

Welcome to our last newsletter of this term, within it you will find information about our Christmas activities, fundraising and other notices and information.

Thank you all for your support with Children in Need, this year we raised a grand total of £98.53.

I wanted to remind those of you who have children in the Buzzy Bee or Butterfly classes that you need to have made your decision about where you would like your child to go to school next September and applied for a place by January 15th 2024. Once you have made your decision you apply online, the website is open and is available 24 hours. The link is available on page six of this newsletter. You will be informed which school you have been allocated on Primary National Offer day which is 16th April 2024.

On page five of this newsletter we have included, 'Top Talking Tips for Parents/ Carers' which I hope you will find useful. You may want to share these ideas with other family members who spend time with your child/ren. Talking with your child can help their language and communication development. When children hear more words and lots of different words, it improves their understanding of language. It also increases the number and variety of words that they understand and use. Talk is important in order for children to access the curriculum during their time at school, but it is also vital for their social and emotional development as well.

I wish you all a happy holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Debbie



Christmas sing-a-longs

Our Christmas sing-alongs will be on:

Tues 12th December - Ladybirds

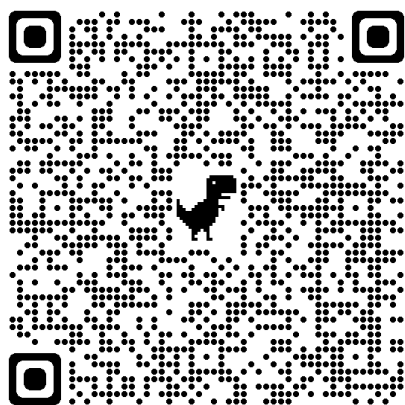
Weds 13th December - Buzzy Bees

Thurs 14th December - Butterfly class.

Parents are welcome to come along at 9.30am or 2.15pm to listen to the children singing their Christmas songs. This will be outside so please wrap up warm!

The children will receive a song book that you can use to help them practice the songs at home. Songs will also be posted onto Tapestry.

We will also have our Christmas cake sale and a used book stall available at these times too. These are part of our Christmas fundraising and all help is greatly appreciated.



Easyfundraising

We've registered Caverstede Nursery School with #easyfundraising, which means over 4,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long. Thank you!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/caverstedenursery/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=fb2&fbclid=IwAR1R0haexYo4TV7jZHwXVtGKArst7LCtDcJSuPci3wQdTtZkI3YaymP4fns



Ladybird class

Our core story this half term has been “Walking Through the Jungle” by Julie Lacome and the children have enjoyed a variety of Jungle themed activities. In the class, we have been exploring different texture through messy play and acting out the story using masks, puppets and small world animals. Outdoors, the children have enjoyed our Jungle stores shopping role play, showing us their list writing and organisational skills. This has now turned into a vets, following their interests, and we have had all sorts of animals treated and cared for over the weeks.

This term has also seen us start our woodland days with visits from Ali to start with. This has now progressed on to visits in the woodland garden, as the children have been so confident and they have loved exploring all that it has to offer.

Next term our core story will be “Little Tom and the trip to the Moon” by Diane and Christyan Fox, which is a story all about imagination and junk modelling. We have chosen this as we have a very creative class, who have brilliant imaginations. Could we please ask that when parents return in the new year, that if they have any washed and clean, recyclable materials at home that they don't want, then please bring them into us so that we can use our imaginations to turn them into new things.

Lastly, I just want to say I hope everyone has a restful and happy holiday.

Season's Greetings from the Ladybird team.

Butterfly class

This half term in Butterfly class, we have been looking at and listening to the traditional tale ‘The Gingerbread Man’. The children have been enjoying this story and learning about the different characters. We have a tuff tray with the characters and small world props so the children can use them to retell the story. We have drawn, made play dough gingerbread men, eaten gingerbread biscuits for snack and made our own gingerbread men biscuits. We have added aprons, a mixing bowl, wooden spoon and the ingredients into the home corner for the children to role play making gingerbread dough.

The children have been fascinated with watching the grey squirrels in the Woodland garden as Ali has installed a squirrel feeding station for them.

Amanda supported the children to chop vegetables to make some soup and the next day we had the soup to try at snack time. Lots of the children really enjoyed this experience.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely break.

Emily and The Butterfly Team

Session payments

We are now approaching the end of the Autumn term and would like to remind you that all balances need to be paid by 15th December. If you would like to discuss payments or have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask.





Buzzy Bee class

This half term in the Buzzy Bees, just like the Butterfly class, we have been looking at and listening to the traditional tale 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children have been enjoying this story and learning about the different characters. We have been using small world characters and props so the children can use them to retell the story, they have especially enjoyed using the Gingerbread man cuddly toys to sing the phrase "run run as fast as you can you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread man" during their play with friends. This role play has continued in the nursery garden and formed part of their running and chasing games. We have drawn, painted, made play dough gingerbread men, eaten gingerbread biscuits for snack and will be making our own gingerbread men biscuits. We have added a mixing bowl, wooden spoon and the ingredients into the home corner for the children to role play making gingerbread dough, as well as in the nursery garden where they can pretend to sell and make their biscuits in the bakery. We have built bridges using different blocks over 'rivers' and have even experimented with Gingerbread men biscuits to see what happens when they fall in water/ milk or a cup of tea! This really promoted lots of thinking and language!

Have a lovely break and thank you for your support.

Buzzy Bee and Butterfly classes Woodland Days

We have done several woodland sessions with Ali in the Woodland garden. The children have been practising putting on their wet suits and wellies. Also, they have been playing in the mud kitchen, using real spades in the digging pod, sweeping leaves with brushes, doing various scavenger hunts for different things, making a group firework picture using spray bottles and learning how to safely use a small hammer. The children have been really enjoying playing and exploring in this area.

Buzzy Bee and Butterfly classes core story; Next term – Spring 1 our new core story is 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy.

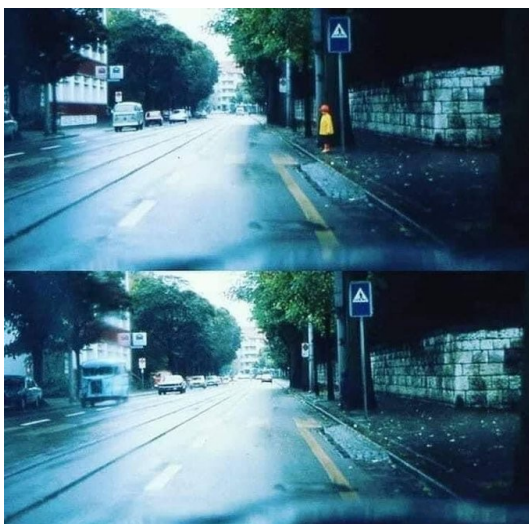


Please remember to send your child with named, warm clothes please - hat, gloves and scarves so that they can continue to enjoy playing outside during the winter months.

You may also find this interesting as it shows how difficult it is to see children in dark coats.

(Photo credit: Christian Thomas)

**KEEP YOUR CHILD
VISIBLE**



All classes: Party Day

Wednesday 20th
December so the children
can dress up or wear their
party clothes.

Keeping safe and considerate parking

If you drive to Caverstede, could we please ask that you park with care and **avoid double parking or parking on yellow lines**. This is illegal and makes the road dangerous for all the children and families who are using it.



There is also a disabled parking bay at the front of the nursery which is there for the use of those who need this facility so please do not park here. Please follow the guidelines for use of disabled parking badges if you do have one - for example, blue badge holders should not park in the bay if they are just waiting and do not plan to leave their car.

Please also consider our neighbours along Caverstede Road and avoid parking across driveways or on the grass verges.

Christmas Fundraising

We have raffle tickets available to buy - ticket sheets are available at reception and cost 50p each. We have a variety of prizes and details of these will be displayed shortly.

We also have an amazing Christmas hamper with lots of food and treats in a hamper basket. Lucky squares for this cost £1 each. Please write your name in a square and pay at reception.

We will also be selling Christmas surprise bags from Monday 11th December at reception, costing £2 or £3 each.

Don't forget, we have cake sales on each sing-a-long day all next week so why not treat yourself. If you would like to donate any cakes, these can be dropped off at reception from Monday.

If you are baking anything, we do ask that for allergy reason, ingredients are listed on a form (again, at reception!) If you buy anything to donate, please leave in the original packaging so that ingredients can be read.

As always, your help is greatly appreciated in all our fundraising events.



HO HO HO

Snack

Thank you to those parents who have made a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing a daily, healthy snack to the children. Due to the rising costs of food, as well as everything else, we have asked if parents could consider a voluntary contribution of up to £5 per term to support this. If you would like to make a contribution, you can make a cash payment at reception or you can ask for our bank details to pay into. As always, your support is very much appreciated. We would like to highlight that this is a voluntary contribution and no child will be denied this snack.

Tapestry

Don't forget to add to and read your child's Tapestry online learning journal. We look forward to seeing what you have been doing at home!

Top Talking Tips for Parents / Carers

- ♦ Allow your child to take the lead when you play together – this will keep them motivated and they'll develop crucial thinking and language skills through their play.
- ♦ Give your child time – they might need more time than you think to answer questions or follow instructions, so give them an extra few seconds to do this.
- ♦ Share books together – interactive books with flaps or different textures are really great.
- ♦ Younger children might find it difficult to tell you about their day at school. To support them, try giving choices like 'did you paint a picture or play in the sand?' or ask 'tell me one good thing that happened today; You could say one good thing about your day too, just to get the conversation going.
- ♦ Use repetition; children need to hear words several times in different situations before they can understand them and use them.
- ♦ Try setting aside some specific time talking time, with the TV off, just for talking and playing together.



- ♦ Repeat and expand on what your child says – e.g. if your child says 'mummy car' you could say 'mummy's driving the car' this helps children learn how to put words together to make sentences they can understand and use them.

- ♦ Think out loud – talk to your child about what you're doing and when you're doing it, that way they will begin to match what they hear to the object or the action that you're talking about.
- ♦ Encourage turn taking during games; you can make it clear what you're doing by explaining 'my turn now' and telling your child when they've done well at waiting for their turn.
- ♦ Demonstrate rather than correct. If your child says something incorrectly, repeat what they've said, but in the correct way and try to keep it in the conversation. You can do this with individual words, e.g. if they say 'tat' you can repeat 'yes you saw a cat', or sentences e.g. if they say 'the dog runned' you can say, 'yes the dog ran, didn't it.'
- ♦ Think about your non-verbal communication -your facial expressions, body language and tone of voice are great ways of showing your child that you are interested in what they say as well as helping them to keep their interest.
- ♦ Use rhymes and singing - sing your child's favourite nursery rhyme with them. Try to sing it slowly to help your child listen to the words of the rhyme. If you can use actions too, this will help your child to understand the words better.



**MISSING
SCHOOL
IS
MISSING
OUT -
EVERY DAY
COUNTS!!**

Attending school **every day** is very important. Even a short time of absence from school can mean that a child misses out on a significant part of the curriculum, which can impact on their learning. Ofsted always ask for the school's attendance data. We monitor each child's attendance and absence record and you will receive copies of this information. **If your child is ill and will not be attending school please telephone the school on the day of absence to inform us.** Thank you.

Childcare Choices

Childcare support available:

30 hour funding for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds.



Available for eligible working parents from the term after your child is aged 3. You must apply for the 30 hour funding now if this is to be accessed anytime from 1st January to 31st March 2024. This is for both new applications and to renew your existing entitlement. If you have not received your code or renewed your code before 31st December 2023, you will **NOT** be able to access this additional funding for the whole of the Spring term (January - March). We recommend you apply or renew before 11th December 2023.

15 hour funding for eligible working parents of 2 year olds.

NEW - starting from April 2024. Available for eligible working parents from the term after your child is aged 2. You must apply before 31st March 2024 to be able to use this from the 1st April 2024 (recommended time of application 15th January to 28th February).

Eligibility for working parents - those where **each parent earns at least £167 per week** (equal to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage) and less than £100K per year.

Please visit the Childcare Choices Website;

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Apply for a primary school place

If you've not already done so and your child is due to start primary school next September, you must apply for a place by 15th January 2024.

Online applications can be made via this link;

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-school-in-reception>

Smoking and vaping

Caverstede Nursery School is a no smoking zone and this also includes the use of electronic/vapour cigarettes.

At no time is smoking or the use of electronic/vapour cigarettes permitted anywhere on Caverstede Nursery School premises, including the car-park, or near to premises entrances.



Caverstede Food Pantry

“Leave what you can, take what you need”

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our harvest collection which started our food pantry off amazingly! We will always welcome contributions to the food pantry, we ask that food is in date, and easily stored. We have also had nappy donations, wipes and toiletries, which have proved to be really useful for families too. We have supported several families already who have been really grateful for it being so easy to access and use. We welcome anyone within the ‘Caverstede family’ to come and use the food pantry, we do not have a criteria for you to meet to use and take food, nappies or wipes. It is regularly checked and restocked, and we will try and support you if you need slightly more than we have on the shelves.



You can access the Food pantry by yourself, it's located in the parent café, just off the main reception, or you can ask a member of staff to support you.