

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
2017**

It feels as though we have all been back for ages but Happy New Year to all our children and families! There has been a lot going on at Eastwood despite snow, frost, ice and rain!

Training Day

We used our time effectively on our Training Day on January 3rd with small groups undertaking Paediatric First Aid, Food Hygiene, Safeguarding and Communication & Language. The feedback from the various courses was very positive and our learning will help us to ensure children are safe and well at nursery.

Learning at Eastwood

You should soon either see your child's class plan for the term on display or have had it emailed to you. There is quite a science focus this term with 'This is Me'; 'What if?'; 'Investigation' and 'We Will Experiment and Investigate'. We have lots of ideas from a recent INSET training day on science in the early years!



Blossom Room



Our youngest children have shown a real interest in naming and pointing to body parts and for that reason they have been helped to create a display

board, using their body parts on templates of children in different stages in movement. Blossom room are also setting up a 'This Is Me' board with the family photos that are being sent in. Although the photos were initially for the children's books, we have now printed 2 copies so that all children will have a family photo on display in the room. This is really important for children to feel confident and secure within their nursery environment. It is also a great way for children to reflect and to develop communication.

The Blossom Room children have also been enjoying the snow (the little that we had) and have been outdoors and encouraged to feel the snow on their hands and tongues! After being outside in the cold they all came inside for a story and a hot chocolate. The children then made a 'Snowy footprints' picture which they really enjoyed!

Willow Room

The children have had a busy time in Willow Room making an animal habitat, talking about what animals eat and



making leaf collages to develop their understanding of the world around them. They have also been counting how many elephants are hidden in ice when it melts- helping the children to learn number names and develop their skills in counting. Outside we have had an exciting obstacle course which all the children enjoyed walking along, balancing and jumping off. Billy bear had an exciting weekend staying with one of our children (thank you for writing in his diary).

We have also had Forest School outings and a Jabadao (Developmental Movement Play) session which all the children enjoyed.

Cedar Class

It has been an exciting week with all of the children getting involved with a range of opportunities related to our 'Investigation' topic.

New groups of children also started their sessions of Forest School and Jabadao.



Cedar Class also now have two confirmed visits booked to the Science Museum on February 21st and March 2nd. This is really exciting and will be a great opportunity for the children to extend their knowledge on lots of different scientific topics.

In addition the children have been involved in the following opportunities this week:

- *Making tiny dens for small animal puppets and climbing and balancing at Forest School.
- *Using ribbon sticks and exploring movement in Jabadao
- *Investigating what happens when vinegar and bicarbonate of soda are mixed, which then led to making playdough volcanoes and erupting these.
- *Caring for babies, washing and dressing the dolls and lots of the children also had fun feeding them with custard powder and baby bottles.
- *Using sensory bags to talk about what we think is inside and describes what things feel like.
- *Painting self-portraits talking about how we are all similar and different.

Maple Class

Maple Class had a good change round at the start of term and as a result the children have re-discovered the woodwork area. They have been taking great care to use tools and a range of wood to create their designs- vehicles with moving wheels are a favourite! Forest School groups are taking place- one group in a particularly heavy rain shower! Well done for being resilient! The children have also started some regular movement and drama sessions upstairs in the training room with Fani. These sessions have been used to find out more about emotions and the language we use to describe them.

Beech Class

There have been some very impressive and detailed drawings emerging from the children - perhaps inspired by our 'Everybody Draw Together' workshops for parents and children. They have also been making clothes and costumes out of paper, making music by drumming out rhythms and using technology to find out what is inside our bodies.

The children have also joined with the hard-working adults in improving the outdoor area! They have tidied the orchard, helped to move our giant goldfish tank and sorted and classified materials as we make a brand new bug hotel!

Chestnut Class

The children are coming in with increasing confidence and independence, many of them are now able to say 'good morning' or 'hi' when they arrive- which we really appreciate. The children have been benefiting from getting deeply

involved in Ann's movement sessions with them based on the principles of Jabadeo- and they have been learning and participating in a range of new songs and rhymes. We have noticed that the children are very interested in books- they have clear favourites and enjoy sharing them with each other.

Children's Centre

Check our website and leaflets in the entrance area for our new Children's Centre Programme. For parents we have a brand new group 'Enjoying Time with your Child' as well as 'Share Family Learning' and a new ESOL class exclusively for Children's Centre families. There is the usual range of Play and Learn sessions for children and parents to have fun and learn together and Fantastic Twos! Do call in for more information!

Fantastic Two's

Welcome to Eastwood for our new cohort of Fantastic Two's who started on 17th January in our recently revamped Play and Learn room! The children (and their parents) took part in a range of activities and play experiences, had a snack and singing time together. Rachel and Rob are looking forward to getting to know the children really well over the next 6 sessions.

Safety on our site

Please remember that our Disabled parking bays are only for use by vehicles with the appropriate badge or permission of Eastwood or another agency on site.



At times we have a large number of families with very young disabled children so we do need to keep the spaces reserved just for them. There are normally spaces to park up at the back of the site. Please never leave your car running and never leave a child in the car unattended.

Everyone Draw Together

A big thank you to all parents and carers that came to our 'Everyone Draw Together' sessions before Christmas.



We are thinking of arranging more of these sessions in the future. The 'Everyone Draw Together' sessions are a great way of getting involved in your child's learning and experiencing working together. Look out for dates of the next session in the newsletter!