children to become more physically active and have lots of fun at the same time.

We will have completed our Wiggle Walk certificates shortly and all the children will receive a small prize for this achievement.

We have also an outing to Woodgreen Residential home which incorporates a Jo Jingles session with some of our older folk. Both the young and old join together to raise awareness of the importance of taking time to share experiences. Such an opportunity gives both generations a chance to develop both social and emotional skills and has many benefits for all concerned.



"The Big Man in Red" will also be making an appearance in the Pre-School and the children will each receive a gift and resulting photographs will be sent home. We are hoping this will take place during the Christmas Party on the 19th, however the date has still to be confirmed as he gets very, very busy at this time of year! I will keep you posted via See Saw.

We will be holding our annual Christmas Prize Draw, tickets £1.00 each on sale from Monday, December 9th, as always funds raised will go straight back into purchasing resources for your children in the pre-school. You never know you could end up winning a lovely prize, whilst supporting your child's Pre-School. The prize will be on display outside our classroom and more details send home again via See Saw.

TOPICS - Post person/Christmas - we will be chatting about who delivers our letters, where we go to post them as well as having our own post box, letters and post person costume. Christmas of course will be top of the agenda and we will be asking the children to share thoughts and experiences about this magical time of the year, at the same time reminding them of why we celebrate Christmas.

CONCEPT - Empty & Full - the children will be given opportunities to fill/empty various shapes/sizes of containers within the sand and water areas. Everyone will be encouraged to discuss what they observe and learned about the differences of Comparing/capacity and increasing mathematical understanding and vocabulary.

COLOURS - Red & Green - to coincide with the holiday season we have two colours this month — these are very visible in all surroundings and various locations at this time of year.

SHAPE - Star - again very prominent this time of year and easy to help children identify on our tree top, and of course in our Christmas songs and stories.

NUMBER - 4 - this carries on our number learning base and the children are quick to realise that this is their current age or one they will be celebrating on their next birthday.

STORY TIME - we will be reading many Christmas Stories such as, The Night before Christmas, Christmas Mice, Little Red Robin and Postman Pat Tales.

CRAFTS - Christmas themed, we have already began our preparation for seasonal wreaths and baubles (watch for these on display in the assembly hall) and will also be making some snowmen, Christmas cards and 3D trees.

MUSIC - As usual the children are encouraged to enjoy self-expression through movement and dance, to enjoy rhythm and using a range of musical instruments. We will be singing a range of songs and rhymes during the month including Frosty the Snowman, Four Little Robins, Jingle Bells and the children's particular favourite Twinkle, Twinkle.

The Story Sacks are still being distributed and some wonderful drawings of the children's favourite characters from the stories are being produced. They will not be given out from week commencing 2nd December until the new year, however during November we added some Christmas themed books to increase the Christmas Spirit! Please send in some photographs of your child being read a story from the Story Bag; these are wonderful to share with the Education Authority to demonstrate your participation in the scheme in order to keep it operating in the future. Please return promptly each Friday for preparation and redistribution on Monday morning.

December Calendar Dates

Wednesday 4th - Rathcoole Library - Rhythm & Rhyme Session

Thursday 5th - Parent Art & Craft - Christmas Logs
(Beginning at 11.00am)

Monday 9th - Christmas Ballot Tickets go on sale £1.00 for 5

Wednesday 11th-Nativity - Beginning at 11.30am
(Lasts approximately 1 hour)

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER-PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED
(Primary School building being used as Polling Station)

Wednesday 18th - Jo Jingles Visit to Pre-School

Thursday 19th - SANTA VISIT & CHRISTAMS P-A-R-T-Y!!!
(Children can wear whatever they wish!!)

Friday 20th - Last day of term.

School Begins again on Monday 6th January 2020

You will see our various displays, corridors/main school hall have become decorated with the children's wonderful representations, please take time to view the masterpieces when in the building and chat to your child about their achievements. I will keep sending photographs of the children and their activities each month via SeeSaw for you to enjoy.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the staff Edith, Leah and myself to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in 2020 ☺

Lorraine Brier

Pre-School Leader



****APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY ONE AND THE PRE-SCHOOL ARE NOW ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY WEBSITE. INFORMATION IS ALSO SUPPLIED OF CLOSING DATES****

THE EA PORTAL OPENS ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020 AT 12.00NOON.