

26th February, 2018

Dear Parents,

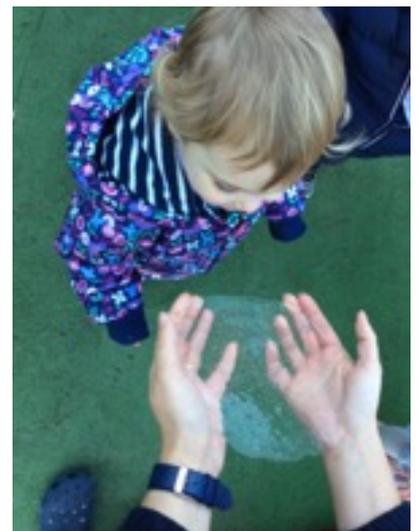
Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletters and finding out what we have been up to in the start of 2018! Hopefully you will be entertained throughout the year and will continue to read through our newsletters in!

Tiny Tots

This month our topic has been Winter/Arctic animals. The babies and toddlers have both enjoyed exploring with the small world arctic animals in the foam, developing their imagination.

We have been very creative making polar bears and the babies enjoyed making silhouette arctic fox pictures.

The Toddlers took their learning outdoors and loved exploring with ice. They all held the ice, learning that it was cold to touch and when held the ice started to melt and they could see the water running down their hands. The children were fascinated with this and really enjoyed this sensory experience.



Little Learners



The topic in the Little Learners Unit for the month has been Winter and the children have enjoyed exploring lots of different activities and experiences. They took part in lots of creative activities making snowmen out of cupcake cases and they had to add eyes, buttons and a hat - the results were really good and have made a lovely display in the unit. They also enjoyed using frozen paint ice cubes to make pictures and loved watching the cubes melt into the paper.

They have learnt some new Welsh vocabulary as we looked at and talked about the weather at circle time each day and the Rangers have got very good at saying whether it is windy, raining, snowing or sunny.

The Cubs and Rangers also enjoyed a 'cooking' activity where they sliced different fruits and then copying from a picture made their own snowman snack to eat - they loved adding the breadstick arms and grape buttons! This activity allowed them to explore their senses and use their creativity to produce some amazing snowmen.

Childcare Choices

The Government are introducing new ways to help with childcare costs. They have developed a website with information on how every family can get support with these costs. The link to this is:

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

Weather Warning

There has been a weather warning issued for this week for South Wales. In the event of snow all staff would endeavour to reach nursery.



We have a member of staff that could walk here. If all staff cannot get to nursery then we would have to have an emergency closure as we would not be able to meet the national minimum standards for adult: child ratio.

If you are in doubt, please contact the nursery via telephone or email.

If the nursery does close parents will be called.

Parent's Evening

Following the feedback from our families will be introducing bi-annual parents' evenings. These will be in March and September and provide a great opportunity for families to chat with key people and look at their children's 'Learning Journeys'.

The first parents' evening will be held on the evening of Monday 26th March. The event will begin at 18:00 and finish at 19:30.

We look forward to touching base with all of our families!

Medication at nursery

If you bring your child into nursery and are aware that they have a temperature and will require medicine, please could you also supply the appropriate medication.

Our medicine is strictly for emergencies only. When we are supplying medication for children, it means that we quickly run out of an emergency store, which is necessary for those children that can experience febrile convulsions.

Unfortunately, if parents are aware that their child will require medication during the day but fail to supply we will have to call for them to come to nursery to administer.

Joining the waiting list for nursery

We are currently holding a waiting list for a Wednesday and Thursday at nursery, with limited availability on the remaining days. If you have a sibling that you would like to enrol at nursery please could you request forms from a team member to enable us to plan and secure the required days.



In accordance with our Admissions Policy we will give priority to siblings of children who already attend nursery.

If you know of friends or family that will be requiring a place between now and April 2018 please advise them to make contact as soon as possible.

Drinking Stations

Parents will see that we have introduced new drinking stations in all units and groups. Please could water bottles/ cups be put on the appropriate drinking station in the morning and collected when children are collected to be cleaned overnight.

Please can all bottles and cups be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Emergency Contacts

In the case of an emergency where parents cannot collect children on time please can emergency contacts be contacted to ensure that nursery closes at 18:00.

The nursery is not insured or registered to be open after 18:00 and staff have personal timetables that they need to adhere to after these hours.

St Davids Day

We are inviting families to attend nursery on March 1st (St Davids Day) in traditional Welsh costume if you so wish.

Sports Relief

We will be combining sports relief with a healthy living topic in March. This will include exercise and healthy eating and the effects that these have on our body.

We will also be boosting our fundraising by selling soft balls, these will be in the foyer and are £5 for three - please do not take any merchandise before payment has been made.

Sponsor forms will be given to families to raise funds through children participating in obstacle courses during the week of 19th March - hopefully the weather will warm up by then!



Meal Times

Our meal times are as follows:

Breakfast:	08:15-08:45 Little Learners Unit 08:30 - 09:00 Tiny Tots
Morning Snack:	10:00
Lunch:	11:30 Tiny Tots 11:50 Cubs & children that are leaving for afternoon school 12:15 Rangers
Afternoon snack:	14:00 Tiny Tots and Cubs 14:30 Rangers
Tea:	15:30 Tiny Tots 16:00 Rangers

Staff Celebrations

Aimee has started her Level 3 in Playwork and will be responsible for children who are attending our after school and holiday club.

Stay and Play

We will be holding our next Stay and Play session on Tuesday 20th March. The session will be from 14:30 - 16:30.

All families are welcome to come along for all or part of the afternoon to have a taste of nursery life!

Health and Nutrition

Its not to late to protect young children

Flu is circulating, but it is not too late to protect little ones. Children aged 2-3 on 31 August 2017 are eligible for a nasal spray flu vaccine. Parents should be encouraged to contact their GP for a vaccine for their child



Payment of Fees

Parents will notice that their invoices are sent on the 27th of each month via email. Attached to this email is a link to pay. This facility is useful for parents who are wishing to pay using a credit card, however, there are fees incurred for doing this - these are set by the payment facilitator and not by Fun Foundations.

If parents are paying using a debit card they will also incur a fee. An easier option is to pay via internet or telephone banking, which is also free! Fun Foundations' bank details are noted on the invoice, if parents already use internet banking then they will know that it is straight forward to set up using your debit card and card reader. Once Fun Foundations have been saved following your first payment then transfers can be easily made using your app on your mobile device or on a desktop.

Please can we remind parents that fees must be paid in full within two weeks of receipt of the invoice.

Transition to School

If/ when families are aware that their child will be starting at school please could it be discussed with a team member. It is very important that the nursery is aware of any changes in the near future as wrap around care needs to be planned for in advance and it may not always be possible to cater for. Please can all families notify the nursery via an email, or using the daily diary.

We are working with many local schools to encourage the smooth transition from our setting to nursery school. As part of this, we are encouraging nursery school teachers to visit the children when they are in our setting to enable them to observe the child in a familiar and comfortable environment.

The objective is to provide the teacher with lots of information to enable them to 'get to know' the child prior to the term starting and ultimately enable the child to settle at nursery school comfortably and quickly.

We also complete 'All About Me' reports for children to take with them to school that provides information on the child at our setting - this allows the teacher to know what to expect from each individual.

If we know in plenty of time about school transitions we have the ability to try and arrange transition meetings at nursery and complete the reports to take to school when the new term begins.



Easter Attendance

We are filling up in the nursery and in holiday club for the half term and Easter holidays. If you are in need of the use of the nursery/ holiday club please contact the team to reserve your place.

Adhering to Collection Times

Please can we remind families that collection times must be adhered to. When children are collected late there is a direct knock-on effect to our daily routine. This includes the 13:00, 15:00 and 18:00 collection times.

The late fee is £10 for every 15 minutes or part thereof. This will be included on the invoice.

Fee Break

Please remember that a month's notice must be given to enable the fee break to be actioned. The fee break and bank holiday exemption does not apply to those children that attend nursery for wrap-around care. There is a maximum of a two week fee break per year per family.

The dates that a fee break can be taken in 2018 are as follows:

Monday 2nd April - Friday 13th April 2018
Monday 23rd April - Friday 31st August 2018
Monday 24th December - 4th January 2019

Change of Clothes

Please could all parents be sure to remember a change of clothes (at least one) and remember to label them. We have a few spare items of clothing that we use in emergencies, however, we really need these returned as soon as possible so we always have a back up should someone require it!

Uniform at Nursery

We have made changes in how our clients can access the on-line shop

- Go to www.eurologo.co.uk
 - Click on the page 'Online Shop'
 - Click on our logo
- The nursery uniform can be viewed prior to joining up and ordering.



Friend Referral Scheme

We have had some great feedback from the friend referral scheme...thank you to all those who have been saying such wonderful things about our nursery!

Please don't forget that if you have a friend or family member that is looking for childcare, ask them to mention your name as a friend referral and we will credit your next full month's fees with a 20% discount. The same discount will also be applied to the new family when they enrol

Facebook Page

Please don't forget about our Facebook page. If you have a spare five minutes please feel free to leave a review.

We have been trying to put more information on our FaceBook page to give parents more of an insight into what we are doing at nursery during the day. We were hoping that this would give parents an insight into how the new nursery app would work when we replace the daily diaries.

Twitter Account

If you have a twitter account please follow us @FoundationsFun. Again, we have been putting more information on Twitter for parents to see what we have been doing during the busy nursery day.

Instagram

We have also created an Instagram account to enable us to share more pictures with our parents. We can be found at Fun Foundations.

Many thanks for your ongoing support 😊