

May 2019 Newsletter



A note from Faezeh

Parents' Evening

We would like to inform you that Parents Evening have been organized for Tuesday 25th June (Baby room and Explorer's) and Thursday 27th June for Preschool. Please refer to the dates on 'Dates for your diary'. Parents Evening provides a fantastic opportunity for you to speak with your child's key person regarding your child's journey at Elan. We will email you your child's profile assessment approximately one week before the Parents Evening. You will be able to go through their Profile assessment to celebrate your child's amazing achievements and fantastic moments. This also gives you an opportunity to discuss what you would like us to help you with.

Please make sure you provide us with a parent's comment. If you cannot make it on that day due to unavoidable circumstances, we are happy to offer you an alternative time during our opening hours. Please speak to your child's key person to rearrange a convenient time.

Staffing

Sadly, Becky left us in April due to her personal circumstances. We wish her all the best. Vicky has taken over the room leader position in Pre-school and has been fantastic progress.

We are very pleased to have Kerry join the Explorer's team – she is a level 3 practitioner with a wealth of experience. She has settled well in the room and become like a colleague who has been here for so long in a very short time.

Pre-school leavers

I would like to remind parents to let me know as soon as possible about their child's last day in Pre-school. As we need one month notice if your child leaving us, this information is vitally important to ensure your deposit is returned on your child's last day. If you need your child to attend Pre-school in September, please be aware that your fees will be on a full day charge of £53 per day, as no funding will be available for the school-starters. Please inform me as soon as possible about September's extra days to ensure availability.

Please keep us updated about your child's allocated school. As you can imagine, our summer term will focus on meeting the teachers, completing all summative assessments and getting children ready for school.

Dates for the Diary

Parents evening

Tuesday 25th June Baby room and Explorer's and Thursday 27th June for Pre-school

Half Term

27th-31st May

Lunch of the month

Beef & Carrot Casserole with Vegetable Rice

Quote of the month

During conversation about health eating in pre-school, Rosie said, "If you eat too many jelly beans, you will have rainbow hair!"

In the garden, Arthur said to Dani "I am itchy today!" Dani asked, "Why are you itchy?" Arthur replied "I ate food, I should not eat." Dani asked "What did you eat?" and Arthur replied "Broccoli!"

Note from the Baby Room team

April was another very busy month in the Baby Room. The children were super creative, making Easter baskets with Nix and Easter cards with Charlie. When they took their baskets home, they were happy to see a little chick, and a small chocolate bunny for them to enjoy at home. We sang some Easter songs at group time, singing "Hot Cross Buns", counting the buns out and sharing them with their friends.

To celebrate the Queen's birthday, crowns were made for the children to wear, and we enjoyed a tea party, drinking tea, and eating cake. Denise and the children planted some pepper seeds and some herbs, which we have been looking after by watering them every day. These are now starting to grow, and hopefully we will be enjoying them as a part of one of Nandor's tasty lunches soon!

The warmer weather allowed us to spend more time outside, going to the garden in the afternoons as well as in the mornings. As a Nursery, Elan the protection of a factor 30 sun cream, but if you would prefer your child to use your own sun cream, please talk to your child's key person. Could we please ask if the warmer, sunnier weather appears again, if you could provide a named sun hat for your child to wear when they are outside.

With May now upon us, we will continue to look at plants and growing, including baby animals, as we love to watch the birds and any other animals that we see when we venture out to the garden or on walks to the meadow. We will share stories with the children, talking about the baby animals, and how they change as they grow. If the children in Explorer's take a trip to the Garden Centre, we will ask them to buy us some flower seeds, so we can plant them and watch them grow too!

Dancing will also feature as we celebrate May Day. The children always enjoy listening to music of any kind, and as they listen, they all start to dance! Lorant often brings in music from other countries, and the children all join in as he dances to his favourite songs.

At the end of April, Willow, Imogen and Theo left the Baby Room to start their new adventures in the Explorer's room. We wish them good luck and will see them in the garden soon. We have had some new children, and they are settling in beautifully – Welcome to Agnes, Florence, Cora, Hattie and Rafael.

Note from the Explorers team

Before I start telling you about our month, I would just like to welcome Kerry who has joined us in Explorers. Kerry will be working 5 days a week, so please join us in making her feel welcome in the room by saying hello. Nasima will be now working in Pre-school, as her little girl will be joining us in Explorers. Please join us in wishing Nasima luck in pre-school and we shall see you in the garden.

Explorers started the month by creating and making some of our favourite farm animals, we had cows, chickens and pigs. We started our pigs using pink card on plates. The children had some small world pigs on the table in front of them, which gave them an idea of how they wanted their pigs to look. Henry D sat at the table making pig noises, as he stuck his card on.

We then focused on cows, and again had the small world cows in front of the children so they could see what they looked like. Elijah and Ethan glued black paper on to white paper to create their funky cow prints.

Lastly, we created some chickens, but not just any chickens! We used bright colour feathers and dabber pens to make their chickens stand out. Poppy and Nell went for all the bright colours, and enjoyed naming the colours as they stuck the feathers down.

All of the children's work is now on display on our end wall, so please do pop in and take a closer look. The children were also given some photos of some lambs from Coombes farm by Chris in Baby room

and we talked about the sounds lambs make and if they were big or small.

April also saw us celebrate Easter and this means that we have had great fun with lots of crafts and events going on. The children all made beautiful Easter wreaths with Dani, decorating eggs and making them all bright and bold with lots of mixed media.

The children also made some Easter Baskets with Katie to which Henry S said, "You have to be good for the Easter Bunny to come!"

The children also got very excited when it came to our Easter Egg Hunt in the meadow. This saw the children going off and being adventurous to collect all the eggs. Cadence, Louis, Dylan, Finley and Brianna all got very excited when they found the eggs and could not wait to get them into our Easter Basket.

Lastly, the children made some flags for St George's Day, and we took them into the garden to wave them around, James and Oliver loved showing off their flags to their friends.

Next month the children will be looking at Space day and making some planets, as well as having some ICT time to learn all about colours, shapes and sizes of the planets. We will also be looking at religious festivals from around the world and we will be looking at Ramadan.

Note from the Pre-School team

April has been a very busy spring month of fun and learning. In Pre-School, we have loved our opportunity to look after the eggs and then chicks from the Happy Chick Company. Farmer Andy brought in our eggs and a few of the children stayed to listen to how we were going to care for them. The children all enjoyed watching them hatch and then seeing how fast they grew. We were able to hold them when they were strong enough and we made them a bigger run as they got bigger very quickly. We were a bit sad that we did have to give them back, but I think the children were a little distracted by the fact it was Easter weekend and that maybe they would be able to see the Easter bunny soon.

April has not only been about chicks and Easter, we have also been learning more about how we can keep healthy and safe. We have talked about, drawn and tried different and more unusual foods such as Fennel, Rhubarb and Celery, to name just a few, and we had fun making a road in pre-school, which we then used to learn how to cross safely. We have been continuing to practice our walking safely in pairs along to the meadow, and have been along a few times this month - we even found some tadpoles. Finally, we had a lovely unexpected outing the day we went to Kingston beach. We had planned to just go to the beach, but we were hoping that we might also be able to pop into the lifeboats station too.

We were not disappointed, the lovely lifeboat person saw us coming into the car park, come out, and asked if we would like a tour. We said yes please and we were shown around the Shoreham lifeboat station, the children were amazing. They were engaged and listened carefully to what we were told, they tried on some lifeboat dressing up clothes and we were asked all about how we keep safe by the sea. It was a fabulous morning and we all loved our visit.

We are now ready to explore the month of May and we are very excited about some of the lovely projects, topics and celebrations coming up, such as 'National Blueberry cake day', on May 26th and we may be trying a little bit of Blueberry cake that day. As part of our May topic, we are planning lots of seasonal activities such as growing and planting and one of our trips will be going along to pick your own, to find out more about where our food comes from.

Finally, we would like to very kindly ask parents if you can please bring in a named sun hat for your child, as our weather will defiantly be warming up this month and we will be asking children to keep their hats on at all time, whilst out in the sun.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our newsletter and we look forward to telling you all about our projects in next month's newsletter.



Fruit of the month
Strawberry

Veg of the month
Rocket



Note from the Den

After lots of waiting, and visiting the park to check on the progress of the refurbishment, it is finally open!

The children were so excited to test it all out, but as it was a nice day, the park was very busy!

We have been so used to having the park to ourselves over the winter. The children all helped each other over the new rope bridge and found they could climb up the outside of the tube slide, maintaining three points of contact as they did.

The first few days they all found friends to play with in the park with the nice weather, then it all changed as we had a hailstone storm and had the park to ourselves again. Bea was having a great time with the ice making ice balls, but when she got in the van, she said, "Sandy, my hands are really cold!" "I am not surprised" Sandy replied, "You have been playing with ice!"

Bea then turned to her friend and said "I'm done for now, I'm really done for!" Sandy said it was so funny.

After the Easter break on the first afternoon back, we took all the children down to Kingston beach in hope of seeing Floss the seal, but to no avail, she was not there. However, the children still had the "Best day ever!" Their words - as they enjoyed throwing stones in the water. Some think they saw a dark shadow under the water! We will try to pop down again on a brighter day.



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