



January 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.”

Happy New Year!

As we welcome in 2024 and look forwards to the exciting experiences it will bring, we would like to wish all of our families a very happy New Year! Prior to the Christmas break, our children enjoyed an array of festive activities and experiences, including a visit from a very special person.



Outdoor Woodland Learning (OWL) Practitioner

We are delighted to warmly welcome Sally to our Hardmoor family. Sally has now started working with the other practitioners and children to deliver our unique OWL Curriculum. Sally will work, alongside our dedicated team, to support our children to learn and grow through experiencing our exceptional grounds. The children have already begun exploring the effects that the cold weather has on the natural world around us. They have enjoyed using their senses to investigate frost and ice puddles, whilst developing seasonal language and vocabulary. We have also been very busy in our allotment, preparing the raised beds for planting.



Parent Working Party (Saturday 17 February 10:00 – 12:00)

We hope to see many parent volunteers on Saturday 17 February to support in our allotment with our annual 'winter tidy'. We are exceptionally fortunate to have such a vast grounds of natural beauty, which offer the children of Hardmoor a unique experience! We are inviting you to join us from 10:00 until 12:00 to assist with pruning, weeding, sweeping, raking and planting. If you are able to bring along tools such as rakes, secateurs, forks and trowels this would be very helpful.

Hot drinks and refreshments will be provided as a small token of thanks, on behalf of our children, for your time and efforts. Should there be any changes due to the weather we will, of course, let you know.



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...

Rabbits



The team would like to thank you all for attending our babies' Christmas party. We all had a fantastic time and were delighted that so many of you were able to join us!

We have spent lots of time exploring 'cold' so far this term. The children were excited to explore a flurry of snow in the allotment, the frozen builder's trays and of course seeing the chickens. We have been busy finding frozen leaves for the children to see and feel.



Inside we have spent lots of time in the soft play room developing our climbing and problem solving skills as we navigate our way over, under and around different obstacles. We have been trying on different winter clothes in the role play area and developing our language skills as our adults talk to us about how they look and feel. Rabbits have also loved using the torches, during the darker wintry afternoons.





Hedgehogs

The children have been exploring lots of activities both indoor and outdoor. They have been using their gross motor skills to paint big 3D shapes at the creative area, whilst developing their mathematical vocabulary. The children were using big movements, painting up and down, even going on tip toe to reach the top of the shape!



Small groups of children have participated in lots of outdoor activities led by Sally. They were listening with interest and following instructions to make seed bombs, with a mix of soil and seeds. We had so much fun and have had lots of requests to do this again.



We managed to enjoy some snow dust on the bench in the garden. The children were using their fingers making squiggly lines and wiping it off the table.

The children love to freely access the resources in the room. They can become totally engrossed in their chosen activity.



Preschool



The Children have settled well into the Pre-School and have enjoyed moving around the 2 rooms playing in all the different areas. We have been changing things within the environment to provoke learning, such as creating a new investigation area where the children have been exploring magnets and using scales to find out what is the heaviest or lightest object.

Our theme has been Winter and we have been considering the impact of this on the environment. We've thought about the cold and ice, how to take care of animals in the cold and how to keep ourselves warm. The children have made their own icy pictures using a variety of materials.

In the tuff tray we had gloop (Cornflour mixed with water) for the children to make marks in.



And finally...

Absence

Attendance is important to us.

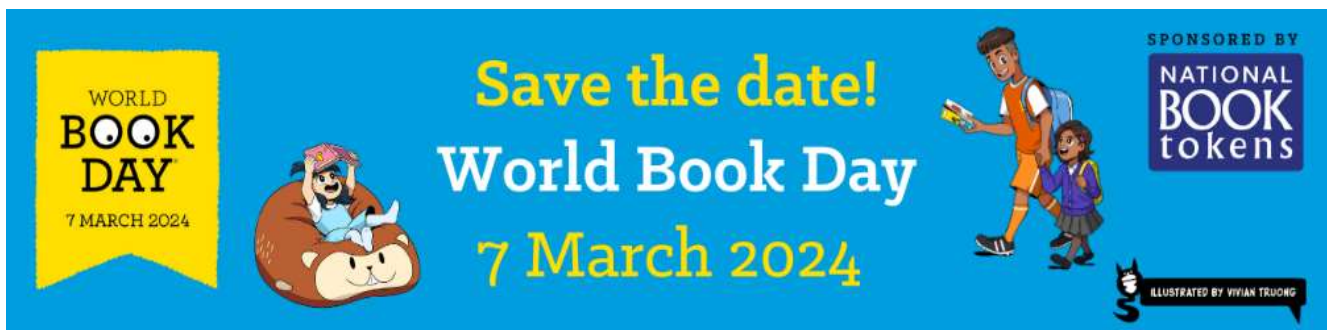
If your child is absent for reasons of sickness, circumstances or holiday, please let the Centre Office know promptly by telephone or by email. We are required to keep records of all absences. If your child will be coming in late to nursery, please let the base staff or office know.

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. 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.



World Book Day: Thursday 7th March 2024

We will be celebrating World Book Day at Hardmoor on **Thursday 7th 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 by **Friday 1st 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.



**PETS AS
THERAPY**
petsastherapy.org

'Pets as Therapy' dogs visit the centre with their experienced handlers on a regular basis. The 'Pets as Therapy' dogs are experienced in visiting nurseries, schools, hospitals and care homes. The benefits to the children are immense and it has been lovely to see the children become more confident with the dogs. Please could you email the reception (reception@hardmoor.co.uk) if you would prefer your child **NOT** to take part in the visits when the dogs come into the Nursery.



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.



- Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February Spring Half Term
(**Term Time only children inc. Term Time only Day Care**)
- Parent Garden Working Party -Saturday 17 February 10.00 am-12.00 pm
- Friday 23rd February – **INSET Day** - Centre **Closed** for all children.
- World Book Day – Thursday 7 March 2024 (all children)
- Friday 29th March - Good Friday centre **Closed** for all children
- Saturday 30th March- Family Easter Egg Hunt (Weather permitting)
- Monday 1st 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 6th May- Bank Holiday Centre **Closed** for all children
- Monday 27th 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**)