

NEWSLETTER



22ND DECEMBER 2009

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www.southhillsschool.com

Merry Christmas

Great fun was had by all last week, and no doubt your child has told you all about the visit from Father Christmas! May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just a reminder that for those children attending all year round, we close at the end of the day on Christmas Eve and re-open on Monday 4th January 2010. Term re-commences for '39-week' children on Monday 11th January 2010.

Lost!

A member of our dairy class has lost a navy blue 'skull & crossbones' drawstring bag containing some Gap jeans and a long sleeved top (all named). Please check at home and in your cars in case you may have picked this up by mistake.

Rugby Tots

In the New Year we hope to host a weekly 'Rugbytots' after school club. Rugbytots is a specifically designed play programme using the multiple skills of Rugby to create a fun and enjoyable environment whilst developing basic core motor skills. For boys and girls aged 2+ the programme has been designed to develop children's physical, psychological and social attributes, as well as encouraging non-

contact Rugby-specific skills. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested in signing your child up for this club. Numbers will be strictly limited, and spaces given on a first come, first served basis.

Found!...camera case

After the nativity plays, a Pentax soft camera case was left behind. Please call in to the office to claim!

CLASS NEWS:

Barn 1

Our topic this term has been 'Fairy Tales.' The children have been very busy in the 3 Bears Cottage role play area, eating porridge and using the woods to act out the story. We grew our own beanstalk in the classroom and made an amazing edible giants castle. The Big Bad Wolf was on the loose so we had to make sure we designed strong houses for the 3 Little Pigs to live safely in. We created delicious treats for Little Red Riding Hood to take to Grandma and loved using the wolf masks to pretend to be the wolf dressed up in Granny's clothes. We finished off with making the shoemaker's shop and experimenting with real tools

and equipment to find out how elves kept themselves busy in the evenings!

This project has given us lots of fun and laughter through practical, play-based learning and we look forward to starting our new topic about 'Transport' in 2010

Barn 2

This term Barn 2 have enjoyed exploring 'Under the Sea'. We have visited Bournemouth Oceanarium, where the children loved seeing the sharks, turtles and stingrays. However their favourite sea creature was the Octopus. This was followed by a visit to the beach. We also visited Porton Garden Centre where the children enjoyed a close look at the tropical fish in all their beautiful colours.

The last two weeks have been busy learning Christmas songs and rehearsing for our nativity.

Dairy 1

We started the term in Dairy 1 learning about farm animals. As the weather was kind to us during September and October we took the opportunity to explore our farm and spent lots of time outside. We then moved into autumn where we went to the woods to find lots of items for our nature tray. We also learnt about autumn fruit and vegetables, making our own soup and fruit pies. Printing pictures using potatoes, carrots, apples and pears was very popular.

The children have started learning some letter sounds and are beginning to recognise their names. At snack time they are very proud to be able to pour their own drinks. Learning days of the week has been very much enjoyed by all the children and the Days of the Week book and song is always greeted with much enthusiasm at carpet time.

With Christmas just around the corner we are busy learning our Christmas songs and using lots of glitter!

Dairy 2

During the last term Dairy 2 children have been talking about creating lots of different animals and insects. We have had lots of fun getting messy and creative in our artwork and displays and have even used our ICT skills to create spiders on the computer.

As the weather begins to get colder, please make sure the children have suitable warm clothing, coats, hats and gloves, as we still love to be outside playing and feeding the animals.

Finally, we look forward to January when our topic will be 'Fairy Tales,' leading on to 'Nursery Rhymes' after Easter.

Pre-Class

Since Half Term the Pre-class have been busy looking at the Autumn and Winter seasons. We have created some stunning displays, including a fabulous firework night scene and a rather superb 'First Christmas' scene (do come and look!)

Lots of parents have commented on how many songs their children have learnt recently. 'Hammer, hammer, hammer' and 'Mary had a baby' are two of the firm favourites from the Nativity Play.

Baby Unit

The Baby Unit have been having lots of fun this term. We have been busy planting bulbs, going on lots of walks in and around the farm and exploring the changing of the seasons along the way. We have also had some great sensory experiences, making and creating lots of autumn and winter displays.

Furthermore we have had a great time learning, listening and having a boogie to some Christmassy tunes throughout the Baby Unit!

To make a fabulous end to the term we loved our visit from Father Christmas and receiving our presents.