

## Correspondent Article March 2024

As we head into the fourth term, we will have completed half our school year! Our few months will be focused on ensuring our Little Acorns are fully prepared for starting big school in September. We are also pleased to welcome many new friends to Cabin this term. They are all settling beautifully into Cabin life.

Many of the older children are beginning to hold their pencils correctly, forming recognisable letters and recalling events in their lives, seeing and pointing out numbers within the environment as well as learning songs and playing well with their peers. These are all important milestones in their development. You should be proud parents.

This term we will be learning all about Dinosaurs and using them as a base theme for play and learning. Then we will move on to celebrating Mother's Day and learning about Spring and Easter. The staff as ever will be planning some fun activities to inspire our days at Cabin.

Charlotte will be planning an activity each term to help promote your child's dental health and well-being. This term she did an activity using the bottoms of an old pop bottle made to resemble molars. The children used toothbrushes to clean off marks and spoke about healthy food and how to care for their teeth. One little boy went home and was delighted to tell his Mum that Charlotte had new plastic teeth. We loved the feedback, please let us know if they say any funny things; we love to hear them. As part of our daily routine, we clean teeth every afternoon at around 13:30 which is around an hour after lunch ends. They love proudly showing us how sparkly clean their teeth are.

The Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations have been fun. The children have enjoyed using noodles, and mixed vegetables for making soups, teas and potions. They used chopsticks to cook and eat. We have taken it in turns to dress up as a dragon whilst the children banged and played their drums to scare the evil spirits away.



We have looked at and had a go at Chinese writing, using chopsticks and tongs to move objects around to the correct numbers. During arts and crafts, we made Chinese drums, spiral dragons, and paper plate pandas. In our role play area, which has been transformed into a Chinese restaurant, they have made lots of food, and pretended choosing and ordering favourites from the menus.

You may have wondered why we use so many different resources. Clay, mud, sand, water, shaving foam, real foods, animals and insects – this benefits our children by stimulating different senses. Using touch, smell, sight, and hearing has huge sensory benefits to all children especially those who experience sensory overload. This time allows them to desensitise which helps control their mood and overall well-being.

One of the highlights of the Cabin week is **Wheelie Wednesday** (as it has become known) where children in Oak class (reception) and Little Acorns (Cabin children) meet up for an hour of fast-moving fun on bikes and scooters and other physical play. We include access to chalk, ribbons, balls, and hoops for those not on wheels! We end the session by playing a circle game with singing songs like The Farmer's in the Den. It is great to see many smiley faces and to have something to look forward to each week. They get a lot of gross motor development, learning to navigate around their friends, gaining spatial awareness, sharing and turn-taking. All this interaction helps to develop their social and emotional skills. It also reinforces learning the days of the week and our routine.

Our new guinea pigs, Marshmallow and Loris have moved in nicely with Dad Rudolf. The children are enjoying looking after them and watching how quickly they grow. They feed them daily and help ensure they have water by filling up the water bottles. The guinea pigs especially like it when we come out to play in our garden area. They will squeak to us in anticipation of some tasty treats. Our guinea pigs especially like celery, cucumber, and apples which they take from the children's hands. We also love cuddles! They are a bit zippy, energetic and busy but they love to sit before trying to explore up sleeves or into coat linings.



We also are proud to look after four stick insects. We are patiently waiting for some eggs to hatch. The children love to pick Ivy for them to eat and do a daily spray of water. They are very easy to look after, and the children love holding them, a great alternative to a furry pet which may start allergies. We love to watch them climb up they look like small branches waving in the wind.

Pets make such an impact on children's lives. They boost moods, develop social and emotional skills, reduce stress and anxiety, decrease loneliness, give them responsibility and ownership, and reduce cortisol levels. Caring for living creatures encourages independence, as well as being cute and funny. It is something worth considering for all the benefits mentioned but you will need to ensure pets are supervised whilst interacting and be mindful of potential allergies.

As the warmer weather returns, we will be spending more time outdoors and growing lots of veggies in our garden ready for us to pick and munch on.

There has been a lot of interest for two-year funded places starting after Easter. If you are interested in starting your child with us, please do come in and see us. We will be happy to show you around.

Once we have received an enrolment form and deposit, we will confirm your place.

There is a lot of information on Child Choices about the new funding rules if you want to know more. Alternatively, call Jayne and she will talk you through the process.

We still have some places available immediately, plus lots more for September 2024, when some of our children will be leaving to move to big school. Call Jayne to arrange a visit on 01491 680854 or email me on [info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk)