



# Batford Nursery School

## Christmas Newsletter 2020

The themes we have explored this Half Term are:

- Autumn/Winter
- BeeBots
- Artist Impression
- Storytelling and Story structures
- Christmas

*(NB Please see the Parent Notice Board on Tapestry for detailed weekly plans.)*

**Autumn/Winter:** The children enjoyed going on an autumn walk around the grounds, learning more about seasonal changes. Some of the children have been planting in the garden, learning about transporting compost, digging, watering, planting and caring for our winter flowers. The children have also made Christmas biscuits that we hope you enjoyed eating at home.

**Beebots:** The children have been using the Beebots (programmable floor robots). They have been learning about controlling robots, programming them and making them go in different directions. They have had great fun!

**The Arts:** The children have been learning about the Artist Paul Klee, a Swiss born painter, with a unique style that was influenced by expressionism. The children used paints to interpret his work. They have also been very interested in painting self-portraits. The children have been busy making Christmas decorations for you.

**Storytelling:** We have been using "Tales Toolkit" to encourage the language of storytelling to include characters, settings, problems and solutions. This was particularly fun with the traditional Christmas Story.



**Christmas:** Celebrations started with postal deliveries of Christmas cards from the children to their friends. Santa's workshop arrived in the home corner, giving children the opportunity to dress up in Christmas themed costumes and wrap presents. It is lovely watching them at play, problem solve and learn about shape and size. Thank you to all those who have brought in Christmas Present Hampers, hopefully you will have seen them via Facebook or Instagram under the Christmas tree. They were collected on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and distributed to people in the local community.

## Forest School

- The children have learnt the rules of the Forest School garden and embedded these with games; Duck, Duck Goose, 123 Where Are You, Sticky Feet and learnt the recall sound of how to gather back together in a group. You may like to ask them if they know what the noise is! We have also introduced the children to the tool area, showing them the respect position and how to check their "blood bubble". The children have made leaf jewellery using scissors and string. They have also enjoyed hot chocolate and snacks in the garden, always a winner!



## "The Home Challenge"

We hope you appreciate the age-appropriate home learning we are encouraging. Your engagement and support with our weekly and holiday "challenges" and library books is important and inspiring. Parent partnership in this way successfully supports and extends learning for your children.

Each colour group is allocated a "library day" as follows:-

Mon - Purple

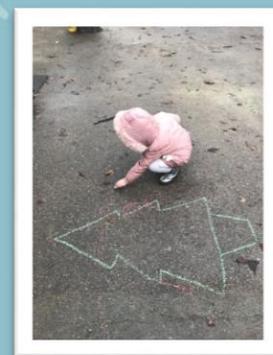
Tues - Blue

Weds - Green & Yellow

Thurs - Orange

Fri - Red

You are welcome to make any family contributions to your child's on-line learning journal using Tapestry. Thank you to all those parents who have already up-loaded photographs of their child's achievements. If you have yet to do so, Christmas would be a great opportunity to share learning with your child at home and upload onto Tapestry.



## Important Reminders

**Absence:-** If your child is unable to attend nursery, please could you telephone the office on 01582 713872 before 9.00am/1.00pm and leave a message. We appreciate the efforts of every family to make sure children arrive promptly and regularly.

**Clothing:-** Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather, we have noticed that some children are not wearing hats and gloves and are feeling the cold.

**Forest School:-** Please ensure your child has warm thick socks and appropriate clothing to wear under their Forest School suits as the weather is cold and we want the children to fully engage and enjoy their Forest School sessions.

**Everbridge:-** Please ensure you sign up to <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489> so you will be notified of any emergency closures including extreme weather conditions.

## Events

- Our first Stay at Home & Play week took place in November. Please make a note of further Stay at Home & Play challenge dates from the calendar of events.
- The Creative Curriculum Workshop will be sent to you via e-mail in the new term.
- We hope you enjoyed the Christmas songs this week. The children practiced really hard; we are very proud of them. It was lovely to see the children arrive on the day in their Christmas outfits. We hope you enjoyed their singing and it has helped you get into the festive spirit in the run up to Christmas. Thank you to all parents for your support.
- We are looking forward to the children's Christmas Fun Day later this week and a visit from the main man himself !
- We hope you were surprised by your beautiful Christmas Tree decorations and cards sent home with the children this week that they have made and decorated at nursery.

Please ensure you have completed your application for a Primary School place by the deadline of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## Thank You

- An extra thank you to all who donated Harvest gifts. We have been notified that these supplied 151 meals for the community - so really does make such a difference.
- Thank you to all parents who have put together Christmas Present Hampers for those most in need at this time in the local area. Foodbank collected the boxes and will be distributing them this week to local families.
- Thank you for all your donations for Children in Need. We raised a staggering £445.00. The children enjoyed all the Pudsey related activities.
- Thank you to all the families for your kind Christmas gifts and cards. All the staff are very appreciative and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.
- We will be saying a fond farewell to Sarah Crew who many of you may have come across during your time in the nursery or day care. Sarah has been working at the Centre for almost 25 years, during this time she has made a huge impact on the lives of many families in the local community. Sarah will be missed for her sparkle, enthusiasm and amazing commitment to her role. We wish her all the very best.
- Castellina Coffee - thanks to Tom for serving coffee and cakes to the staff last week, as a thank you for all their hard work.

## End of Year Message from the Chair of Governors

Despite the many challenges that we have faced since March 2020, it has been an inspiration to see our school community working together to ensure that our children continue to access the outstanding provision and nurturing environment at Batford Nursery.

The staff team at Batford have shown resilience and creativity in their response to the pandemic and the Governing Body are extremely grateful to the team for their consistent hard work, dedication, and kindness which always prioritises the wellbeing and happiness of the children.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our parents and carers for embracing our new ways of working and for their unwavering support during this time.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body at Batford Nursery, I wish all of our families and school community a very peaceful and safe festive period with all best wishes for 2021.

Rachel Angus  
Acting Chair of Governors

Please find the link below to Hertfordshire Education e-safety newsletter:

[https://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/news/newsletters/documents/esafety\\_newsletter\\_parent\\_autumn\\_2020.pdf](https://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/news/newsletters/documents/esafety_newsletter_parent_autumn_2020.pdf)

### PARENT | CARER Online Safety News - The Grid

PARENT | CARER 2 Most of the time children enjoy exploring the internet, playing online games and having contact with friends in a safe and supported environment at home.

[www.thegrid.org.uk](http://www.thegrid.org.uk)

Lastly, on behalf of all the staff at Batford Nursery School we wish you and your families a wonderful festive season, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back next year on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

