We would like to start this month’s newsletter with a huge GOOD LUCK to all our children who will be sadly leaving us to move on to their Big School in September! We will be so sad to see you go, but at the same time are very excited for your new journey and know you will all be great! Our term time children will be leaving us at the end of July!

In Baby/Tweenie Room this month the children have been focusing on the book Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson.

The children have enjoyed creating the snake from the Monkey Puzzle book using yoghurt pots and strings, learning the sound of a snake as well as other animal sounds and have also had lots of fun practicing animal movements around the room.

In addition, a lovely display has been created focused on the story. The children have painted leaves, created monkeys by printing and enjoyed decorating butterflies using collage.

In Toddler Room this month the children have been doing lots of activities in celebration of Father’s Day.

They have been busy creating lovely and unique Father’s Day Cards, listening to stories about daddies, ‘I love my daddy’ being the favourite. The children have also learnt some songs such as ‘I love my daddy yes’, ‘Daddy is his name ooo’ and have enjoyed listening and joining in with the Father’s Day song on the Interactive Whiteboard. The children have been engaged in lots of role play activities linked to the everyday roles of their daddies, uncles or granddads. The most popular was the outdoor car wash with soapy water, sponges and the outdoor cars which was lots of fun! The children decorated ties and enjoyed driving numbered toy cars to corresponding garages – an activity to support and develop their number recognition skills.
Lots of ongoing creative and messy play activities have been taking place with the hit being the dinosaur swamp tough spot. The children in toddler room absolutely adore dinosaurs and for this reason Michelle and Vikki planned a lovely dinosaur week with a range of activities on offer including a dinosaur small world, building enclosures for the dinosaurs using various construction materials. The children explored with dinosaur fossil playdough where they were encouraged to press parts of the dinosaur figurine into the dough. As they removed it, the shape was stamped into the dough. They went on dinosaur hunts in the outdoor area, creating loud dinosaur sounds using musical instruments and counted dinosaur footprints. We are seeing lots of development in the children’s language in toddler room as they are being encouraged to talk about what they are doing throughout the day. The staff skillfully extend the children by using a variety of strategies e.g. tuning in, clarifying ideas, asking the children open ended questions and modelling thinking.

In Preschool this month the children have focused on the story Peace at Last by Jill Murphy. They have explored with puppets and masks for re-enacting the story, sequencing cards and the sound cards.

The children have also created Eid cards and have created a lovely display.

Our Preschoolers have already started preparation for their move to big school. As you are aware, creating a smooth transition into school is vital to ensuring the children get the best possible start in their new setting.

Preschool is all about preparing the child for starting school however the children are probably unaware of this. For this reason, our preschool routines are very similar to those which will happen in school to create some familiarity with the school day such as registration, circle times and story time.

At this time in the year as the children move closer to the transition time staff choose to add more specific activities to the routine or planning to prepare the children for the transition. For example, talking about new schools, making new friends, new uniforms, reading stories about school, P.E sessions and learning about their teachers. The children have started taking home weekly reading books which are changed every week to encourage home-school reading. The children were also issued with reading diaries which are completed every time they read at home. Some of the children have already brought in photos of their new class teachers and spoken about them during circle time. During the next few weeks the children will continue to take part in activities which will aid the transition to school. We are also preparing a lovely Graduation Ceremony followed by a lunch party which will take place on the last day of term 21st July to say goodbye to the first Preschool intake of Monkey Puzzle Mitcham.
Half Term Dates: 21st July – 4th September 2017
For children in receipt of 15 hours a week funding- Term Time Only, the last day of the summer term sessions will be Friday 21st July and will commence on Tuesday 5th September 2017.
*Please note this is not applicable to the children who are on the stretched funded hours.

Parents evenings:
Tuesday 11th July – Baby/Tweenie Room
Wednesday 12th July – Preschool Room
Thursday 13th July - Toddler Room

School leavers meetings:
Wednesday 12th July 2017
Parent’s evenings will be taking place for our school leavers where staff will share the transition reports with parents before sending them off to the receiving schools.

Friday 14th July 2017 – Wimbledon Day – Visit to London Road Playing Fields – 10.30 am. The children in our Toddler Room will be coming into the nursery dressed in White as part of their Wimbledon tennis theme. The children will be taking a short walk over to the London Road Playing Fields to enjoy some tennis and a picnic in the park. We aim to back at nursery for 12pm. Parents are invited to come along. Please ask your child’s keyworker for more information.

Friday 21st July 2017 – Preschool Leavers Graduation Ceremony and Lunch Party 10.00am
We will be holding a Graduation Ceremony to say goodbye to our very first Preschool leavers at the nursery. This will then be followed by a lunch party. All Preschool parents are invited to attend.

4th September 2017 – The nursery will be CLOSED for a staff training and development day.

School Leavers Notice and Voucher Payments: If your child is leaving to go to school in September we will need 4 weeks’ notice of their last date with us. Also, can we remind those of you who pay by voucher payments to ensure your vouchers have stopped the month your child leaves (credit of voucher payments cannot be refunded so please ensure they are stopped in time).

Collecting on time: We have started to have a few parents turning up late recently when collecting their children at 12pm. Please can we remind you to ensure that when collecting your child at the end of the session that you arrive 5-10 minutes before so you can have a full handover about your child’s day. Late fees will be charged. Thanks again for your co-operation with this.

Important: We still have quite a few children who do not have a sunhat or sun cream with them at Nursery. Please bring these in with your child’s name on as soon as possible 😊 It would be great to have them remain at nursery so they are always available to us. Thank you in advance.