



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter December 2021

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests & Christmas**

This month's Value: **Sharing**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children's wellbeing is paramount for us at nursery. Here are some important safety messages for this time of year...

Make sure your tree is flameproof: If you're purchasing an artificial tree, check the packaging to make sure it is fire resistant; if you're having a live tree, bear in mind that chemical sprays to prevent needle-drop may be flammable.

Buy your live tree as late as possible and check it for freshness: A fresh tree is green, its needles are hard to pull from the branches and when bent between your fingers, the needles don't break. The trunk should be sticky with resin, and when you tap it on the ground the tree shouldn't shed many needles.

Position it carefully: When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and don't block doorways.

Check all tree lights before hanging them on your tree, even if you've just purchased them: Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.

Avoid lights on a metallic tree: Never use electric lights on a metallic tree - the tree could become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house: There's a risk they could short out and start a fire.

Stick to flame-resistant decorations: Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens: Always use non-flammable holders and place candles where they won't be knocked over.

Take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable: Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces and avoid trimmings that resemble sweets or food that may tempt a young child to eat them.

Remove wrapping paper, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened: These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child, or can cause a fire if near flame.

Don't burn gift wrap in the fireplace: A flash fire may result, as wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

COVID – 19: Please read this information about tests and getting tested...

Lateral Flow Tests	PCR Tests
These are for people with no symptoms. They can be taken at home or at the Edward Street Centre, on a weekly or twice weekly basis.	These are for people who have any one of the three main symptoms: a new, continuous cough; a high temperature; loss of taste or smell.
These tests can be done at your home and can be ordered from: https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests	If we have sent your child home with one of these symptoms, you must book a PCR test or have a kit sent to your home: https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
After completing your test, you should report the result here: https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result	Once the test is complete, you will be sent the results via text or email. This document needs to be forwarded to us as a matter of urgency.
If the result is negative, then you may attend nursery. If the result is positive, you must stay at home and organise a PCR test.	If the test is negative, you will be able to return to nursery. If the test is positive , you will need to follow the 'Stay at Home' guidelines issued by the Government and PHE

While we understand that taking these tests can be very unpleasant for both children and adults, it is really important to safeguard each other and our wider families by getting tested when asked.



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Thank you for supporting Children In Need. We raised £150 to help children in the UK.



Save the Children

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Don't forget your Christmas jumper on Friday 10th December. Please also remember your £1 donation for Save The Children.

Home Learning Ideas

Here are some ideas you could try with your child this month...

Talk about winter traditions in your family. Do you give gifts? Do you eat special food? How do you celebrate?

Go on a welly walk and see the season change. Look for bare trees and evergreen trees to compare.

Think about clothes that fit the weather. What do we wear in winter?

Follow The Snowman and The Snowdog Brick Live trail around Rugby!

Try making our seasonal recipe of the month! Send us a photo of your efforts via ParentZone!

Don't forget to send us a photo of your home learning via ParentZone.



ParentZone

Autumn Term 2021 Dates for your diary...

Christmas Stay & Play – 4th December; 10am-11am or 11am-12pm*

Pre-School Christmas Concert – 7th December; 2pm*

Pre-School Christmas Concert – 8th December; 10am*

Nursery Christmas Parties – 10th December (Times TBC)

Christmas Jumper Day (For Save The Children) – 10th December

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 17th December

Christmas Closure – Thursday 23rd December; 6pm

We re-open at 8am – Tuesday 4th January 2022

Some of these events may be subject to change.

*We really hope that we can offer these events this year, but that is very dependent on the COVID situation and any updates on the Omicron variant. We will keep you as updated as possible, so please check the newsletter, emails and ParentZone.

We will be taking the children on the trail, but it is a wonderful and festive activity to do as a family too. Download a map from:

https://www.therugbytown.co.uk/homepage/10040/rugby_wintertime



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Christmas Post Boxes – Monday 29th November – Wednesday 15th December

The festive post boxes will be available for you to send cards to nursery friends from Monday 29th November to Wednesday 15th December. Remember to put the child's name and room on the envelope. A list of names was emailed last week.



Stay & Play – Saturday 4th December; 10am-11am or 11am-12pm

We hope to hold our Christmas 'Stay & Play' session on Saturday 4th December. To minimise risk, we are asking families to book a slot to attend, either between 10am-11am or 11am-12pm. Currently, we are happy to have two adults per child and any siblings who may wish to come along, but that may change if the Covid situation worsens. Staff will be on hand to have a chat with, and we hope it will be a fun way to see what goes on at nursery while engaging with your child in some festive themed invitations to learning.



Pre-School Christmas Concert – 7th & 8th December

This is scheduled to go ahead this year and Pre-School parents should have now been issued with an invitation to one of the performances. Two adults per child can attend (subject to the Covid situation) where you will be able to see your child take part in our Christmas singing! If you are unsure about which performance your child is in, please see staff for details.



Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Parties - Friday 10th December

As well as being Christmas Jumper Day, this is also our Christmas Party Day! The party for Babies and Toddlers takes place between 11am-1pm and the Pre-School party is from 1:30pm-3:30pm. If your child does not usually attend on a Friday, they may attend the party at no additional charge. Please book a place with staff so we know how many we are catering for.



Clothing Reminders

Please remember that your child should have socks / tights on their feet when in nursery (indoor shoes are optional) and should not be here, with bare feet. This is for additional warmth in the winter and hygiene reasons in the summer.

If you have borrowed any nursery clothes and not returned them, or you are having a clear out at home, we would appreciate donations of socks, pants, trousers and leggings for all ages please.

Christmas at Club Caldecote
Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd December 2021

	Monday 20 th December	Tuesday 21 st December	Wednesday 22 nd December	Thursday 23 rd December
Craft	Christmas card making	Christmas crafts	Log slice tree decorations	Christmas placemats
Cooking	Banana snowmen	Christmas pudding biscuits	Snowman smoothies	Prepare Christmas
Physical	Town visit to see decorations	Caldecote Park	Tag Rugby	Christmas Party & Disco

Fully Booked!

**But don't worry...we
will be back in
February 2022!**



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This month's seasonal recipe to try at home...

Snowmen & Reindeer Chocolate Bark



Some families recently have noted that their children are becoming picky eaters. Try making this easy recipe with your child to get them involved with the preparation and then hopefully they will be more willing to tuck in!

Ingredients:

- 100g milk chocolate, chopped
- 100g dark chocolate, chopped
- 7 red Smarties
- 8-10 small pretzels
- 22 white mini marshmallows
- 1 red jelly lace, cut into lengths
- sprinkles and stars
- black food writing pen

Method

1. Line a baking tin with baking parchment.
2. Heat both chocolates in separate bowls in the microwave in 30-sec blasts, or over pans of simmering water.
3. Pour the dark chocolate into the baking tin, then pour the milk chocolate on top in a trail. Spread the chocolate out to make a reasonably thick slab.
4. Arrange the red smarties over the slab at intervals – these are the reindeer noses. Cut a marshmallow in half and press above the smarties to make eyes. Snap a pretzel in half for each set of antlers, snapping off any excess pretzel, then push into the chocolate near the noses.
5. To make the snowmen, arrange the rest of the marshmallows in lines of three. Use pieces of pretzel for the arms and a piece of lace for the scarf. Sprinkle over the stars and sprinkles, then leave the chocolate to set completely.
6. Once the chocolate is hard, use an icing pen or small brush dipped in black food colouring to add pupils to the reindeer eyes, and faces and buttons for the snowmen. Use a knife to cut the bark into pieces around the reindeer and snowmen. To give them as gifts, put the chocolate shards in bags and tie with a pretty ribbon.
7. ...Or put on your favourite Christmas movie, wrap up in a blanket and treat yourself!



September 2022 School Applications

The deadline for this is fast approaching. If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, you must apply for their Reception place **by 15 January 2022 (5pm)**.

Applications made after this date will be classed as late and not considered until the first allocation of school places has finished on **19 April 2022**. Many schools are likely to have filled all their available places by then.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applying-school-place-reception>



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Our November Learning...



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Dear Parents,

It has been another challenging year for our staff and families at nursery, as we continue to live with restrictions and adaptations to our lives, in light of covid. We were very lucky to have avoided any further closure until September, when we unfortunately had to close our Pre-School Room for a short period as we had several cases amongst staff and children. Thankfully everyone who was affected by covid, made a full and speedy recovery.

As we write this, we are looking forward to our usual Christmas activities at nursery; concerts, parties and Stay & Play with our families. We really hope that (with some covid measures) we can go ahead with these activities while keeping everyone safe, which is of course paramount to us.

The news of the new Omicron variant brings added worry and fear to us all which is why we will continue to work in the same way as we have for the past few months; ensuring good hygiene in nursery, washing and sanitising hands regularly, distancing from others when needed and wearing face coverings to answer the door to parents. We hope that you will also continue with these measures to help keep everyone safe.

If we do have to adapt or postpone any of our Christmas activities, we will let you know with as much notice as possible.

As we approach the end of the year, we just wanted to take the time to thank you all for your continued support. Your encouragement, kindness and patience has meant a lot to us all. We thank you all for your incredible adaptability, dedication, and good humour through the past year! We would not be where we are if it were not for the strength of the team.

And a special thanks to the children. In another unique year, you have all amazed us with your confidence, resilience, and strong friendships with each other. You truly are amazing!

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Love Mariana & Pamela.



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