

## Noises from the Farmyard, October 2024

We now seem to be flying into the festive time of year! The children are settling, and we are enjoying the learning opportunities that autumn brings. We have been fortunate to still enjoy lots of outside exploration even with the changeable weather. The team are busy planning some lovely experiences around Christmas

### UP COMING DIARY DATES 2024

#### **October**

End October	Parent telephone consultations
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest collection
4 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> October	World Space Week
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Sense Coffee Morning
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Wear red day (Dress up day)
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Indian Dance Workshop
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween (Dress up day)
28 <sup>th</sup> October	BOF's 28th birthday

#### **November**

1 <sup>st</sup> November	Diwali
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Guy Fawkes visit
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas photos
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day
18 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Nursery Rhyme Week

#### **December**

4 <sup>th</sup> December	A Victorian Christmas Experience
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Children's Christmas Party's (Dress up day)
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Preschool Carol Concert (invite only)
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Parent craft week - Christmas themed
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingles craft session
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day (Dress up day)
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Close at 4pm
25 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Hanukkah

### EXCLUSION REMINDER

Please may we remind parents that there is a **48 hour exclusion** after sickness and diarrhoea, this is from the last bout of either sickness or diarrhoea. So please do not send your child in until the exclusion period has ceased. Please see our noticeboard at the entrance for further exclusion information.

### STAFF NEWS

Brogan and Kelly have shared the exciting news that they are both expecting their second babies! Kelly will leave us around Christmas to commence maternity leave. Julie will be stepping into Kelly's kitchen role; she joins us towards the end of October to begin learning the ropes. Brogan will stay with us for a little longer with baby due in March. We wish both ladies well and are enjoying being a part of this journey with them.

Both Chanelle and Lisa-Jane have successfully finished their level 5 qualifications and are now Early Years Lead Practitioners. A huge congratulations to both ladies! Gaining a level 5 qualification involves a lot of dedication and hard work and both ladies managed to pass with flying colours alongside working and managing young families. They are great role models for us all.

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As a team we continue to further our own development with recent staff meetings looking at the use of visual strategies to support children, safeguarding and encouraging curiosity and problem solving amongst young children. Many of the staff team have completed/ refreshed food hygiene training also. In the upcoming months we shall be revisiting some safeguarding themes such as FGM and The Prevent Duty.

### EXCING NEWS

As many of you know we sadly said goodbye to some of our animals earlier this year - Copper, Camilia and Rosie are missed very much but we are excited to say that we shall be welcoming two new ponies at the end of October! Dotty and Teddy will be 6 and 7 months old when they arrive from Wales. We are very excited to welcome them to their new home and we are sure the children will love meeting our new friends!

Teddy



Dotty



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### MENUS

In the coming weeks you will notice some tweaks to our menu's based on the children's reactions to different meals that have been introduced over the past few months, alongside staff and parent feedback. Updated menu's will be on the notice board outside of the office as always.

### MONTESSORI

You will notice that Lisa-Jane our Montessori teacher has been carrying out various activities with the children. Her current focus has included lots of practical life activities such as pegging, transferring and pouring with the younger children just starting their Montessori journey to exploring size, quantity to numeral association and early writing skills with the older children. She has also introduced many seasonal activities such as exploring shadows and, shells and leaf/bark rubbing. Lots of lovely learning has happened that you can see documented on you child's Tapestry account.

### TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY & ROSH HASHANAH

We had a fabulous day celebrating all things pirate! The children looked wonderful! We made our own treasure map and eye patches and enjoyed using different media.

We also enjoyed learning about the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah. The children enjoyed exploring the importance of the day through lovely activities.

### HARVEST

Jane from Holy Innocents Church will be visiting to collect any harvest donations on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Please do drop any donations into the office and we shall pass them on.

### 2025 APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

The application process for children starting school in September 2025 will open in November this year. Schools generally open for prospective parents to view from October onwards. We shall update parents as soon as we will have more information.

### PRELOVED UNIFORM

Please drop any unwanted Beechoak Farm uniform into the office. You will notice a box of preloved uniform outside of the office most days, please do help yourself.

### PARENT CONSULTATIONS & 2 YEAR CHECKS

Parent consultations and two-year checks are currently being planned. If your child is due a parent consultation you will shortly receive an email inviting you to book. For children due a two year check we will contact you separately to organise this.

Parent consultations are offered twice a year and are a 15-minute conversation giving you the opportunity to speak about your child's progress and goals.

Our two-year checks are separate to the two year check carried out by health visitors. All children before the age of three years should have a two-year check carried out by their educational setting. You will not be offered a parent consultation if your child is due a two year check before the end of the year.

### UPCOMING CURRICULUM

To finish off the year we have the following themes planned:

**October**

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4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - We shall spend some time this week exploring the universe - planets and space travel.

18<sup>th</sup> - Show racism the red card day. We shall be carrying out lots of activities that encourage the children to celebrate how we are all different but the same on this day! Children will be invited to wear something red.

25<sup>th</sup> - Primary workshops will be visiting and giving the children that attend on this day to explore Indian music and dance.

31<sup>st</sup> - We shall be getting a little spooky and inviting the children to come to nursery dressed in Halloween costumes.

### **November**

1<sup>st</sup> - We shall celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. This is always a favourite celebration for the children to explore that incorporates lots of colour.

5<sup>th</sup> - Bonfire night will be a key focus on this day, we shall explore the colour of fireworks, the story of Guy Fawkes and of course how we can keep ourselves safe!

11<sup>th</sup> November - We shall be thinking about those that help keep us safe and creating poppy themed artwork.

18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> - as part of World Nursery rhyme week we shall enjoy exploring our favourite nursery rhymes.

### **December**

Hanukkah will be celebrated at the end of the month as we explore customs celebrated during this Jewish festival.

### GUY FAWKES

Pauline has extensive knowledge and experience of supporting young children's learning and knowledge of history through her previous role at the Gunpowder Park in Waltham Abbey. She has kindly offered her time and expertise on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. Pauline will spend time in the preschool barn exploring the Gunpowder plot and creating some wonderful craft with the children to confirm their learning. Look out for the photos!

### SOPHIE DUNNE PHOTOS

Sophie will return on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> November to take photos of the children. We shall have a Christmas themed back drop. Once we know the colour scheme, we shall let you know! A further email will follow in due course.

### CHRISTMAS!

We really hope to make this a very special time of year. Lots of plans are in the pipeline. Please see below for dates. Further details will follow.

**Christmas cards** - The children are currently creating their own Christmas cards which will be sent home shortly for you to see. You are then able to order additional packs and also other items if you choose.

**Christmas Party** - this will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. All children are welcome and hopefully we may even receive a visit from Father Christmas! Please wear fancy dress or Christmas jumpers! Further information to follow.

**Christmas Carol Concert** - Our oldest children will host their very own carol concert for their parents this year. Information to follow.

**Parent craft** - Parent craft will be running again the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> December. Parent craft will involve lots of lovely Christmas themed activities. It's a lovely opportunity to spend some time with your child exploring their environment. Further information will be sent out shortly.

**A Victorian Christmas** - Pauline will be spending time with the children in the preschool barn on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, introducing them to typical Victorian Christmas traditions and games!

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**Christingles** - Jane from the Holy Innocents church will visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> to explain to the children in the Preschool Barn the relevance of the Christingle. They will then create their very own to bring home!

**Christmas Jumper day!** - 18<sup>th</sup> December, everyone is invited to wear their festive jumpers on our this day.

Please look out for emails relating to the activities closer to the time.

### DECEMBER TEA CLUBS

Tea club will not be running on the following dates in December:

6<sup>th</sup> December

13<sup>th</sup> December

24<sup>th</sup> December

If your child normally attends tea club on any of the dates we ask that your child is collected by 4pm. You will receive the refund in your December invoice.

### CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Beechoak Farm will close at 4pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.

### TAPESTRY

We love to see what the children get up to whilst not at Beechoak Farm! Please do use Tapestry to upload photos of their experiences at home. We then use these to help us plan targets and inform our planning for your child. Please see the following link if you require help to add your own observation to Tapestry.

<https://eyfs.info/forums/topic/52487-how-to-add-an-observation/>

### SPARE CLOTHES & WATER BOTTLES

We have very limited spare clothes for children who have accidents. Please ensure your child has sufficient changes of clothes left in a bag at nursery each day. Along with a water bottle that can be refilled.

### BAGS FOR WELLIES

Could we please ask that everyone sends their child's wellies into nursery in a drawstring bag. This helps us to store them safely.

### MOBILE PHONES

We are seeing an increase of people using mobile phones. For safeguarding purposes, we ask you not to use your mobile phone once you are through the main school gate. Please finish any phone calls and refrain from answering calls whilst on the premises.

### INVOICING

Is prepared and sent on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you are having trouble receiving these emails please do check your spam or junk files as sometimes they are delivered there. Payments are due on or before the first of the month, at which time the FEE Planner will take your direct debit payment. If you are using the childcare voucher please ensure that these are also with us on or before the first of each month. Direct Debit forms are available from the office.

Any account enquiries should be forwarded to Sophie from  
accounts [accounts@beechoakfarm.co.uk](mailto:accounts@beechoakfarm.co.uk)



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### PLEASE REMEMBER!

- Please do not allow the children to climb on the statue.
- To ensure your child is sent in with appropriate clothing and footwear during the cold, wet winter months. No UGGs or UGG style shoes are allowed at nursery.
- For safeguarding purposes we ask you not to use your mobile phone once you are through the school gate. Please finish any phone calls and refrain from answering calls whilst on the premises.
- Please make sure that the main gate and gates through the field are fully closed behind you at dropping off and collection times.
- Please drive onto/ exit the premises with caution and reverse into parking bays for the safety of the children.
- Please call in the event of your child's absence especially if your child has a special diet. The office is open from 7.45am in the morning, alternatively please leave a message or email.
- Please drop off promptly at 9am as late drop offs disrupt the classes. Also can we remind parents to collect by 4pm or 5pm if your child is booked into tea club, any late collections are chargeable and extremely disruptive to our staff.
- Could we please also ask that siblings are not left unsupervised on the premises at drop off/ collection time. Please keep them with you at all times, we cannot be held responsible for their safety.
- Can you please refrain from sending food products in. We have many children with allergies and it is essential that they do not come into contact with certain foods.
- A notice board is situated outside the main office which is updated every Friday evening for the following week with the upcoming events, lunches etc. So please keep an eye on this so you do not miss out.
- Could we please remind parents to ensure that their child has enough nappies and wipes for the week.
- Please can we ask that if your child is sent home in spare clothes that they are returned, we are getting low on our spare clothes. Alternatively if you are having a clear out and have any spare knickers, pants, socks and trouser we would gratefully accept them.

Kindest Regards

Beechoak Farm Team