

THE SUNSHINE GAZETTE



Welcome to our very first Sunshine Club newsletter – The Sunshine Gazette. We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that we get up to!



Thank you for your support

After a very successful first half of the academic year 2017/2018, the Sunshine Club continues to go from strength to strength with lots of fantastic things happening every single day and some very exciting projects in the pipeline.

We would not be able to do this without our amazing children and families, and fabulous team who are doing a great job day in, day out.

Special thank you to our parents who have been very understanding with us whilst new systems, policies and procedures have been implemented. Your patience and supportive emails have been greatly appreciated!



WELCOME to our new Team Members...

A big welcome to **Sophie Lancaster** and **Jean Kelly** who joined us as full-time Playworkers at the school based site of the Sunshine Club. Both Sophie and Jean have made a fantastic first impression and have already proven to be very strong additions to the team.

We would also like to welcome **Moira Barnes** who joined the Club in January and supports the team on two afternoons a week. Moira works at the school as a Teaching Assistant and has also been a great support!

What have we been up to...?

...far too much to put it all on paper... ☺



We have celebrated **Chinese New Year** and learnt about all the traditions that surround this event. We made Chinese lanterns and completed activity sheets linking in with Chinese New Year.

On **Valentine's Day**, we put lots of effort in creating cards for the people we love.

To mark **St Andrew's Day** the children created their own tartan by weaving. Some children even continued this at home and then brought their creations in to show us... they did a fantastic job!!!

Our **Extra-curricular Clubs** have continued to be a great success please see below...

Cookery Club

We took part in making delicious home-made

- pot noodles
- Valentine jam tarts
- Scotch broth
- flapjacks



Science Club

We completed lots of exciting experiments and developed understanding of how things work. We looked at:

- Density in the cup
- Rainbow skittles
- Fizz inflator

Craft Club

The children have spent time over the last few weeks creating a calendar. We talked about what we do in different months and seasons, and celebrations we take part in.



Sewing Club

Last half term, the children created book marks using their newly acquired stitching skills. They loved taking part in this and produced some beautiful creations!



Coming up this half term...



New Menu

We are delighted to inform you that week commencing 12th March we will be implementing brand new menus in the club; these have been designed by the nursery chef, Greg, who is a fully qualified chef with many years of experience cooking for children and extensive knowledge of child nutrition, and will link in with the nursery menus.

The new menus are seasonal and will run on a 6-weekly cycle. Children will be able to enjoy fresh produce sourced from a local greengrocer and butcher, such as jacket potatoes, steak burgers, tandoori chicken wraps to name but a few.

On top of this the children will always have access to fruit, salad and yoghurts.

Menus will be on display at the club each day so take a look.



Having looked at the Reception Class curriculum overview, we have linked in with the topics that they follow. Our focus this half term is...

MINIBEASTS

So far we have talked about healthy foods and created healthy eating plates to form a display of the Very Hungry Caterpillar. We will also be constructing different minibeasts using pom-poms, and taking part in many more exciting activities following this theme.



To celebrate Mother's Day, the children will make cards to celebrate their mothers' special day. For St Patrick's Day the children will be learning some Irish dancing steps.

This half term we have zoned the playground in order to give the children safe and secure environment to play and work on activities, i.e. skipping, hula-hoops, cycling, football etc. We also have a structured games theme, such as ring games, penalty shootout, rounders etc.



INFANTS

Star of the Week

Jack B

...for being a very helpful and always sensible member of the club!

JUNIORS

Star of the Week

Teddie T

...for being consistently helpful and a positive role model to others.

Parents Evening

As you are aware, on **Thursday 15th March** the school is holding a Parents Evening which will take place in the school hall.

We are currently in the process of arranging alternative premises for the after-school club and will inform you by Wednesday 14th March where to collect your children from on the night of Parents Evening. We will endeavour to cause as little disruption to the children's activities as possible. Thank you for understanding!

Team Training

Over the last few months the team have been part of an expanding training programme as part of their continuous professional development. This involved courses for individual staff members as well as training for the whole team, and shows their ongoing commitment to the club and children.



The courses included *Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding Level 1, Safeguarding Level 2, Safeguarding against Radicalisation, Prevent Duty and British Values, Food Safety & Hygiene, Equality and Diversity, Behaviour Management, EYFS for Out of School Clubs.*



Congratulations to **Kim Carpenter** for being awarded the first **Team Member of the Month**. Kim gives 100% to everything and is always willing to help and support her colleagues. Thank you for being such a star, Kim!