



December Newsletter

Hardmoor Early Years Centre

The Woodland Nursery on the edge of the city

“Children learn as they play.

Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.”



Community Support

As we head towards the end of the year we have some exciting things to share with you. On Thursday 7th December we held our Hardmoor Christmas Jumper day in support of local families in and around the Parish of St Albans.



Nichola and Ian then took all the amazing donations we had received from our parents to the church who were very grateful to all who contributed.

Christmas Craft Morning

We had the most amazing turn out for our Christmas Craft morning with nearly 50 families joining us. The morning was finished off with the parents, children and staff joining in with singing Christmas songs around the Christmas tree. We were thrilled to have raised over £170 to go towards buying some new trowels and forks for the children to use in our allotment. Thankyou for your fabulous support.



Outdoor Learning

We have employed Sally Backwell to lead our outdoor learning sessions. Over the last few weeks Sally has been getting to know the children and staff as well as spending time getting to know the outdoor areas and plan the implementation of an outdoor timetable from January. All the children will be

spending time in the allotments and woods using the natural environment to enhance and extend learning opportunities following our Outdoor Curriculum.

Parent Working Party

On Saturday the 27th January from 10.00-12.00 we will be holding a parent working party event to give the allotment and beds a Winter tidy up. We would love you and your children to join us for the morning with your garden tools to help us with this.

Early Bird Sessions

Just a quick reminder to you all that from January we will have some availability to offer a 7.30am start for our families. The cost for this additional half hour is as follows: Under 3 yrs old is £3.50, over 3 yrs old £3.30. If you are interested in extending your child's day to include this please collect a change of contract form from the office.

News around the rooms...

Rabbits

The Babies have enjoyed spending lots of time outside exploring the different weathers. They have especially enjoyed heading out in their puddle suits and splashing in the muddy puddles! We have spent time collecting the leaves, putting them into a big pile and kicking them around. At the beginning of the term we looked at fireworks and then danced around with ribbons to music. We have spent lots of time this last month getting ready for christmas. We practiced songs for the Christmas craft morning, we made a little surprise for all of our parents, enjoyed exploring different decorations and dressing up in our Christmas outfits.



Hedgehogs

It has been a very busy month in Hedgehog room. We have been exploring with gloop and finding out that it can appear to be both a solid and a liquid. We have been enjoying the outside by jumping in puddles, digging in the sand and filling buckets to make sandcastles!



The children have been demonstrating their developing control with their fine motor skills, carefully building tower with wooden blocks. They have been practising their large mark making movements when engrossed in the free painting activity at the table using paintbrushes and their hands too.

Foxes

Over the last few weeks, the children have been doing lots of different activities to do with shapes. We went on a shape hunt, we played with the 2D and 3D shapes making pictures and we made shape pictures by drawing around the shapes. We have done lots of activities about Autumn and the leaves falling off the trees including collecting leaves and making a picture with them. We have been implementing our new Pip and Pap Phonics Scheme, reading stories about Pip and Pap and the adventures they get up to on the farm. This has been helping us to develop our phonemic awareness.



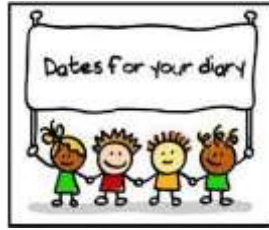
And finally...

We would like to thank you all for your continued support of the centre and to wish you, your children and wider families a very restful and peaceful seasonal break.



Queries and Enquiries

If you have any queries or enquiries about your child, please email reception@hardmoor.co.uk and your query will be answered.



- **Centre is closed for all children Monday 25th December – Monday 1st January 2024.**
- Tuesday 2nd January – Day Care children and New Starter children only
- Centre reopens for all children – Wednesday 3rd January 2024.
- Parent Garden Working Party -Saturday 27th January 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February Spring Half Term
- **23rd February – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.**
- Friday 29th March -Good Friday centre Closed
- Saturday 30th March- Family Easter Egg Hunt (Weather permitting)
- **Monday 1st April- EASTER Monday Centre closed**
- **2nd May – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.**
- **Monday 6th May- Bank Holiday Centre Closed**