



November 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.”

What a beautiful Autumnal feel there is around the centre, all the children have been out and about exploring the seasonal changes and looking for signs of Autumn in the trees and plants around the site. The waterproof jackets and trousers that we purchased with the funds we have raised with our fundraising have come into their own allowing the children to get out and about in all weathers allowing them to scuff through the leaves and jump in the puddles.



Our New uniform

I'm sure you will have all seen the lovely new uniforms all the staff are now wearing. The team look incredibly smart and everyone can now easily identify the Hardmoor family members through their uniforms. In the next few days Skoolkit will be adding Hardmoor to their website enabling you to buy uniform for your children should



you wish. This is not an expectation for the centre but I know from experience the benefit of having 'nursery' clothes for my children. When they were little and attending nursery they loved wearing it to be like their key person helping to build positive relationships and a sense of belonging.



As we head towards Christmas, Hardmoor is supporting our local community food project held at St Albans Church. This is open to anyone to attend. In support of the project we will be collecting donations of food to add to the supply offered to those in need. Boxes for you to add your food donation in will be available in reception and near the bases until Monday 11 December 2023.

Illnesses



Now that we are moving into the colder months we have started to notice our normal Winter rise in absence through illness. We appreciate that sometimes it can be confusing as to whether to send your child to nursery or not. The general rule of thumb we go by in the nursery is that if a child is in need of medication such as paracetamol (Calpol) or ibuprofen they are not considered well enough to attend that day. If during the day a child falls ill and we believe they do not appear to be well we will check their temperature and give

you a call if it is raised. As you can appreciate we are not medical experts and will always err on the side of caution as we know how quickly children can deteriorate.

News around the rooms...

Rabbits



The children have enjoyed exploring different vegetables. They used different tools to dig up the vegetables, then used vegetables to paint and pointed out the different shapes and marks they created. They then helped to cut up different vegetables, tried some of them raw and then added them to the pot to make a yummy soup!

This term the children have been enjoying the change in season. We have spent time collecting the different coloured leaves and using them for mark making. We have also taken the children with the small prams to walk around the centre pointing out the different trees. Lastly we have enjoyed getting very messy! We have explored all sorts of different textures, from paint to gloop and slime.

Hedgehogs



It has been a very busy month in Hedgehogs room. The children have been happy exploring their new environment and building strong relationships with the key people in the room. They enjoyed lots of outside play, engaged in group painting activities using big rollers in the garden, looked at some of their favourite books and investigated resources in the water. The children also explored in the woodland. The adult showing them the different pathways that they can safely go along with their peers. Some children also had a go at walking and balancing on the wooden plank with adult support.

Foxes



The children have all settled in really well, enjoying moving around both inside and outside, exploring the woods and allotments. Over the last half term, the children have been investigating lots of lovely new toys in the environment. We have a new cascading water tray outside, which the children have really enjoyed using.

Our topic has been about bears, we have explored the 3 bears story where our book area was turned into the bears cottage. We have been on a bear hunt in the woods and the children have listened to the story then retold it on their own. We have experimented with colour, shape, light and dark when using our new transparent bricks on the light table. We have been working hard on our hand/foot eye coordination with our new balls making up our own game of pass the ball around.



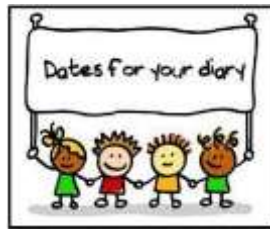
Lastly in the tuff tray the children have been mixing leaves and mud together to make "dinner"

Christmas Shopping Days

Did you know that subject to availability you can book additional Flexi Days for your children? Why not make use of this to plan a Christmas shopping day? To book a space please contact the reception and we will be able to check availability and book a day in for you. From January we have spaces for children at Hardmoor and will be offering a 7.30 am start. 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! If you would like to discuss the opportunity to change your session to a 7.30am start, please contact the office for a change of contract form.

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.



- Week beginning 6th November – Parent Story Share
- Week beginning 20th November Parent Consultations
- Saturday 9th December – Christmas Craft morning – details to be confirmed.
- **14th December – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.**
- End of Term Friday 15th December 2023
- **Centre is closed for all children Monday 25th December – Monday 1st January 2024.**
- Tuesday 2nd January – Centre open for selected groups – details to be confirmed.
- Centre reopens for all children – Wednesday 3rd January 2024.
- 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**
- **Monday 6th May- Bank Holiday Centre Closed**
- **2nd May – INSET Day - Centre Closed for children.**