



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter September 2019

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests & Autumn**

This month's Value: **Caring**

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2019

We hope that you have all had a good summer and are ready for an exciting new term at Caldecote Day Nursery.

This September we have several changes and new initiatives based on feedback from our annual parent questionnaires and a drive to raise standards, providing your child with the best start to their education...

- There are some staff changes as Alice moves from Babies to Toddlers and Sam moves from Toddlers to Babies.
- Carola has been appointed Club Caldecote Leader.
- We have revised 'Stay and Play' as an overwhelming majority of you felt it was a great idea, but just not feasible to get to in the working day. We will now be offering three 'Stay and Play' sessions that will take place on a Saturday morning. The dates of these are as follows:
 - **Saturday 7th December; 10am-12pm**
 - **Saturday 28th March; 10am-12pm**
 - **Saturday 4th July; 10am-12pm**
- We hope that by offering these sessions on a Saturday, more of our working families will be able to make the sessions. Staff will be on hand for an informal chat, but our main aim is for your children to lead the way, show you where and how they learn and take part in some engaging activities.
- We have moved away from having a monthly learning theme to be able to be more responsive to the interests of the children. We will continue to have a Value that we focus on each month, and we will still cover seasonal themes and events, but will focus much more of the interests of the children and let them lead the learning.
- Following our redevelopment last year, we are continuing our drive to raise standards and provide children with challenging, learning experiences where we can promote awe, wonder and curiosity in a calm and nurturing environment. To aid us in this task, in May 2019, we embarked on an accreditation programme with **The Curiosity Approach** who will support us on the journey. Over the next twelve months, we aim to continue to transform the setting by developing our use of natural resources, authentic materials, loose parts and culturally diverse artefacts. This is a journey that we hope you will join us on! More details can be found on our website and in a separate attachment to this newsletter.



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Safeguarding: Coats in Car Seats

Please consider the danger you may be putting your child in when travelling in the car this Autumn / Winter.

The temperature is beginning to drop outside, and children are being bundled up in thicker winter coats and to keep them snug and warm in the colder weather. But did you know that you are supposed to remove your child's coat before you strap them into their car seat, and not doing so may put them in danger?

Leaving your child's coat on in the car is a problem because it creates a gap between your child and their safety harness. In a collision, the harness isn't as close to your child's body as it needs to be to allow it to properly restrain them. To keep your children safe in the car, remove their coats and jackets and pull the harness tight enough that you can just get two fingers between your child and the straps.

Children will still feel a chill when they first get in the car so to keep them warm, remove children's coats and jackets, and strap them into their car seat properly - then tuck a blanket around them. Your child will be able to remove the blanket if they get too hot, which they cannot do when they have their coat on, this can lead to them overheating.

Home Learning Ideas

Here are some ideas you could try with your child this month...

Put on a pair of wellies and splash in some puddles together.

Take a walk and look at how the season is changing. What do you notice?

Collect some leaves and make holes in them with a hole punch. Use a lace or ribbon to thread through them.

Use chalks to draw pictures outside and talk about what happens when the rain washes them away.

Visit the library and share some books. Talk about the characters and predict what might happen next.

Try making a Blackberry and Apple Loaf. The recipe is on this newsletter. Let us know how it tastes!

Don't forget to send us a photo of your home learning with the ParentZone Partnership in your Pocket

Autumn Term 2019 Dates for your diary...

Term Time Only children return on Monday 9th September

Harvest Donations - 7th – 11th October

NSPCC Pantosaurus Week - 14th – 18th October

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 25th October

Term Time Only children return on Monday 4th November

Children in Need Week – 11th – 15th November

Baby Parent Meetings – 19th November (By appointment)

Toddler Parent Meetings – 20th November (By appointment)

Pre-School Parent Meetings – 21st November (By appointment)

Christmas Stay & Play – 7th December; 10am-12pm

Pre-School Christmas Concert – 10th December; 2pm

Pre-School Christmas Concert – 11th December; 10am

Nursery Christmas Parties – 13th December (Times TBC)

Christmas Jumper Day – 13th December

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 20th December

Christmas Closure – Tuesday 24th December; 4pm

We re-open at 8am – Thursday 2nd January 2020



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'We have been learning about...' The Seaside'



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This month's seasonal recipe to try at home...

Blackberry & Apple Loaf



Ingredients:

250g self-raising flour
175g butter
175g light muscovado sugar
½ tsp cinnamon
2 rounded tbsp demerara sugar
1 small eating apple
, such as Cox's, quartered (not cored or peeled)
2 large eggs
beaten
1 orange
finely grated zest
1 tsp baking powder
225g blackberries



1. Preheat the oven to 180C / gas 4 / fan 160C. Butter and line the bottom of a 1.7 litre loaf tin
2. In a large bowl, rub the flour, butter and muscovado sugar together with your fingers to make fine crumbs. Measure out 5 level tbsp of this mixture into a small bowl for the topping and mix in the cinnamon and demerara sugar. Set aside.
3. Coarsely grate the apple down to the core and mix in with the eggs and the zest. Stir the baking powder into the rubbed-in mixture in the large bowl, then quickly and lightly stir in the egg mixture until it drops lightly from the spoon. Don't overmix.
4. Gently fold in three quarters of the berries with a metal spoon, trying not to break them up. Spoon into the tin and level. Scatter the rest of the berries on top. Sprinkle over the topping and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes - 1 hour 20 minutes. Check after 50 minutes and cover loosely with foil if it is browning too much. When done the cake will feel firm, but test with a skewer.
5. Leave in the tin for 30 minutes before turning out, then cool on a wire rack. Peel off the paper before cutting. Will keep wrapped in foil or in a tin for up to 2 days.



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