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End of Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Hope you have all had a good Christmas.

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you all for your support over the first term back during these strange times. The nursery team and I are extremely grateful for your understanding and cooperation. I feel that the new system of entering and exiting the setting has worked well with no problems. Also, for your information there is a doorbell on the notice board (which is situated by the side entrance) for you to ring if the gates are closed.

We cannot praise the children enough for the way they have approached nursery this first term back. After such a long break from March to September we expected a lot of separation issues and a bumpy transition coming back to nursery. However, apart from maybe a couple of wobbly moments, all the children breezed into nursery as if no time had elapsed and just ‘got on with it’. Fantastic!

The new members of staff have also been an absolute credit to the nursery, they have shown initiative, confidence and have proven to be a big hit with all the children. Tilly will be increasing her work days at nursery from the start of the Spring term and will be in every day except Wednesdays.

**Autumn Term 2020**

It certainly has been a very busy term:-

**Halloween** – the children loved coming into nursery dressed in their Halloween costumes, not so much scary but very cute (although we did tell them they were scary).

**Children In Need** – by coming into nursery for the week dressed in spots and/or stripes, the children raised an amazing £120 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you.

**Pied Piper Production of Zoom!** – what a show! We are so lucky to have such a talented theatre group literally on our doorstep. The children sat still for 50 minutes whilst watching the performance and loved it, especially the puppet alien Leelo.

**Barrow Hills School Christmas Song Competition –** we were all so proud of our children and were more than happy to have been awarded second prize - 20 plush reindeer toys. We all had lots of fun learning and singing the song ‘Jesus Is Born’. May I take this opportunity to say another big thank you to estate agents Masella Coupe for purchasing a further 15 toys so that every nursery child would be given a reindeer toy.

**Nursery Christmas Party** – this was a huge success, lots of Christmas craft activities, musical statues, Suzie Songtime, Christmas lunch, disco dancing and to top it all a snowball fight = very happy children. The nursery team slept well that night!

**Tier 4**

At the time of sending this newsletter out I can confirm that we are still set to return on Monday 4th January 2021. I will of course inform you all if this changes between now and then.

**Spring Funding Forms**

Funding Forms will be handed out next week to those of you who are eligible. I would be very grateful if you could complete and return the form to me as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Invoicing**

Invoices will be generated and given out about two weeks into the start of term to allow for possible changes in session days/times.

**Parent Zone**

Please don’t forget to check Parent Zone for any photos/observations your child’s Key Worker may have put on there for you to see. If you have problems logging on then please let me know and I will re-issue you with new login details.

**Term Dates 2020/2021**

I am attaching the term dates for 2021 for your information.

**Nursery Annual General Meeting**

The nursery AGM took place on Monday 27th September via zoom. A copy of the minutes and the Managers Report was sent out to all parents, however, if you would like another copy then please let me know and I will forward a copy to you.

**Fundraising**

The new fundraising team have done an incredible job so far in raising much needed funds for the nursery. The Christmas Raffle was a huge success and we were blown away by the generosity of local companies and individuals who donated a prize, and to all those people who bought a ticket. The sale of face masks and reindeer food has also been amazing. We are truly thankful for your support, it is not an easy task to raise money through no-contact events, but you have exceeded any expectation we had. Well done and thank you.

**Additional Information**

* Please remember to bring your child in with a named coat and a named bag with a change of clothes, and a named water bottle. If possible maybe a pair of wellington boots, named of course, as they do like to jump in puddles.
* We do not allow any sugary drinks at our setting. If your child will be staying for lunch please put your child’s name clearly on the lunch bag/box as sometimes we have more more than one of the same design.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year, stay safe and fingers crossed we can get back to ‘normal’ soon.

Leigh and The Nursery Team