



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter December 2020

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

This month's Value: **Sharing**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children's wellbeing is paramount for us at nursery. Here are some important safety messages for this time of year...

Make sure your tree is flameproof: If you're purchasing an artificial tree, check the packaging to make sure it is fire resistant; if you're having a live tree, bear in mind that chemical sprays to prevent needle-drop may be flammable.

Buy your live tree as late as possible and check it for freshness: A fresh tree is green, its needles are hard to pull from the branches and when bent between your fingers, the needles don't break. The trunk should be sticky with resin, and when you tap it on the ground the tree shouldn't shed many needles.

Position it carefully: When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and don't block doorways.

Check all tree lights before hanging them on your tree, even if you've just purchased them: Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.

Avoid lights on a metallic tree: Never use electric lights on a metallic tree - the tree could become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house: There's a risk they could short out and start a fire.

Stick to flame-resistant decorations: Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens: Always use non-flammable holders and place candles where they won't be knocked over.

Take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable: Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces and avoid trimmings that resemble sweets or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.

Remove wrapping paper, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened: These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child, or can cause a fire if near flame.

Don't burn gift wrap in the fireplace: A flash fire may result, as wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Covid – 19

We are continually risk assessing and following the government guidelines relating to covid-19. As we make changes to our operational plan, we will let you know.

Please remember: If your child or someone in your household has:

- a new, continuous cough,
- a high temperature,
- loss of taste or smell,

You must not attend nursery under any circumstance.

You must contact 111, get tested immediately and inform us of the outcome as a matter of urgency. If we suspect that your child has covid-19, you will be asked to collect them immediately, contact 111 and get tested.

If the outcome is negative, you and your child may return to nursery. If the outcome is positive, you will need to follow the 'Stay at Home' guidance as issued by the government.



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TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY



Tempest Photography have now sent most of the orders, however, they have not sent the complimentary photographs, as they had promised to do. We are aware of the situation and Tempest have informed us that they are being sent as soon as possible.

If your order is incomplete or you are not satisfied, please contact Tempest directly.

Home Learning Ideas

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

Take a walk in your locality and look at some Christmas lights – talk about the colours and shapes.

Make a Christmas card or picture for someone in your family or neighbourhood to cheer them up.

Do you have a Christmas tradition in your family? If you do not, start a new one. It might be to do with some celebration food, decorations or playing a favourite game.

Talk about why sharing is important. Sharing with our family and those who are not as lucky as us.

Use our 'Stay Home & Play' goodie bag and have some fun!

Try making our seasonal recipe of the month! Send us a photo of your efforts via ParentZone!

Don't forget to send us a photo of your home learning via ParentZone.



ParentZone



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Don't forget your Christmas jumper on Friday 11th December. Please also remember your £1 donation for Save The Children.



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Autumn Term 2020 Dates for your diary...

Christmas Stay & Play – 5th December – At home!

Pre-School Christmas Concerts – 7th – 10th December - Via ParentZone

Christmas Jumper Day – 11th December; all day, in aid of Save The Children

Babies Christmas Parties – 15th December; 9:30-11am & 1:30-3pm

Toddlers Christmas Parties – 16th December; 9:30-11am & 1:30-3pm

Pre-School Christmas Parties – 17th December; 9:30-11am & 1:30-3pm

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 18th December

Christmas Closure – Wednesday 23rd December; 6pm

(Please note that we are not open on Christmas Eve this year. Our staff are having a well-deserved rest, taking the time to be with their families.)

We re-open at 8am – Monday 4th January 2021

Thank you for supporting Children In Need. We raised £100 to help children in the UK.





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Stay & Play – Saturday 5th December would have been our 'Stay & Play' session for families to attend nursery, spend time with children in their room and have an informal chat with staff. Due to Covid 19, we are sadly unable to offer this in the usual way. However, to still celebrate with our families, your child will receive a 'Stay Home & Play' bag this week. In the bag are lots of festive craft materials so you and your child can 'Stay Home & Play' instead. Please send us some photographs via ParentZone, on our Staff & Parents of Caldecote Day Nursery Facebook page or email so we can see what you have all been up to! Enjoy!

Christmas Parties – Each room will have an allocated 'party day' where children can come dressed up in festive or party clothes. We will hold two parties on that day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) so if your child does not usually attend nursery, you can sign them up to one of the time slots, at no additional charge. This will ensure that we do not have too many children in the building at any one time and minimise the number of parents dropping off and picking up. Days and times are as follows:

- Babies – Tuesday 15th December; 9:30-11:00am or 1:30-3:00pm**
- Toddlers – Wednesday 16th December; 9:30-11:00am or 1:30-3:00pm**
- Pre-School – Thursday 17th December; 9:30-11:00am or 1:30-3:00pm**



If your child usually attends nursery on their allocated party day, you do not need to sign them up separately, they will already be included in the fun – perhaps even twice!

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

Cheesy Christmas Stars



Ingredients:

- 320g puff pastry sheet
- A mugful of grated cheese (we mixed 60g cheddar with 25g parmesan)
- flour, for dusting
- 2 tbsp milk
- 3 toppings of your choice (poppy seeds, dried oregano and sesame seeds)



Method

1. Unroll the pastry and sprinkle most of the cheese over one half of the sheet. Fold the pastry in half to cover the cheese and seal it in.
2. Dust your rolling pin and work surface with a little flour and put your pastry sheet on it. Roll it out until doubled in size.
3. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and line two baking sheets with baking parchment.
4. Using cookie cutters, cut the pastry into shapes and put them on the prepared baking sheets. (Put the cutters on the dough close together so that less pastry is wasted. You can fold the trimmings back on themselves and re-roll to cut out more shapes.)
5. Brush the shapes with milk and add a pinch of cheese and a sprinkling of your chosen topping, if using.
6. Bake in the oven for 10-12 mins or until risen and golden, then transfer to a serving plate. Will keep in an airtight container for 3 days.



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Our November Learning!



We have made the decision not to use the Christmas post boxes this year as we do not feel it is safe to send cards between families. However, if you and your child wish to send a card to the room your child is based in, we can safely look at these together, during circle time and then put them on display for the children to see.



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Our Wraparound Care (Club Caldecote) will be suspended at the end of term (Thursday 17th December 2020) for the foreseeable future.

We will still be offering our holiday club service throughout the school holidays. Details of these sessions will be published on our website and Facebook pages prior to holiday periods. I hope that you and your children will continue to use this facility as and when needed.

Christmas & New Year at Club Caldecote

Monday 21st December 2020 – Monday 4th Jan 2021



	Monday 21 st December 2020	Tuesday 22 nd December 2020	Wednesday 23 rd December 2020	Monday 4 th January 2021
Craft	Bauble decorating 	Christmas art 	Christmas Placemats 	New Year party hats 
Cooking	Hot chocolate & marshmallows 	Banana Pancake Snowmen 	Prepare Christmas Party Food 	Mocktails 
Group	Christmas Karaoke 	Christmas movie 	Charades 	New Year Party 
Physical	Town visit to see decorations 	Caldecott Park 	Christmas Disco 	Caldecott Park 



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As we approach the end of term, we look back and reflect on what a year it has been... In January 2020, who could have predicted what was to come and how it would have had such an impact on all our lives?

We have all been affected by COVID-19 in some way, big or small and have all had to make adaptations to our daily lives. There have been so many celebrations and events that we have not been able to mark properly this year; Stay & Play sessions, Pre-School Graduation, Sport's Day and Christmas concerts, but we hope that we have made this year special for all your children.

It has been a tricky year for all of us and we just wanted to take the time to thank you all for your continued support. Whether you have stuck with us through the lockdown, left and come back or recently joined the nursery, you are part of the Caldecote community and your encouragement, kindness and patience has meant a lot to us all.

2020 marked our 25th birthday; a fantastic milestone and an achievement that we are hugely proud of. We would not have reached this if it had not been for our hardworking, diligent, and loyal staff. We thank you all for your incredible adaptability, dedication, and good humour through the past nine months! We would not be where we are if it were not for the strength of the team.

And a special thanks to the children. In a unique and unprecedented year, you have all amazed us with your confidence, resilience, and strong friendships with each other. You truly are amazing!

Here is hoping that 2021 is far less eventful and brings hope for us all to an end to this pandemic.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
Love Mariana & Pamela.



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