

**WELCOME TO**

**February 2022**

# NEWSLETTER



## **WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY EDITION OF MONKEY NEWS**

### **Senior Manager**



Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families who have recently joined the MP family we look forward to building a lasting relationship with you and your children.

The month of February has certainly been a very eventful month for us all here at MP. We want to extend our apologies again for the inconvenience caused by two events which forced closures to our pre-school/toddler rooms when we had a Covid outbreak, and to the entire nursery when we had electrical problems, both of which were out of our control. Thank you for your understanding and offers of support.

When we were fully operational the children enjoyed celebrating our sport and exercise themes from dance and movement to physical games and PE. They also enjoyed making cards and crafts for Valentine's Day and making dragons and crafts as well as enjoying some Chinese food for Chinese New Year.

We were delighted to finally open one of our brand-new pre-school rooms upstairs this month, a real milestone for Monkey Puzzle and for Sandy and Manjit who are dedicated to investing in the future of this amazing nursery. The children have been buzzing with excitement at their new room which offers high level educational activities and experiences for our rising 5 children who go to school this coming September. We have also built into the schedule a number of outdoor trips each week to the park and library for these older children, this supports these children to become familiar with going on school trips in preparation for school.

Looking ahead to March our topic of the month is Spring and we will celebrate lots of exciting festivals including Pancake Day, World Book Day, St Patrick's Day, Red Nose Day and Mother's Day.

### **Directors**



### **Welcome to all new children and parents who join our existing Monkey Puzzle community.**

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Thomas, Taraoluwa, Elijah, Noah, Logan, Aprameya, Cameron, Bonnie, George, Arthur, and Maria who have joined our Monkey Puzzle family this month.

We have had lots of birthdays to celebrate this month across the nursery and we would like to once again wish a happy birthday to Alexandra, Archie, Ella, Ariella, Eleanor, Ivy and Ozzy.

**WE WOULD KINDLY ASK ALL PARENTS TO READ AND FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH OUR SICKNESS EXCLUSION AND COVID GUIDANCE INFORMATION ON PAGES 7 AND 8**





# Mothers Day Tea Party

We are pleased to be able to announce that we will be holding a Mothers Day Tea Party here at nursery at the end of March.

Further information will be sent out at the end of the first week of March with all the details of how we will be organising the event, and how to confirm your place.

We are able to tell you that the event will be split into two different dates depending on the room your child is part of.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Starfish and Rainbow Dolphin Children

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Dolphin, Coral Reef and Octopus Children



# Staff Birthdays

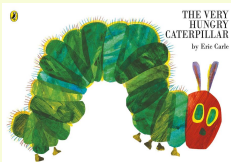
We would like to once again wish a very Happy Birthday to two of our staff this month, Sylvie and Liz.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Theme of the Month for March - Spring

Book of the Month for March - The Hungry Caterpillar



1st March - Pancake Day

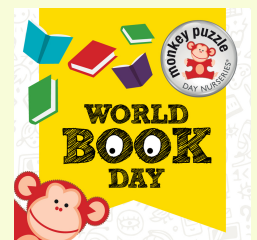
1st March - St David's Day

3rd March - World Book Day

17th March - St Patricks Day

18th March - Red Nose Day

27th March - Mothers Day







# STARFISH ROOM

## FEBRUARY RECAP

This month in Starfish we have been very busy babies. The children have taken part in a range of activities and topics.



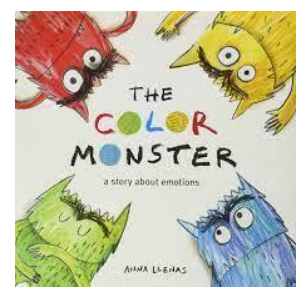
One of the topics in Starfish we have looked at is the Winter Olympics. The children have focused a lot on the Olympic Rings and the colours that represent the different continents. The children were able to recreate their very own Olympic Rings by colouring in paper plates either red, orange, green, blue and black and then with the practitioners help cut them out and used them as the rings. The children in Starfish have created tuff tray activities to represent winter. The children have used a lot of ice play and used shaving foam to represent the snow in the Olympics.



Starfish children have also had a fun week of music and movement. The children have been using a lot of jabadao and using the scarfs and ribbons we've been helping out out gross motor skills by waving the scarfs, and moving our bodies to the sound of the music we've been listening too.



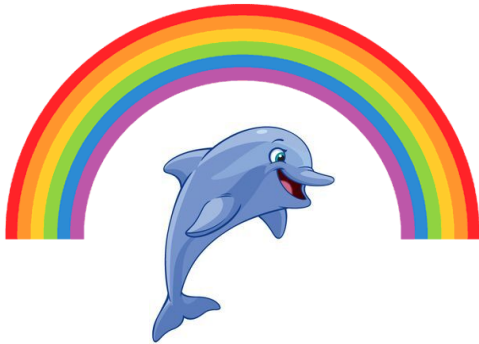
Starfish have also been looking a different range of books that are of interest to our babies. A popular book of the children's was The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Colour Monster and That's Not My ... books. The children have enjoyed using their senses to feel the different textures the book had to offer and using their sight to look at the colours and pictures.





## FEBRUARY RECAP

### RAINBOW DOLPHIN ROOM



This month in Rainbow Dolphins we have been busy celebrating lots of different special occasions.

We have celebrated Valentine's Day where the children have been creative making special cards for their loved ones, they have also been getting messy exploring different textures such as jelly in the messy play tuff trays. This has been a great for the children communcitaion and language encouraging open ended questions such as "how does this jelly feel".



It has also been a time to celebrate Chinese New Year where we learn about the Chinese culture, one of the children favourite activities was exploring the Chinese takeaway set up where they got to have fun and play with noodles and rice. This was great for practicing our scooping and pouring skills.



We have been following the children interest and it seems the Rainbow Dolphin children are very much into messy play activities so this has been great for us and a fun opportunity to get creative with our set ups. We have had spaghetti play, messy farms, jelly and shaving foam paint all for the children to get stuck in and explore.



We have noticed our lovely children have been expressing them self through dance this month so we have been having lots of fun playing some music and turning on the party lights for them to dance and explore. This has also been fun for the practicioners to teach the children some of their best dance moves!

We have had a busy and fun month this February and we can't wait for you to see what we get up to next month.



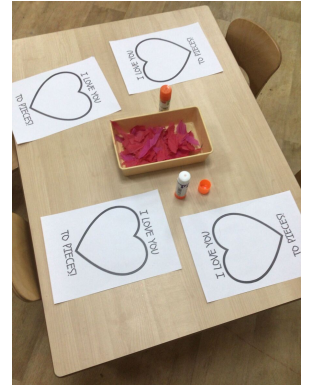
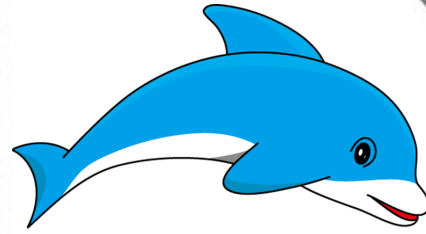


# DOLPHIN ROOM

## FEBRUARY RECAP



This month in Dolphin room we have welcomed Sylvie as the new Room Leader. Sylvie has moved over from our Rainbow Dolphin room and is overseeing the Dolphin and Coral Reef children now that the Octopus children have moved upstairs into their new Pre-School room.



The children have had lots of fun reading our book of the Month, The Tiger That Came to Tea. We have talked about different foods that are good for us and not so good for us. And had lots of fun tiger themed activities including making our very own tiger footprints!

### The Tiger Who Came to Tea



Judith Kerr

The children have celebrated Valentines Day with lots of heart themed activities, practicing their sticking skills while decorating their heart shapes with red tissue paper. We also used this opportunity to talk about the people we love and who is special to us.

We have enjoyed lots of discussions and activities based around the Winter Olympics and the different sports that people take part in.



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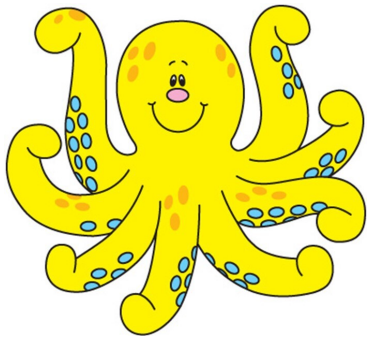
This has also linked in with our Chinese New Year celebrations as we have entered the Year of the Tiger. The children had fun making their very own Chinese Tiger out of a range of materials. They also used red and yellow coloured rice to make different colourful patterns and attempted to write some Chinese letters with chopsticks.



Following on from our Winter Olympics activities we moved on to movement and music. We used the Jabadao equipment and danced around with the scarves and ribbons, moving to the music in our own ways. The children all also really enjoyed when we turned off the lights and had our very own disco, showing us their fantastic dance moves!



# OCTOPUS ROOM



February has been a very busy month in preschool with the children taking part in a wide range of activities and events.

The main thing that has happened is that we are finally upstairs in our brand new room and have been enjoying the new activities and resources on offer to us. The children have all settled in well with the transition upstairs and have adapted quickly to the new routines and structure that we have and continue to implement.



In preschool we have been busy exploring and talking about the Winter Olympics. We have enjoyed discussing the different sports and disciplines that are part of the Winter Olympics. Looking at the Olympic flag allowed us to talk about different colours, and the continents that each colour represents. We then had a go at creating our own Olympic flags.

## FEBRUARY RECAP

The children enjoyed using a range of paint to create their own valentines cards and then decided who we would like to send them too. We especially enjoyed the sensory heart themed tray where we practiced our pincer grips by using tweezers to collect rice to place on our numbered hearts. The children have been developing their mark making skills by using pens to write valentines in their valentines cards.



We have had enjoyed looking at and talking about a range of books, and joined in with a range of sensory play activities to create our very own Gruffalo crumble and creating our own story books. We have been busy exploring print both inside and outside, and have discussed how a story is structured from the beginning, middle and ending.

The children have enjoyed venturing out into the local community, and so far have been to the local park and visits to the library. This is enabling a greater understanding around the local community as well as helping with independence and understanding around safety. We look forward to more ventures outside.







## REFER A FRIEND

Refer a friend to the nursery and if they register you receive **£100 off of your next month's fees**

(T&C's apply)

## IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PARENTS

### FACEBOOK PRIZE DRAW

Like us on Facebook for regular updates on the nursery and a chance to win in our quarterly prize draw!

[www.facebook.com/monkeypuzzlecolchester](http://www.facebook.com/monkeypuzzlecolchester)



- Please check your ParentZone updates and emails from the nursery regularly.
- Please ensure that all of your contact details and your child's emergency contact details are up to date.
- Please check the parent/carer area on the website regularly for updates.
- Please remember to provide your child with a warm coat now the weather is turning colder as we are an all weather nursery and will still be spending time in our outdoor learning areas.
- Please ensure Starfish, Rainbow Dolphin and Octopus children have slippers at nursery.

### DAY NURSERIES

We are proud to be rated 10/10 on [daynurseries.co.uk](http://daynurseries.co.uk) and voted as a Top 20 Day Nursery in the East of England.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who have reviewed our nursery!





# COVID GUIDANCE

WHAT TO DO IF ...	ACTIONS REQUIRED ...	YOUR CHILD MAY RETURN WHEN ...
... your child has symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to nursery</li> <li>Inform the nursery</li> <li>Book a PCR test immediately</li> <li>Self-isolate at home</li> </ul>	... there is a negative test result, or they have been advised that they do not need to isolate
... your child tests positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to nursery</li> <li>Inform the nursery</li> <li>self-isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>	... your child feels better, and they have completed 10 days of self-isolation. Some symptoms such as cough and loss of taste/smell can remain even when the infection has gone
... somebody in your child's household has symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household member to book a PCR test immediately</li> <li>Inform the nursery</li> <li>Self-isolate at home</li> <li>Inform nursery of test result</li> </ul>	... your child may attend nursery as they are under the age of 18 years old as long as they are well with no symptoms of COVID-19
... somebody in your child's household has tested positive for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform the nursery</li> <li>Self-isolate at home for 10 days</li> <li>Book a PCR test for your child</li> </ul>	... your child may attend nursery as they are under the age of 18 years old as long as they are well with no symptoms of COVID-19
... NHS Test & Trace have identified your child as a close contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to nursery if you have been advised by NHS Test &amp; Trace to self-isolate for 10 days (e.g., if they have come into contact with someone with the Omnicrom variant)</li> <li>Inform the nursery</li> <li>Self-isolate at home for 10 days</li> </ul>	... your child may attend nursery as they are under the age of 18 years old, provided they have not come into contact with someone who has the Omnicrom variant.
... you have received medical advice that your child should shield or should resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to nursery</li> <li>Follow medical advice</li> <li>Inform the nursery</li> </ul>	... you are advised that your child no longer needs to shield
... you have received medical advice that someone in your household should shield or should resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to nursery</li> <li>Contact the nursery manager to discuss any concerns</li> </ul>	... you are advised that the individual no longer needs to shield
... your child has just returned from abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not send your child to nursery until they have taken a PCR test on day 2 after they have returned to the UK</li> <li>Inform the nursery</li> <li>Self-isolate at home for the defined period, this includes whilst you are waiting for their PCR test results.</li> </ul>	... you have completed the defined period of self-isolation; this includes whilst you are waiting for the PCR test results.
... I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home</li> </ul>	... your child has completed 10 days of self-isolation





## ILLNESS / INFECTION

## EXCLUSION PERIOD

Chicken Pox	Minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash and all spots must be fully scabbed over before returning to nursery.
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	Whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	All blisters must have dried out before returning to nursery, usually this is after approximately 4-6 days.
Headlice	There is no recommended exclusion period, however, parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice and we would be grateful if nursery are informed so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
Impetigo	Until the lesions have crusted or healed.
Measles	Excluded for 4 days from the onset of the rash.
Scarlet Fever	Excluded from nursery for the first 24 hours after starting treatment.
Whooping Cough	Excluded for 2 days after starting treatment, or 21 days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
Prescribed Medication	Children must be taking any medication for a minimum of 24 hours before coming in to nursery. Medication can only be administered after the 24 hour exclusion even if your child has previously taken the same medication. All medication must be in its original packaging with the prescription label attached and clearly showing child's name.
Immunisations including Flu nasal spray	If your child has had any form of immunisations, including the Flu nasal spray, they are not permitted to attend nursery for the following 24 hours due to possible allergic reactions.
Infant Suspension - Calpol	If a child develops a fever whilst at nursery the staff will use natural methods first, such as removing clothing, to try and reduce the temperature while closely monitoring the child and contacting the parents. If a child does require emergency Calpol due to a high temperature of 38 degrees or above the parents will be contacted prior to ensure all details are correct and that they agree with the dosage being given. Parents will then be required to collect their child.