

Welcome to Tudhoe Moor Nursery School

Welcome back after our half term holiday! We are very excited to be back and can't wait to get started with lots of new activities and events. We have lots going on in the run up to Christmas; please check out our important dates below– especially our Christmas Nativity!

Julia Hymers Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

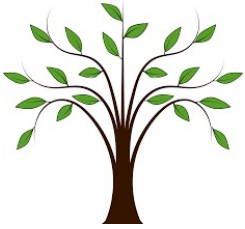
Monday 6th November	First day back
Friday 17th November	Children in Need (non-uniform day– Pudsey ears if you wish!)
w/c 20th November	Forest school stay and plays (please see page 2)
Wednesday 29th November	SEN Coffee Afternoon 1.15pm
Monday 4th December & Thursday 7th December	Green group's Christmas Extravaganza (please see page 2)
Tuesday 5th December & Wednesday 6th December	Christmas Nativity performances (please see page 3)
Week of Monday 11th December	Santa's Grotto visit (please see page 3)
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 12th December	'The Littlest Christmas Elf' performance
Friday 15th December	Party day! (page 4)
Friday 15th December	Last day of Nursery
Monday 19th December & Tuesday 20th December	Nursery closed– INSET days
Wednesday 3rd January	First day back at Nursery

Remembrance Day

We will have poppies on the door each morning available for a donation. Other items are also available: Bands or bracelets £1, Key chains or zip tags 50p. Children will be watching a short and age-appropriate video on Friday 11th November in school.



Forest School Stay and Play



Parents from Red and Yellow groups are invited to come and join in with a Forest School session! Children spend half a day every week in our wild area with Mrs Phillips, learning lots of new outdoor skills. Unfortunately, the ground in Forest School can be very uneven so this would not be suitable for anyone with physical or mobility issues. Siblings are also not allowed to join as our insurance only covers pupils at the school. Sign up to a slot that suits you at the school office (Wed 22nd Nov at 9.15am, Thurs 23rd Nov at 9.15am or 1pm). Don't worry if you can't make it this term, we will do another one in the Spring. Make sure you wrap up warm– we go out in all weather! This will be our last Forest School sessions until the new year to allow for Nativity preparation!

Green Group's Christmas Extravaganza

Our lovely two year olds are that bit too small to do our Christmas Nativity so instead will have a stay and play session on Monday 4th December (9.30am -11.30am) and Thursday 7th December at (1.00pm– 2.30pm).

Children will sing some Christmas songs, can choose to dress up in costumes if they wish, take part in craft and baking activities and play some Christmas games. Please sign up to a slot at the school office. Up to two family members are welcome– if you require any more, please speak to Erin at the school office who can put you on our waiting list.

Next year, they will take part in the Nativity performance!



Building work



We are getting the children's toilets fully replaced and extended over the half term holiday. The work was due to be finished before we come back to Nursery but unfortunately will now take place in our first week back too. We are remaining open but children will have use of portaloos instead of our normal toilets. I apologise in advance as I appreciate that this will be difficult for children that are toilet training and also may affect those that are noise sensitive. The builders are aware of these issues and are used to working in schools, and so plan to be as cautious as possible. The whole Nursery is then scheduled to be fully painted over the

Christmas holidays so please bear with us for a few weeks while it looks a bit untidy!

Christmas Nativity

We cannot wait for our Christmas Nativity performances!

Children will perform a mini Nativity with lots of festive songs (and of course, adorable costumes!) on

Tuesday 5th December at 9.30am or Wednesday 6th December at 1.30pm

This year we have not grouped the children to allow greater flexibility for parents. You are invited to come to watch one of the performances.

Please book which performance you would like to attend via the school office and how many tickets you require. We can guarantee that each child can have two tickets, but if you would like more, please speak to Erin who will check out availability.

There are to be no photos or videos taken during the performance, but there will be an opportunity at the end for you to spend time with your child in their costumes so that you can take some photos of them alone.

This is for **Red and Yellow group only**– Green group will have their own event (see page 2) and will take part in their own nativity when they turn 3.



The Littlest Christmas Elf performance



We have invited a theatre company in to Nursery do a mini-production for the children on **Tuesday 12th December** lasting around 45 minutes.

They have been in to perform in previous years and have been a real hit with the children, we're sure this year will be just as good! If your child does not attend nursery on a Tuesday, they are still welcome to come along! Chat to Erin to book them in for free and find out the timings.

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

Children will be having a Christmas lunch on **Thursday 13th December**.

Staff sit with the children and enjoy a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, with crackers, hats and festive music. If your child does not usually stay for dinner but you would like them to join us for dinner for a cost of £3.00 please let Erin know before Friday 10th November.



This year we have combined our Christmas Dinner Day with Christmas Jumper day. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper / T-shirt or non-uniform if they prefer.

We hope by combining the two events our Christmas Dinner Day will be extra festive!

Santa's Grotto at Spennymoor Town Hall

Children will be visiting Santa on either **Monday 11th December (10.00am), Wednesday 13th December (10.00am) or Thursday 14th December (1.00pm)**



We plan to walk to Spennymoor Town Hall (around 30 minutes) and back again. We will be leaving at approximately 09:30 am and 12.30pm on the Thursday. You are welcome to walk with us, or can meet us there if you prefer to drive.

As the children are so young we need lots of volunteers in order for the visit to go ahead. Unfortunately if we do not have enough volunteers the visit will need to be cancelled and we will try to make alternative arrangements. With this in mind we will not be telling the children about the visit until we have confirmed numbers.

Therefore we would like to kindly ask if there are any parents that can come with us for this lovely experience. If you are able to join us or have additional family members (e.g. Grandparent, Auntie, Uncle) who would be willing to volunteer please let Erin know. We will need final numbers by Friday 24th November so that we can make arrangements.

Every child is given a present from Santa– this is usually a selection box!



Party day

This year's Christmas party day will be on **Friday 15th December**. Children can come in wearing their party clothes– but please remember to still bring a coat and sensible shoes in case we go outside! If your child does not attend on a Friday, they can still come and enjoy the fun from 9am to 12pm.

Fundraising

We will be selling reindeer dust and reindeer hot chocolate during December to help raise money for our school fund. We use this money to help pay for ingredients to make playdough and to bake with the children. As well as subsidising visits to keep costs down for parents.

We will also be running a chocolate and bottle tombola. If you have any chocolates, sweets or bottles that you would like to donate, please give them to Miss Bond. The bottles can be alcoholic, non-alcoholic, or other types of bottles such as shampoo etc! Tickets will be available to buy during our Christmas Nativity performances for £1.00 a strip and the winners will be picked after the final performance.



What are we learning this half-term?

This half term we will be learning and celebrating:

- Bonfire Night (with toasted marshmallows)
- Diwali– the Hindu festival of Light
- Christmas



Children are now developing their self-help skills and many of our children can put on their own coats and wellies. We will be continuing to practise these skills as well as doing up zips independently.

For our new starters, we have a big focus on sharing stories and learning nursery rhymes with numbers up to five such as Five Little Speckled Frogs, Five Little Ducks etc. We are spending lots of time ensuring that they get used to our rules and routines and joining in with group activities.

For our children who have been with us a little longer we will be listening for rhyming words in stories. We will also be looking at patterns and practising counting using one to one correspondence.

Lots of our children are still learning how to take turns and share toys. This is a completely normal stage of their development. We encourage children to solve problems like this by playing games with their friends with some adult support and using words such as 'my turn, your turn'.

Two year old provision

Our main focus for this term is communication and language. Lots of our children are early talkers and still developing their speech and vocabulary. Keep an eye out for our 'terrific talker' display which celebrates all of our children's new words and language skills.



We've doing lots of singing and story times as well as small world play such as the farm, doll's house and car garage to try and introduce new words. We've also got some plastic mobile phones which the children are having a great time 'phoning' their friends and mummies and daddies! Our pretend microphones are also a huge hit and encourage children to practise singing some of our favourite songs.



School places

REMINDER: Applications for your child's place at Primary School close on Monday 15th January 2024. Could you please let Erin know when you have submitted your application and which schools you have chosen.

Last few spaces!

We have a small number of spaces remaining for January. If you know any 2 or 3 year olds looking for a nursery place, please pass on our details!

Rules are changing from April 2024.... working parents of two year olds will be eligible for **FREE** 15 hours at nursery!



Extra sessions



We have a small number of spaces available for extra sessions (9am to 12.00pm or 12pm to 3pm). Please see a staff member to book an extra session– perfect for Christmas shopping days, or a bit of well-deserved free time!

Only £20 for either session (and the afternoon comes with a free hot lunch!)

Snack Donation

We would like to kindly ask for a donation of £1 per week (or £2 for a 30 hour child) to help pay for our daily snacks and activities. Children have fruit, cheese, crackers etc as well as helping to buy playdough ingredients and lots more. You can give your money to Erin in the office or leave it in the tin next to our front door.



Parents comments

If you have any questions or comments about anything in the newsletter or nursery in general; or you would like further information about anything to do with nursery, please see a member of staff or contact us on: 01388 436000 or e-mail: tudhoemoor.nursery@durhamlearning.net

If you would like to have a more in-depth discussion about anything, you can make an appointment to speak to with your child's key worker or Mrs Hymers.