

 Playgroup News – Friday 4th December 2020

*Hello Everyone,*

*This week we have been talking to the children about the changes in the month and the season, and it certainly feels like Winter has arrived out of doors! There has been lots of talk about Christmas and we have focussed on how this does not look and feel the same for all families, and how it may be a bit different this year! The children in Penguins have been excited to see each day what our naughty ‘Elf on the Shelf’ has been up to and they have enthusiastically told us about the one’s they have at home. In both rooms the children have been making their lovely Christmas crafts to take home (see below for more information!) and enjoying playing with the Christmas trees and decorations in the role play areas. In Penguins we have also talked about how animals cope in Winter, including talking about how hedgehogs hibernate and how some birds migrate. We have begun to make a ‘hibernating home’ for a toy hedgehog and will visit the Nature Area next week to put some soft hay in our hedgehog house, and to hang up bird feeders.*

***Please remember to check into Tapestry for lots of lovely observations and updates! We really value seeing your ‘likes’ and ‘comments’ on here, and we would love to see some observations from home!***

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| **Ideas for home**  In both rooms the children are really enjoying our Story-Making books this term – ‘Where’s Spot?’ in Squirrels, and ‘The Three Billy Goat’s Gruff’ in Penguins. The children have been using props and role-play to help them learn the story.  If you have these books at home you could read them with your children, or you can follow the links below to watch videos of the stories on YouTube. Why not try acting out the stories, or finding a few props around the home to help re-tell them with your child?  ‘Where’s Spot?’ read by the author, Eric Hill:  **https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=eric+hill+reads+wheres+spot&docid=607998933793440146&mid=550AEDCBE1340C6147DF550AEDCBE1340C6147DF&view=detail&FORM=VIRE**  ‘The Three Billy Goats Gruff’ – animated film:  **https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+three+billy+goats+gruff+video&&view=detail&mid=6436D980BB68480392FF6436D980BB68480392FF&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dthe%2Bthree%2Bbilly%2Bgoats%2Bgruff%2Bvideo%26FORM%3DHDRSC3** |
| **Christmas Fundraising – FINAL REMINDER!!**  See the source image**Please return all raffle tickets and payments for our fundraising events no later than Monday 14th December. Our fundraising events and costs are as follows:**   * *Christmas Raffle* – raffle tickets are £2 per sheet. This gives you five tickets for the raffle. More can be purchased if required. * *Children’s Christmas crafts* – the children will be handcrafting some lovely cards, calendars and decorations. We ask for a small donation of £3 for you to purchase these crafts. * *‘Reindeer Run’* – take part as a runner and/or support this event by purchasing a ‘bingo card’ for just £1. Purchase of the bingo card gives you automatic entry to the prize draw to win a giant, cuddly reindeer! * ***Special offer –* take part in all of the above activities for a reduced cost of £5.** |
| **Christmas ‘Party Week’**  Week commencing Monday 14th December we will be having a Christmas Party week where every day the children will have the opportunity to take part in party games and activities, our snack-times will have a party theme, and we will be following clues left by Santa (who cannot visit this year due to COVID!) to find sacks of presents that he has left hiding for us somewhere around our playgroup! Because we will still also be having outdoor and messy play that week we ask that children do not come in fancy dress, but of course they may like to wear a Christmas jumper!  See the source image |
| **Christmas Cards**  See the source imageWe have been asked if children can bring in Christmas cards to give to their friends (with current COVID restrictions in mind). We are happy for you to bring cards in and we will put them into the children’s drawers ready to take home. If you would like a list of first names for your child’s room please email us and we will send this over to you. |
| See the source image**Christmas Photographs**  If your child had Christmas photographs last week with our professional photographer you should by now have received your letter with instructions for ordering – please note that all orders and payment must be done via the photographer’s website. We will distribute your orders to you as they arrive so do not delay if you want to receive these before Christmas! We hope you agree that the photographs are fantastic and of a very high quality! |
| **School Admissions**  See the source imageIf your child is in our pre-school group, by now you should have received a letter from Shire Hall inviting you to make your application for primary school for September 2021. If you have not received this you can email Shire Hall school admissions at [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk) . If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to email us and we will call you back to discuss. |

**Dates for the diary**

* 1st – 21st December – ‘Reindeer Run’
* W/C 14th December – Christmas party week
* **Monday 14th December** – Christmas Raffle to be drawn
* Friday 18th December – last day of Autumn Term
* Monday 4th January – INSET day (playgroup closed)
* Tuesday 5th January – first day of Spring Term
* **Friday 15th January – deadline date for school applications**