

**The Owls, Robins and the Ducklings class team members would like to say a big thank you to all parents/guardians and carers for their good wishes and gifts at Christmas time. We welcome you all back and wish you a very Happy New Year.**

We would like to welcome our new families and children and we hope you settle in well and enjoy your time with us at Pre-School.  We also welcome Lorraine as the new Room Leader in the Owls class.

All the children have been settling into their rooms really well and developing good relationships with staff within the room.

We had a very busy last term and the children had taken part in many fun activities whichwe would like to share with you:

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO:**

 Children wearing jeans and donating to **Jeans for Genes** Day. We collected £45.00

 **Harvest festival** - Parents/Carers/Staff and of course **children** who contributed non perishable foods to a very worthy cause. Items were donated to Harrow Baptist Church who provide community lunch for the less fortunate at Welldon Community Centre.

 **So many Mums/Dad/Grandparents/Carers,** who gave up their valuable time to help us take the children on an Autumn walk. The weather was great and everyone enjoyed and learnt about the natural environment.

 Stan the **photographer** who took fantastic photographs of the children.

 Parents and carers who gave up their valuable time to come and **read** to the children.

C:\Users\Pritesh\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\L3C72LLO\MC900282968[1].wmf Mrs Ahmed who talked to us about celebrating the festival of Eid. The children enjoyed looking at the cultural costumes.

C:\Users\Pritesh\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WK957JK8\MC900440076[1].wmf Tamara talked about celebrating Channukah and brought in the menorah to tell them the story of the miracle in the temple. She sang traditional songs with the children.

**Halloween** was great fun when the children came dressed up in their favourite Halloween outfits.

We thoroughly enjoyed the festive period, celebrating **Roshanah, Diwali, Christmas and Chanukah.**

The Christmas concert was a great success. The children sang with great confidence and made us all proud. They are a credit to Jigsaw Nursery. Well Done!

On the last day, the Robins and Owls had a wonderful party and Santa came to visit from who they received a gift. They were also entertained by Mr Marvel the magician.

Photos are displayed in the entrance hall and all the rooms. Please take time to see children’s work on the displays hanging around the nursery.

We continue to follow the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage and will be focusing on the following **Areas of Interest in the Spring term.**

Wk 1 – What I did during the holidays, Wk 2 –Healthy Eating, Wk 3 –Healthy routines,

Wk 4- Chinese New Year, Wk5 – Looking after our teeth, Wk 6 – Physical exercise.

Celebrations 30th January - Chinese New Year, 14th February – Valentine’s day.

**Contact Details**

It is extremely important that you ensure all contact details are up to date! Especially if you change your phone numbers or other emergency contact numbers. We must be able to contact you in case of an emergency. If possible please inform us if your child is either unwell or you are going on holiday.

**Jewellery**

Wearing of jewellery is not permitted except stud earrings. This is due to health & safety issues especially when children are playing on the larger pieces of equipment.

**Children’s Clothing and Uniform**

Please bear in mind when dressing your child for nursery that they are in comfortable and easily removable clothing, as this helps the staff at toilet and nappy changing times.  Please also ensure that the children have a change of clothes in their bag (including socks), and if required, nappies, wipes. We do recommend that you label everything as several children have the same styles.

Jigsaw sweatshirts and t-shirts can be purchased at very reasonable costs and prevent paint, glue etc getting on children’s day to day clothing. Also we think the children look very smart.

**Cold weather**

As always we still go outside no matter what the weather throws at us, therefore please send your child in suitable warm clothing including hats, scarves and mittens all labelled.

**Weather report**

In the event of snow we always do our upmost best to stay open. However if in the event we have to close to insure the safety of our families and staff we will keep you informed on our website, so please check ([www.jigsawnursery.co.uk](http://www.jigsawnursery.co.uk))

**Keypersons**

We have a parents notice board in each classroom that displays photographs of all our staff members and keyperson lists.  Please familiarise yourself with your child’s **Key person** as she will be monitoring your child’s progress at the nursery..  If you would like to discuss your child’s progress at Pre-school, please ask to speak to their keyperson.

**Library**

Please encourage your child to borrow books from the Jigsaw Library. If you need help please speak to any member of staff in the Owl class.

We would appreciate it, if you could bring in a photo of YOU reading to your CHILD to enable us to display it on a board. This will give us an opportunity to encourage the children to talk about their favourite books and develop an interest in LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION and EARLY READING SKILLS.

Any queries please speak to Lorraine.

**Birthdays**

We celebrate children’s birthdays at Jigsaw. We promote healthy eating and here are some suggestions of what could be brought in on the day. Fruit, raisins, microwave (salted only) popcorn, a book or puzzle (new or old).

**Lunches**

Due to severe allergies, please DO NOT put peanut butter sandwiches, nutella spreads or nuts in lunch boxes. .

We promote healthy eating and request you to avoid putting sugary foods in the children lunch boxes. We have lots of leaflets regarding healthy eating/living so please ask Maya to show you them.

**Suggestions**

There is a suggestion box in the lobby area which we would appreciate any feedback from you, either named or anonymous.  This will help us to continue to evaluate our practice.

**Click It**

If you are interested in your child having weekly computer lessons please speak to Maya.

**Spare time?**

We believe that a parent’s involvement in nursery life enriches a child’s experience and we therefore invite and encourage parents and carers to become involved from sharing particular talents, reading a story (particularly in a different home language) to simply joining us on our different fun days and events.

If you are interested please speak to Maya.

**Families who have English as an additional language**

The nursery is committed to ensuring all families feel welcome and we have adopted certain practices to help support families with EAL.  We also support children within the setting by using lots of visual aids, signing, props and puppets, labels and signs in home languages, multi-language books and finding out key words to help with communication to name but a few.

**LETTERS and SOUNDS**

At Jigsaw, we use the guidelines within The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage and encourage our children to experience sounds by implementing fun and interactive activities. These consists of listening to and singing ‘Jolly Songs’, using sensory materials for mark making, learning to recognise and form the letters of the alphabet and learning their sounds to enable early reading skills.

How to download Letters and Sounds Phase one:

<http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/primaryframeworks>

This term we will be focusing on the following letters: s,a,t,i,p,n and k,e,h,r,m,d. If practising at home, please encourage your children to write letters in lower case.

**Keywork** is a fun session when all children are encouraged to count and recognise and write numbers depending on their age/stage. We use small toys and fun mark making resources.

Bookstart  **HARROW BOOKSTART**.

As your child turns three, he/she will be bringing home a card which can be taken to any Harrow library to collect their Treasure Bag pack.

**Morning Drop Off**

Nursery starts at 9am. To keep disruption to other children who arrive promptly to a minimum, it is important that your child is brought to nursery on time. Helping your child to establish a consistent routine can set them up for an easier home-to-school transition.

**Afternoon pick up**

If you have a pre-arranged agreement to pick your child up early (2.45pm) please ring the door bell and then wait outside the green fence where we will bring your child out to you. This is to safeguard any other children who are playing outside.

**DUCKLINGS**

In order to help develop Emotional, Personal and Social Wellbeing we have been settling new children into their new learning environment and supporting parents in their new environment. We introduced the children to the Ducklings routine by making them familiar with our room.  To do this each week we focused on a different part of our room and arranged main activities within a particular area (book corner, home corner, dressing up corner, craft activities table, soft toys corner).

They were encouraged with stimulating activities and experiences. Such as:

learning about shapes - children took part in a  range of activities linked with shapes. Their favourite was – ‘seeking shape game’ (find the shapes which were hidden somewhere in the classroom)

- learning about colours through painting, drawing, singing and dancing with different coloured scarfs. Children enjoyed choosing their favorite colour during this topic.

- children loved taking part in all our Christmas activities. They loved to sing Christmas songs, especially "I'm a dancing Christmas Tree" which involved music and movemement.  They also enjoyed decorating our Christmas Tree made of cardboard paper and making Christmas stars using lot of glitter and gold paint. Finally the Ducklings did Christmas stamping to make beautiful calendars for their parents.

**ROBINS**

The children engaged in fun and enjoyable activities and opportunities throughout last term. Such as:

– leaf printing, splash painting to see changing colours for fireworks, fruit and vegetable prints, making sandwiches and friendship bracelets using pasta. They really enjoyed role playing in the fire station (home corner) wearing fireman hats, dressing up and using torches.

They listened to many stories including Goldilocks and the three bears which was their favourite. We extended their understanding of this story by providing oats in trays for them to spoon into bowls.

Christmas was a fun time singing festive songs, especially with our parents and carers. We made Christmas cards, calendars, and lots more.

**Many Thanks for your ongoing support.**

C:\Users\Pritesh\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\TZ4WOCUJ\MC900088510[1].wmfOwls team – Lorraine, Varsha, Larisa, Bela, Hannah and Jigna.

C:\Users\Pritesh\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\TZ4WOCUJ\MC900002032[1].wmfRobins team – Jayshri, Chris, Panna, Anita, Sara and Aytul.

C:\Users\Pritesh\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NN3PSB2W\MC900090985[1].wmfDucklings team – Ania, Mahesha, Chantelle and Sheena.

**Manager** - Maya