



## February 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.”

As February unfolds, we extend a warm welcome to the latest edition of our nursery newsletter. In the heart of winter, our little ones continue to fill the centre with warmth and enthusiasm, making each day a delightful adventure of discovery and learning. As we navigate the chilly days, our focus remains on fostering a nurturing environment that embraces both the joy of play and the excitement of educational exploration. We look forward to you joining us in celebrating the achievements and growth of our budding learners, and let the spirit of February inspire us all to learn, laugh, and love in the magical world of Hardmoor.

### Parent Working Party Saturday 17 February

A heartfelt thank you for your incredible support and dedication, during our winter tidy in our garden and allotment areas! Your enthusiasm and willingness to lend a helping hand have truly transformed our outdoor space for our little ones.

The success of the tidy-up day wouldn't have been possible without your collective efforts in clearing, pruning, and sprucing up the garden. Your commitment to creating a safe and inviting environment for our children is truly commendable, and we are immensely grateful for your time and energy.

The collective effort is a testament to the sense of community that defines Hardmoor. Your collaborative spirit not only enhances the physical surroundings but also instils a valuable lesson for our little learners about the importance of teamwork and taking pride in our shared spaces. Sally has been busy helping our children to plant vegetable seeds, ready for germination, modelling key vocabulary linked to planting and growing. We are looking forward to watching our outdoor spaces become places of vibrant colour and new life, as we make our way to the warmer spring months.



## Early Bird Sessions

A brief reminder to you all of our 'Early Birds' provision. We are now able to offer an extension to your child's session, starting at 7:30. The cost for this additional half hour is as follows: Under 3 years old is £3.50, over 3 years old £3.30. If you are interested in extending your child's day to include this, please collect a change of day care contract form from the office.



## News around the rooms...

### Babies



This month we had the opportunity to develop our fine and gross motor skills mixing and exploring the ingredients needed to make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We used our senses as we felt the different textures, smelt the citrusy lemons then tasted some pancakes for our pudding at lunchtime.



Our newest members of the Hardmoor family have been settling in learning about our routines and where to put their things. We have been out in the woods looking for signs of Spring and helping to weed the allotments ready for Spring planting.



We have been exploring the Chinese New Year of the dragon looking at the different colours, traditionally linked with this, learning the difference between red and gold and exploring different textured messy play resources. For Valentine's Day we explored the difference between big and small, red and pink by printing different sized heart shapes.

## Toddlers



The children have been excellent using their imagination in role playing doing some kitchen chores in the home corner, washing up dishes, preparing dinner and giving a baby a bath in the water tray area with bubbles and toy ducks. Exploring in the role play is an important step in helping the children understand the world around them by linking the real experiences they encounter at home to the play opportunities at nursery.

A small group of children had a fun time listening and dancing to their favourite nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes are the beginnings of phonemic awareness, they help the children to learn to tune into words, experience things such as rhyme, rhythm and beat. Dancing together helps the children understand spatial awareness as well as the skills of negotiating and compromise as they decide where to dance and how.



In the garden, children took turns walking on the 'tiger feet' demonstrating their determination to achieve a new skill. Coordinating their hands and feet to work in sync takes practice and the children showed their pleasure in their success.

## Nursery Class



During the last month the children have been finding out about Chinese New Year. We learnt about the story of the 'Great Race' and the 12 different animals that the years are named after. We found out about the different traditions associated with this and tried



interpreting them through our own activities. We had great fun making and dancing with our dragon, we listened to the music and moved around the circle underneath the dragon trying hard to work together to coordinate our movements. We discovered this was quite tricky when we couldn't see much under the dragon! We looked at Chinese writing and discovered it is very



different to our own. We learnt that brushes rather than pens are used for traditional Chinese writing. We had a go at copying some of the shapes and characters in our own mark making experiences using brushes and paints.



In Team Times the children have been exploring simple concepts linked to engineering bridges, we explored how to make our own bridge with the large and small bricks carefully stacking and balancing them. We have also been developing our phonemic awareness by learning about Pip and Pap at the farm. Together we explored the story making different animal noises when the animals were revealed and



learning some new letter sounds as well as new vocabulary such as the word 'pannage'.

**And finally...**

## **Absence**

Attendance is important to us.

If your child is absent for reasons of sickness, circumstances or holiday, please let the Centre Office know promptly by telephone or by email. We are required to keep records of all absences. If your child will be coming in late to nursery, please let the base staff or office know.

If you are taking a holiday, request forms can be collected and completed at the centre office. Please note that if your child is term time and you take holiday outside of the school holidays this may affect their funding and place at Nursery.

## **Wooden Gate and Car Park**

Please may we ask you to make sure that you shut the wooden pedestrian gate when entering or exiting the Centre and do not let any child/children out of the gate on their own. This is important for the safety and safeguarding of the children.

Please also be aware that the car park is **NOT** available for use during the hours of **8:30am to 4:30pm (even if the gate is open at these times)**. Thank you for your cooperation.



**Hardmoor Uniform**  
**Skoolkit**

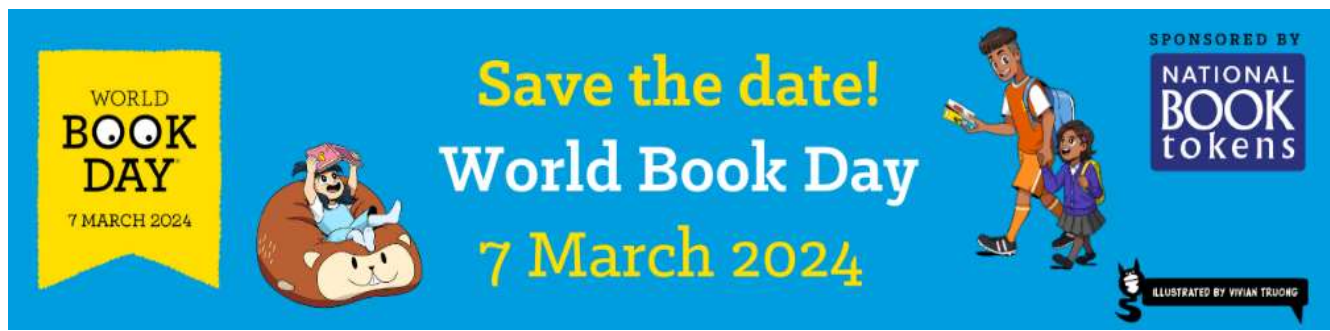
[www.skoolkit.co.uk](http://www.skoolkit.co.uk)

**HARDMOOR EARLY YEARS CENTRE**  
LEASIDE WAY/BASSETT GREEN, SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE, SO16 3EP

Hardmoor Early Years Centre Sweatshirt FROM €10.99

Hardmoor Early Years Centre Polo Royal FROM €9.99

Hardmoor Early Years Centre Polo White FROM €9.99



## World Book Day: Thursday 7th March 2024

We will be celebrating World Book Day at Hardmoor on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**.

To add to the day's enjoyment, all the children (and even the staff!) will have the opportunity to dress up if they wish as their favourite book character for the day.

If your child chooses to dress up, please bear in mind that your child will be wearing their costume for the whole day, so costumes will need to be practical and comfortable.



As part of our 'World Book Day' celebrations, we are asking all children to take part in our **"Extreme Reading"** competition!

All children need to do is to send in a photograph of them reading somewhere 'extreme' to showcase their love of reading at any time, any place! Please ensure that you stay safe, however, please do not put yourself in any danger!

There will be a prize for the winning "Extreme Reading" entries across the partnership. Photographs will also be printed and used as part of a school display – we would like to encourage as many children to partake as possible.

Please email your child's Extreme Reading photo in to [reception@hardmoor.co.uk](mailto:reception@hardmoor.co.uk) by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. Don't forget to state your child's name in the email. The winner at each school will receive a £10 book voucher, with the overall winner receiving a £20 voucher!

If you have any further questions about World Book Day, please do not hesitate to ask your child's base.



Come and join us on  
**Saturday 29th March**

from **10.00 to 11.30** for an Easter  
Egg Hunt in the Hardmoor Woods  
and Allotment.

Refreshments will be served.

(The children will be hunting for plastic eggs that will be  
swapped for an Easter Treat)



Please email [reception@hardmoor.co.uk](mailto:reception@hardmoor.co.uk) to book a space

## 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.



- World Book Day – Thursday 7 March 2024 (all children)
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday centre **Closed** for all children
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March- Family Easter Egg Hunt (Weather permitting)
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April- Easter Monday Centre **Closed** for all children
- Monday 1 April to Friday 12 April Easter Holiday  
(Term Time only children inc. Term Time only Day Care)
- Monday 15 April New Starter Children visits – Centre Open for Day Care (**all year round**)  
(**CLOSED** for Term Time children inc. Term Time only Day Care)
- Thursday 2nd May – **INSET Day** - Centre **Closed** for all children.
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May- Bank Holiday Centre **Closed** for all children
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May- Bank Holiday Centre **Closed** for all children
- Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May Half Term  
(Term Time only children inc. Term Time only Day Care)
- Thursday 25 July 2024 is the start of the Summer Holidays  
(Term Time only children inc. Term Time only Day Care)



# Staff



**Sarah Hendricks**  
**Head of School**



**Jo McNicholas**  
**Chief Business,  
Finance and  
Compliance Officer**



**Melanie Jackson**  
**Head of Centre**



**Ian Burrell**  
**Site Manager**



**Nichola Jacobs**  
**Admin Assistant**



**Julia Vaughan**  
**Finance Officer**



**Sally Backwell**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Bridget Douglas**  
**Cleaner**



**Taylor Burrell**  
**Cleaner**



**Janis Larkman**  
**Base Leader**



**Alex Smith**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Chloe Haynes**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Hannah Budden**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Abida Saleemi**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Elizabeth Wake**  
**Nursery Assistant**



**Kaitlin Werrett**  
**Apprentice**



**Rebecca Miles**  
**Apprentice**



**Ceilidh Walsh**  
**Apprentice**



**Natasha Clements**  
**Base Leader**



**Robbie Harris**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Dominika Blasiak**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Hayley Osman**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Honey-Mae Stephenson**  
**Apprentice**



**Ruby Berry**  
**Apprentice**



**Leah Thomas**  
**Apprentice**



**Aysha Begum**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Shelly Stapleton**  
**Midday Assistant**



**Mary Davies**  
**Base Leader**



**Olivia Buston**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Katya Nikolova**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Hannah Harris-Shambrook**  
**Apprentice**



**Ellie Joseph**  
**Apprentice**



**Leanne Savage**  
**Nursery Assistant**



**Saliha Takennit**  
**Midday Assistant**



**Maryam Agha**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Rafia Asif**  
**Early Years Practitioner**



**Ewart Giles**  
**Nursery Assistant**