

## September 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.”



Welcome to the first newsletter of the Autumn Term. For those of you who took a break in the summer, We hope you had a lovely summer and got the chance to spend time with family and friends. We would like to give a warm welcome to our new families and look forward to getting to know you. We send an equally warm “hello” to our existing families and look forward to continuing to share your child’s learning journey with you.

### Our Staff Team Update

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September we were absolutely thrilled to welcome 7 Early Years L3 Apprentices into the centre to begin their higher level Early Years Training with us. Over the next 14 Months they will be “learning on the job” as well as completing theoretical assignments to underpin their practical knowledge. This is an exciting opportunity for us to move away from temporary agency staff and “grow our own” team to share Hardmoor’s vision, philosophy and pedagogy in order to provide the best care and education for our children and families.



### Our New Logo



In other exciting news, we wanted to involve the children in our new logo and are launching our brand new logo today! Just before the summer break the pre school children were tasked with creating their own version of our Hardmoor logo. The brief the children were given was to design something where they drew themselves playing in the woods. The staff then chose 5 pictures that were given to our Federation graphic designer - David Tomkins. David was able to digitise the children’s work then combine elements together to create the ‘child led’ finished logo. Having received the final version we have been able to get this translated into an embroidered logo which we will be using going forward on our uniforms.

Over the next month the staff will be transitioning from their old green polo’s tops to a beautiful royal blue bearing the new emblem. In order to support families any cover staff will be issued with a blue tabard. We hope that as our staff wearing the uniforms provided, you will be able to clearly identify us as permanent members of the Hardmoor family. The supplier for our uniform is Skoolkit and they are able to offer children’s polo’s shirts and fleeces with this logo for you to purchase should you wish.

## Ofsted



During the last week of term as some of you know we welcomed a team of Ofsted Inspectors into the centre to conduct our long overdue Ofsted Inspection.

The 3 inspectors spent the day with us getting to know what it was like for a child in our centre. They spoke to parents, to staff, to children, as well as spent time in the rooms observing practice. They spoke to senior leaders across the Federation to explore all areas of the provision. It was a very long day, but the children were amazing and wowed the inspectors with their attitude to learning. We were very happy with the outcome and you can see the super comments they made from their observations in the report that will be shared with you shortly.

## O.W.L. - Outdoor Woodland Learning



Our Foxes, Badgers, Hedgehogs and Rabbits have been following and creating safe pathways to explore our wonderful woodland. As we meander our way along the trails, we have been treading carefully to show care and concern for creatures and plants. Lots of the children have been linking their outdoor woodland learning to home and have spoken about foraging for blackberries when out and about with their families. *1,2,3... what can we see... look at all these blackberries!* As we move through Autumn, we will continue to be outside in our garden area planting and preparing the beds for winter veg. We continue to tend to our chickens and thank Mary from Hedgehogs for her thoughtful additions to prevent boredom in the chicken coup. Do not forget the eggs are for sale in the office!



## Rabbits

Things that go.....



This term, our Rabbits will be settling in getting to know the new children and learning the routines of the day. The children will have plentiful opportunities to create, make and follow trails both inside and outside the environment. The children will be focussing on and exploring diggers and trucks. Small world trays will be set up and the children will be able to explore a range of sensory materials such as mud, sand and stones. We will explore sunflowers through playdough and developing our fine motor control as we try to collect the seeds ready to plant for next year.





## Hedgehogs

### 'What's in our treasure basket today?'

This term, our Hedgehogs will be settling in getting to know the new children and learning the routines of the day. They will be taking a 'toddle waddle' around our space to explore our different areas and how they can be used. Heuristic baskets will be in focus as we explore different types of natural materials. When you are out and about with your child – encourage them to spot different natural items. Our rhyme basket will contain key rhymes of the half term such as 'Incy Wincy spider', 'Miss Polly had a dolly', 'Twinkle Twinkle' and 'I had a little turtle'.



## Foxes and Badgers



*BEWARE OF THE BEARS!!*



This term, our Foxes and Badgers will be settling in getting to know the new children and learning the routines of the day. Alongside exploring a range of bear themed books and completing various activities, the children will be focusing on the key text 'The Colour Monster', helping us understand our feelings and emotions and how to express these when we are at Nursery. They will also be focussing on their agility learning different ways to move their bodies.

## Places at Hardmoor

We currently have spaces for children at Hardmoor. If you know anyone that is looking for Nursery places, please pass on our details. We would be delighted to offer them a tour of our centre so that they can see for themselves, what an amazing place Hardmoor is!

## Queries and Enquiries

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



- 5<sup>th</sup> October – Parents Gardening Afternoon
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Cake Sale and Coffee Morning
- 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October – Centre closed to term time only children.
- Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Story Share
- Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November Parent Consultations
- Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Stay and Play
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.
- December – Christmas Craft morning – details to be confirmed.
- End of Term Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Centre is closed for all children Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Centre open for selected groups – details to be confirmed.
- Centre reopens for all children – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.