

Reminder!

# Martenscroft Nursery School & Children's Centre

## NEWSLETTER

May 2019



**29th April**  
Arrival of new chicks



**1<sup>st</sup> May**  
Parent Support group meeting 9.15 at Aquarius community centre

**7th May**  
Dads creative fun sessions 3.30-5.00pm  
Come along to enjoy quality time with your child



**9th May**  
Chicks will return to the farm. Bye bye chicks!



**17th & 24th May**  
Healthy Gems workshops for parents and carers



**27th—31st May**  
Half Term Break  
(Nursery class and Term Time only children)  
Close at the end of the day on Friday 24th May & return on Tuesday 4th June

**3rd June—Staff training day.**  
Martenscroft is closed to ALL children

*Goodbye & good luck*

### Staffing Update

*We are sad to announce that after more than a year working at Martenscroft, Ged left us on Tuesday 30th April. We wish him all the best for the future.*

*We would also like to wish Sammy from Blossom Room and Lucia from Palm Room all the best for their maternity leave and we look forward to hearing their happy baby news*



### SEND Parents Support Group at Martenscroft.

This is a support group for parents with children with additional needs. We are a group of parents with children who have additional needs, and we meet regularly as a support group. We are in the early stages of forming this group, so we welcome anyone who is interested and we value your suggestions about how the group might work. We meet at Martenscroft at 9.15 so people have time to drop off their children, and then move to the Aquarius Community Centre just around the corner. If you can't make it but are interested leave a message for Nuzhat at reception (Nuzhat is Layaan's mummy and a parent governor).

support

### Chicks Arriving at Martenscroft

We would like to welcome the arrival of the new chicks, which will be based in the reception area until Thursday 9th May. Please join in and watch them develop over the next week.




### Music sessions at Martenscroft

On Monday mornings here at Martenscroft we have musicians who make and play music with the children. They say "Music making is fun and engaging and its inclusion in the lives of all children can only add extra value and enrichment to what is already a wonderful nursery experience at Martenscroft. Our music sessions are varied and fast paced, one minute we could be singing a song about a crocodile catching fish with puppets and big actions and then next we might be bouncing teddies on a trampoline or moving to music using colourful scarves. The activities are carefully planned to help improve listening and concentration skills and other aspects of development; action songs for memory and movement, taking turns songs for social skills and phonics songs for speech and language. Exploring child sized musical instruments is important for sound discrimination (which helps with language acquisition) and fine motor movements. Along with nursery staff, we track the children's progress during these music sessions and are thrilled that some have recently been feeling confident enough to try conducting a young professional musician from the RNCM! It is our pleasure to visit the nursery each Monday morning and create some music with the happy and enthusiastic children here".





### Parent Feedback Questionnaires

It is that time of year again when we ask for your feedback on Martenscroft Nursery School & Children's Centre. You will soon receive a feedback questionnaire form from us and we would greatly appreciate your responses in order that we can continue the wonderful provision here at Martenscroft. Thank you.



### Creative Opportunities at Martenscroft

We have two wonderful creative opportunities this term. Company Chameleon (a dance company) are working with children to explore different types of movement as a way to communicate. This will result in a celebration performance from Company Chameleon. The findings from this project will be presented in a research paper at an early years conference. We are also working with parents and children to develop family friendly spaces at Manchester Art Gallery. As part of this work children will have the chance to work with different artists.



### Healthy Gems Workshop for Parents Fridays 17th & 24th May 9.30-11.00am

This is a 2-part course endorsed by the NHS for parents, carers and grandparents designed to improve your knowledge of children's health. Spaces are limited and will be offered on a "first come first served" basis. Children are welcome to attend.






# Blossom Room

Blossom room would like to say a very warm welcome back to all our children and families.

ECO SCHOOLS – This term in Blossom room we will be primarily focussing our activities around growing and harvesting our own fruits and vegetables. The children worked very hard last term planting seeds, watering them, de-weeding and are now able to see the end result of their hard work,



which they are all very proud of. Look out for our 'Martenscroft market' in the room, where you can take home free fruit and vegetables that the children have grown. This term in Apple blossom as well as continuing to look at how things grow and change outdoors, we will also be looking at how other things grow and change. In reception we have the chicks again this year and outside we have some tadpoles from Jane's garden, which we are hoping to add to the pond in Aquarius that we made last term.

Some of our other activities will include; making our own playdough, mixing paint, whisking bubbles and much more. Why don't you try some of these fun activities at home, if you would like recipes for playdough, cornflour or anything else you see in the room then please ask a member of the Blossom team.

Our book of the term is 'Jaspers beanstalk', This story is all about growing and caring for a beanstalk. We will be sharing the story at group times and focusing some of our activities around the story. Blossom room lending library will continue this term. Suaad will be sending home evaluation forms, it would be great if you could share some of the lovely moments you have together whilst sharing books. You could also add pictures on tapestry of your child enjoying their favourite book. Our shared hall time activities have begun again this term, look out for fun activities such as, dough, yoga and squiggle whilst you wiggle.



In Cherry blossom last term the babies loved spending time outside and now the weather is getting nicer we will be doing this even more.

This half term in Cherry Blossom we say goodbye to some children who are off to have adventures in new cities and new countries, and some children who are off to have adventures in Apple Blossom. We sing lots of nursery rhymes, learning the actions and using musical instruments. Our children particularly like "The wheels on the bus" and "Wind the bobbin up". Gemma also comes in to nursery on Mondays to hold a music session with us and teach us what different instruments sound like. As the weather gets warmer, we will be spending lots of time outside so can you please make sure that your children have sun hats if needed, and sun cream if you are bringing your own. Lastly, we would be grateful for any donations of hats, scarves and handbags that you have spare for us to use for dressing up.



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# Palm Room

The children will learn about how things grow.

We will be encouraging the children to observe live eggs in an incubator and to follow the development of the chicks. This term as part of our Eco Schools Project the children will be taking part in growing vegetables, and planting lowers. Our story books are going to be based around a growing theme. To start off the children will be listening to the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We would like all the children to plant a bean and take it home. You can plant it outside or keep it in your window sill. It will be a good opportunity to share with your child as you watch the plant grow, it supports language development. We would like you to help by providing an empty yoghurt pot for your child to plant their bean in. This is also showing children how to re-use resources in a proactive eco way. Please continue to support your child with the Rhyme Time Challenge it is very important as this supports what the children have been learning at nursery in their home. You can add your photographs on Tapestry - your child's keyperson would really appreciate your observation and this can be shown back to your child boosting their confidence.



Also this term the children will be exploring paint to create their individual art work. This will be happening indoors and outdoors. They will be learning to mix colours and will use natural resources to make marks with. The children will learn different techniques like printing, rag rolling, and blowing paint through straws. Our mud kitchen will be re-stocked and the children will be able to make mud pies and use their imagination. For good physical health- recent studies have shown we absolutely NEED to have some dirt in our systems in order to develop a healthy immune system. The lack of interaction with mud is causing deficiencies and weaker immune systems in children. The mud kitchen also enables curiosity, exploration and experimentation in an open-ended way, mathematical opportunities for measuring, filling and emptying and exploring capacity. There are endless imaginative and role play possibilities starting with a blank play space structure which isn't too prescribed in its usage and allows children to create in any way that suits their play. This enables language development through descriptive words, scientific questioning and exploration, and storytelling through imaginative role play. Rich and genuine messy sensory experiences are provided through a combination of natural materials. Scientific investigation take place as materials are combined, mixed, transferred and changed. Fine motor skills develop through the use of real tools in play situations.



# Willow Class

Hello everybody and welcome back to Willow Room after the Easter break. We hope you had a lovely time off school with your children. This half term we will be exploring growth in Willow Room. I hope you have noticed the new arrivals at reception. The children will be investigating the chicken eggs and will be encouraged to discuss what they see, hear and feel as the chicks start their new life. We have also got some eggs in Willow Room. If you can take a little time to have a look with your child next to the snail in a tank of water. The children are already having some interesting ideas about what might be hatching out of these eggs. We will also be planting seeds and seedlings and finding out what happens to them as they grow. We will discuss what they need to support their growth and how we can nurture and look after them.



This links with our big book for the half term 'Flower Garden'. The book is about a little girl who plants flowers in a pot as a surprise for her mummy's birthday. Each key group is going to plant a pot with flowers and look after it over the coming weeks. We will continue to encourage children to find their name card in the morning. If you have time it would be great if you could spend a few minutes with your child and support them as they have a go at writing their name. It is important that they are encouraged to form their name independently as it gives them the satisfaction that their efforts are valued. Growth and change provides good opportunities to use the language of size and number. We will also be looking at patterns and change over time. It would be lovely if you could talk to your child about their environment and discuss the changes in the natural world as the summer season continues. We will continue to provide lots of opportunities for the children to develop their mark-making skills. They will be recording what is happening with the chicks, plants and eggs. We also want them to write and talk about their thoughts in speech bubbles and annotate their pictures etc. We will be starting the library next week. This has been a little delayed but we would like each child to choose a book to share at home. Thank you so much for your continued support

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Willow Class Team

