

ST. MICHAEL'S MAIL

St. Michael's Nursery Newsletter

17th March 2024

**Hello from the nursery team:
Hilary, Jennie, Georgie, Kelly, Lizzie, Louise and Sophie**

Dear parents and carers,

Wow! Well done to Verity, the fundraising committee and the 'Easter Bunnies'. A very well supported fundraising event which (news just in!) raised over £550 for the nursery...fabulous! It was great to see lots of new faces, the children all seemed to be having a lovely time, and the Donkeys were clearly a big hit!

The activities will lead us nicely into our next week and a half of preparing for Easter at the nursery. Hopefully you all know that we have had some chicks hatch. Poppy Chicken was broody and Hilary had some fertile eggs for her to hatch out and be mother hen. We now have three chicks, and hopefully names for them from the name the chicks stall. The children will get to handle the chicks, but we also need to respect mummy hen as she will only let them out of her sight for a few minutes at a time. We do sometimes incubate and hatch ourselves...which does make chick handling easier, but it is more natural (and less time consuming!) to let a mother hen do the rearing and then we can hopefully also integrate the new chicks into our 'flock'.

At nursery this week children will have the opportunity to make Easter cards, make playdough eggs, continue exploring 'collage', go on a shape sorter egg hunt, learn Easter rhymes, and discover some of our egg related mathematical resources. We will also have the Castle and Knights for small world play, and build magnetic play vehicles.

If you have not yet accepted your September hours offer, please do so by returning your form or emailing. We have a waiting list for available places and option swaps.

You may or may not be aware but Mole Valley Family Centre is currently run by Dorking Nursery School. This is about to change and the new contract for Family Centre services has been awarded to the YMCA. Currently, The Centre is offering a Parenting Puzzle course, Flyer attached. This has always been a really popular and valuable course for parents who just need a little bit of extra support with parenting challenges. If the timing is not quite right for you this time, or indeed is already full, it is still worth contacting them to put your name forward for future courses...hopefully demand will ensure they continue under new management.

The next Messy Church session is on Thursday 21st March from 3.00 to 4.45pm.

Hilary

This week...

Understanding the World:

Our chicks have hatched and the children are fascinated with them, as is Poppy their fabulous foster mum. Witnessing the life cycle at first hand helps to develop knowledge and understanding of the world, introduce new vocabulary and begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and living things.



Number of the week:



Woodland Wonder:

Many wild birds are just starting to build their nests at this time of year. There are several ways we can help them during this time, fresh food and water are really helpful, but you can also provide some easy access nesting materials. Fill a hanging container such as an existing bird feeder, or simply tuck materials into a bush. Make sure to provide only natural materials, such as raked moss, garden cuttings, straw or wool.



Star of the Day

Please take a photo or short video of something special that your child would like to share with us at nursery, and upload it to Tapestry.

NB. please record videos in LANDSCAPE format (i.e. with phone/tablet held horizontally) so we are able to view them on the large screen.

Monday 18th: Ralph

Tuesday 19th: Teddy

Wednesday 20th: Caspian

Thursday 21st: Albert

Friday 22nd: Tamsin

Our Star of the Day schedule is also displayed in the nursery window for future dates