

Newsletter January 2017

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and trust you had a nice Christmas.

As the frenzy of December has drawn to a close-and the New Year is upon us, we will be looking at organising exciting events and trips out in our local environment for the children to enjoy. I will inform where and times in the next couple of weeks.

With a diverse population such as ours in Britain, we are used to marking special days from all the world's religions, helping children to understand the shared human values represented in each other's cultures and faiths. Festivals are a wonderful way to celebrate diversity because they illustrate so well that within diversity there are so many common themes: Rituals of giving gifts, sharing wealth, eating together.

In the next few weeks we will be talking about "Where I'm from around the world". We aim to promote and celebrate the diversity of individual culture in our setting which meets one of the EYFS principles (Inclusive Practice).

We will be:

Talking about the different countries where our families are from

Looking at the world map

Making and colouring flags

Cooking traditional dishes

Dressing up

The children are welcome to bring in any resources, i.e. books, photos, postcards, musical instruments etc. that reflect the country they are from.

Please inform any members of staff if you would like to do an activity with the children, i.e. read a story, play a traditional instrument or talk about your country.

We will be looking to Chinese New Year for another excuse to celebrate, making fortune cookies with messages for our families- and sharing a feast of crispy pancakes. The children will love this meal because they can build the pancake parcels themselves and a sure way of getting them to try new flavours. A delicate pancake, a pinch of meat, strips of cucumber, a sprinkle of spring onions and a slathering of plum sauce.

Celebration's, whatever their origins, are a great way to encourage children to develop empathy, to become interested in worlds beyond their own and to enjoy being generous and kind to others.

From Laura and the Nursery Team.