

## **February 2017 Newsletter – Number 1**

Dear Mums, Dads, and Carers

Due to staff absences, we were unable to go on our walk around Cranborne to look at the birds, however we did go across to the first school playground and enjoyed looking for birds using the binoculars we made.



### **Activities**

The children really enjoyed the visit from Angus, the RugbyTots Instructor. They all listened to Angus' instructions on how to catch and throw a rugby ball. Angus will join us each half term to further support the children's physical skills.

We also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, after watching a dragon dancing on the computer, we then made our own.



Next half term we will be learning about different occupations, as well as inviting a Policeman and Dorset Waste Management, we plan to invite a Taekwondo Expert to talk to the children about their job role.

Pancake Tuesday – we would like to watch the first school run their races along Water Street, followed by making our own pancakes and running races in our Pre-school garden. If you can help, please let Karen know.



### **World Book Week – W/C 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Each session the staff and children are invited to dress as their favourite book or nursery rhyme character. This year we would also like to support Book Aid International. We suggest that each staff member and family donate £1 to dress up which we will donate to support Book Aid International, for every £2 that we raise Book Aid International sends a new book to a library or school in Africa. We plan to explore the book “Little Red Riding Hood” by setting up a role play area so the children can re-enact the story. We will also support the children to understand ‘stranger-danger’ through inviting a policeman to talk with the children how to stay safe.

### **30-hour government funding for 3 and 4 year olds**

Dorset have been invited to give parents the 30-hour government funding from April 2017 and we will be able to offer this to parents who attend our setting. Parents wishing to take up their 30 hours entitlement must first of all express an interest by following the button on the parents 30 hours pages of Dorset For You, which can be found from this link [www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/30hours](http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/30hours) This link also gives you eligibility information. When clicking on the “Express an Interest” button, parents will be asked to complete a pre-approval form which will be used by HMRC to ensure the parent is a Dorset Local Authority Area resident and/or attending a Dorset Childcare setting. This stage is additional to that which will apply when the entitlement rolls out nationally later in the year, but is necessary due to eligibility currently being restricted to the Dorset LA area.

Once parents have completed the pre-approval form, HMRC will send a link to the on-line application system where you can complete your application for both 30 hours’ children and tax free childcare.

Once the full on-line application has been completed, parents will be given an instant answer and those who are eligible will be given a code which you give to your setting as evidence of your eligibility.

### **Snack fees**

The snack fee invoice is voluntary for government funding children, however if you choose not to pay this invoice, then a piece of fruit is needed every session your child attends.

Lastly, the staff and I wish you all a fun and safe week, we return on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Kind Regards  
Karen



**Date for your Diary**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February** – Pre-school finishes at 12.50 pm

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February** – Return to Pre-school for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half spring term

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** – Dorset Waste Management at 10.30 am to talk about recycling

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – Taekwondo Expert visiting at 10.30 am

**W/C 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Book week, children can dress up as their favourite book or nursery rhyme character

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** – Watching the First School run their Pancake races

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Cranborne Duck Race – further details to follow





