



**Last month Choochoos have been...**

**Butterflies** - we have had a wonderful start to the new year exploring many exciting topics inspired by the children's interests. We have been experiencing activities evolving the world we live in and important people in our lives. Extending on this topic the children showed an interest in animals from around the world and we created our very own Butterfly zoo. The butterflies have enjoyed exploring new letters and sounds and focusing one letter over a two week period. Thank you to our families for supporting our letter of the week and bringing in items from home.



**Caterpillars** – so far this term, Caterpillar room have been exploring different textures, making our own playdough, mixed spaghetti and paint, explored light and dark with torches. We are beginning to build a construction area in our top garden, so, if you have any old pieces of wood, old wheels or pedals, we would love to recycle them.

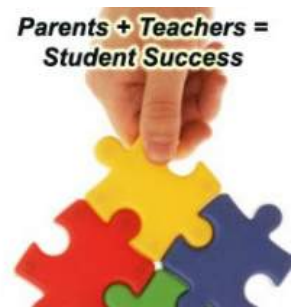


**Babychoos** – we have had a lovely start to the year, baking shortbread biscuits, exploring cardboard boxes through play and making papier-mâché balloon faces.



**Dates for diary in February are...**

- **Story telling week – 30<sup>th</sup> January- 6<sup>th</sup> February.** Our children and practitioners are invited to dress up as their favourite story characters. Each room will be focussing on their favourite stories, making props, puppets and displays. If any parents or family members would like to come in and read to our children, please let your child's key person know.
- **Chinese New Year (Monkey) -Monday 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Shrove Tuesday/Pancake day – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Valentine's Day - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Parents Meeting – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup>.** Please see your child's key person to book an appointment to discuss your child's development. They will also be asking for your input in reviewing and evaluating their next steps.



### Staffing News...

- This month our staff will receive positive behaviour management training.
- Last month our team learnt Makaton signs for meal times, taught by Hayley our Makaton Advocate, see attached our signs for this, it is also displayed in our lobby area.
- Last month our staff completed paediatric first aid training

### Reminder...

Please ensure you provide your child with appropriate named clothing for the weather e.g. warm coat, hats, gloves, outdoor shoes etc as they will be going outside each session.



### Social Media...



Choochoos posts items onto social media 'Facebook' and 'Instagram', 'Choochoos Day Nursery' as a further means of communication with you. Please feel free to join our page and make comments.



Instagram

### Parent Notices...

- Your child's keyperson will be giving you an activity with the hope that you may be able to do at home with your child. Please write green post-its for their learning journey.
- Parents evening will be taking place in February. It is a time for you as parents to come in to discuss your child's development, progress and create next steps for them with your child's keyperson. With this in mind, we have extended our parents appointment times to allow longer to discuss. Each key person will have different days to enable us to do this. It is very important that you attend so we can work together to plan next steps for your child. Alternative appointments will not be available due to our ratios. Our Babychoos practitioners will be doing the same, so please see your child's keyperson to book an appointment. Your child's keyperson will be giving you green obs to fill out to contribute to their next steps.
- Rosie is the new community co-ordinator for Choochoos and her job is to arrange visits from outside community people, families and visits out for our children. E.g. the fire brigade, police, dentist etc. to develop their knowledge and understanding. To provide the children with a range of experiences, we are asking parents or family members to share their occupations, talents or hobby interests with our children.
- To provide families with more information each day Sarah our chef will display in the lobby a photo of the daily meals she prepares for the children. Our lobby area also has recipes created by Sarah that you can use at home.
- Look out in our lobby for our children centre news and leaflets. Choochoos work very closely in collaboration with all local Children's centres.
- I hope you now enjoy our weekly email to you all explaining what your children may have been involved in and what we have planned. Please advise if you are not receiving this.
- EAL - Our website is able to translate into many different languages. Current information, newsletters and notices can be accessed from it. For this service please visit [www.choochoos.co.uk](http://www.choochoos.co.uk)
- Policy updates - this month our outings and home visit policies have been reviewed with slight amendments. Our Safeguarding policy had some new information added to consider the requirements around prevent duty. Staff are receiving full training and leaflets on this to raise their awareness. These can be found in our lobby area. If you would like a personal copy of any of our policies please request this from admin.



### Availability at Choochoos...

We currently have spaces in our Babychoos (0-2years), Caterpillars (2-3years) and Butterfly (3-4 years) rooms, if you would like any additional sessions. If you wish to find out more please contact me.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. I am available any time for you to come and see me and share your thoughts or email me at [ask@choochoos.co.uk](mailto:ask@choochoos.co.uk) Lauren Miller, Manager**