



Charity Dinner Dance

We still have tickets for our Charity Dinner on Saturday 28th March at the Mercure Hotel in Pembury. Why not get a group of friends/family together to have a great night out as we spring into Spring! Tickets are £50 and include a welcome glass of fizz, 3 course dinner plus tea/coffee, half a bottle of wine, dancing and a magician – this promises to be a really fun evening and funds raised will be used to support St George's Assisted Places Scheme!

If you are unable to attend but would like to donate a raffle prize, we would love to hear from you too.

For more details or to buy tickets please email becky.king@stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk

Office Staff - Nikki – Deputy Childcare Manager

Nikki joined St. George's in February this year. She has worked in childcare for 9 years. Some of her previous roles have been a nursery assistant where she worked in the 3 months- 2.5 years room, family liaison officer at a primary school, child minder and manager of a holiday camp in Sevenoaks. Nikki is also a trained social worker.

Nikki's favourite activities are messy play and story time. Nikki loves to spend time outside and was attracted to St George's by our wonderful garden area. Nikki also loves the happy and caring environment at St George's.

Nikki spends the majority of her time in the rooms with the children and helping out the staff. She is here 5 days a week to help you with any issues you may have.



Notices

When you drop off or collect your child please take a moment to look at the white boards outside their room. They will have information for you about staff, events and anything you may need to know about day to day activities.

Expansion Project update

We are very pleased to say that the building work for the new Badgers and Otters' rooms is going full steam ahead!

We are on track for the children to move into their new rooms at the beginning April! Final moving dates will be communicated mid-March.

By now parents of children involved in the moves to new rooms will have been informed but please speak to your child key worker if you have any questions.





Holiday Club

This half term **Holiday club** have welcomed a few new children into the fold.

The children have enjoyed activities such as jewellery making, designing puppet people, bookmark colouring, origami and on the last day the children performed a show they produced called 'The Sisters'.

Despite the bad weather on some of the days, it didn't stop the children burning off their energy in the garden by playing football, basketball and interacting with some of their younger siblings.

Little Dragons

Little Dragons have been very busy! We enjoyed 'Storytelling Week' by acting out some stories using props such as masks, bricks, sticks etc. We particularly enjoyed 'The three little pigs' and 'We're going on a bear hunt', where we set the room up into areas including a grassy area, a river etc. The children really loved the paper in the fans which created a snowstorm!

We celebrated Valentine's day by doing some Valentine's craft and made cards for our loved ones.

On Pancake Day we enjoyed eating pancakes and even had a go at flipping our own!

We are looking forward to our trip to Pets at Home, to finish off our under the sea topic and start our new topic on pets.

We can't wait to see all the children dressed up for World Book Day on 5th March!



Diary



World Book Day – Dressing Up	Thursday 5 th March
Mother's Day	Sunday 22 nd March
Little Dragons last day	Friday 27 th March
Easter Holiday Club	Thursday 2 nd April
Living Eggs Delivery	Monday 20 th April

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Squirrels

Squirrels love getting messy, and we have been jumping in so many muddy puddles this month that we thought why not bring the puddles indoors?

So, we have been fighting the frosts with warm, bubbly water play. We have been splashing, dipping, dunking and busting bubbles with each other.

Some of us made bubble cones and some of us helped turtles learn how to swim. Others even tried to swim themselves!



After School Club

The children have celebrated the Chinese New Year and tried to eat their tea with chopsticks, even though it was roast dinner!

Its was also National Storytelling Week at the beginning of February and the children have been bringing in their favourite books and reading them to all the children, who have sat quietly and listened to all the different stories. The staff also read to the children.

The children took part in the 'Bake Off' competition and made chocolate Juliette cakes!



Moles

Kitchen

Everyone enjoyed pancakes on Pancake Day, which were served with lemon wedges, sugar and syrup.

The new Summer menu is being created, so any suggestions of your children's favourites will be considered and added.

Moles have been looking at the different weather this month. We have created a weather board using a variety of different materials to create clouds, raindrops, snowflakes, rainbows and the sun.

We have taken part in Valentines activities, including making cakes, salt dough hearts and lots of messy activities.

Moles had lots of fun with the 'Bake Off' competition too! We went to the shops to buy ingredients and made some 'Rocky Road' which won the taste test and a trophy for our room!!



Badgers

Badgers have eaten a lot this month...

We celebrated Valentines by making assorted chocolate bark.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by eating prawn crackers and reading our fortunes with fortune cookies.

On Pancake Day we indulged with a mountain of pancakes with lots of different toppings.

This month we have started to look at people who help us and learning to understand the multitude of people around us who help on a day to day basis.

We have also been discussing the new Badger and Otter rooms and have been keeping up to date with the progress through photos. We will be visiting the new rooms as soon as they are ready!



Save the Date!



Our Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 11th July so please make a note in your diary – more details to follow soon!



Garden - Why do we let it get untidy?

Loose parts play is a type of play that supports invention, divergent thinking, problem solving and offers a sense of wonder to children. They are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

This type of play launches children into learning environments that builds a repertoire of how things come to be – how a sky scraper stays up, how a bridge can expand across lakes and rivers, how patterns and sequences are made, imagination brought to life, theories and meanings can be explained and worlds are re-imagined.

We believe that children's and adult's behaviour is influenced by the organisation of resources, space, lighting, acoustics, furniture, equipment and texture. All of these elements "speak" to us and influence our thought processes and actions. Being open to the possible responses to the environment, and then observing and reflecting on these responses is a powerful educational tool. As educators, we have a responsibility to be open to the possibilities of different realities, to create environments as places of wonder and multiple learning where children undertake their own research.

Experimenting with loose parts, natural light and mirrors adds another layer to our experimenting and play. Using loose parts that have curves, holes, patterns, that are transparent, challenges the idea of a shadow, because the resources we are using, just like shadows, are now multifaceted – they change the environment. Rolls of cardboard reacts to touch; heavy pieces of leather and vinyl have weight and movement. A piece of coloured plastic caught in the sunlight suddenly becomes a portal into a new world. By adding loose parts in to not only our construction areas, also into literacy and storytelling, dramatic play, numeracy, mathematics and science we can see our classrooms becoming more complex. Doing the same thing, may make our garden look untidy, but it will add a wealth of learning opportunities for the children.

