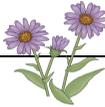


Short Term Planning for February & March 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13 Half Term Staff Meeting 6-7	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 End of Half Term
20	21 Pancake Day	22	23	24
27	28	29	1 St David's Day & World Book Day	2 
5	6	7	8	9
12 Staff Meeting 6-7	13	14	15	16 (17th St Patrick's Day)
19	20	21	22 	23 (25th Mother's Day)
26	27	28	29	30 End of Spring Term

these gorgeous sacks are perfect for our use and bring the Early Years Foundation Stage to Life in a real hands on way.

Our sacks include Babushka, We're Riding on a Caravan, Off we go to Mexico, The Easter Swallows, Up and Down the Andes, We all Went on Safari, We're Roaming in the Rainforest, We're Sailing Down the Nile and last but not least we're sailing to Galapagos if you want to find more about them they can be found on the Playtoz website. <http://www.playtoz.co.uk/set-of-seven-sensory-tales.html>

We shall also "visit" London, Japan and Italy where three of the Cars street races were held, which we can link into our Topic and dip into the cultures of these countries and cities, it's going to be very exciting.

All of which will nicely link into Personal, Social & Emotional Development & Communication, Language and Literacy which will be our Developmental Matters, Skills & Processes focus for this half of the Spring Term. Watch out for those codes on the bottom of your Children's Daily Diary pages!



Grafton Childcare

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Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2012 has just been launched hopefully by the time you get this newsletter our new banner for 2012 should be hung up on the fence outside for all to see.

This year the scheme will run in stores, petrol stations and with online groceries between 15th February until the 10th April 2012, which seems shorter this year!

Last year we collected just over 16,000 vouchers which meant we were able to redeem them for an amazing array of equipment and toys for the children to use here. I must admit that the babies horseshoe rug is still very much loved by the them and the assortment of balls, hoops, and beanbags which we received last year are still in daily use here by the over twos and looking almost as good as new, which goes to show what brilliant quality the resources are that we are able to receive via this scheme.

We have already been flicking through the 2012 catalogue and drawn up a wish list of items we would love to get this time if we manage to reach our target of 3947 Vouchers. We are aiming for four Space Hoppers 556 vouchers, a climbing mountain 1332 vouchers, jumbo magnifiers 416 vouchers, 2 squistles 294 vouchers and last but not least a giant outside storage trunk as we have managed to break one of ours 1349 vouchers.

We shall also be collecting the Tesco vouchers so don't worry if you only shop at Tesco's, we shall let you know what we hope to redeem our Tesco's vouchers later, but last year we used them for lots of lovely paint and crafty bits and pieces which were very useful and as always of a very high quality.

Any Sainsbury's or Tesco's vouchers you are able to collect would be very much appreciated. Please send them in to us in your child's Daily Diary folder and we shall whisk them away.

Feb/March 2012	
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Please note that Grafton Childcare will be **CLOSED** on Friday 6th April/ Good Friday and Monday 9th April/Easter Monday & will reopen on Tuesday 10th April 2012



Warmer Winter Coats

Please note that during this extremely cold weather that we are still required to allow your child daily access to our outside play areas! So it's vital you send your child with a suitable jumper/cardigan, thick skirt/trousers, hat and thick warm coat every single day. Otherwise your child will get extremely cold! A thin jacket or pack-a-mac is not warm enough, sorry!



Payment of Childcare Fees

Can we please remind all parents that your childcare fees become due on the last day of the month, however when this falls over the weekend, then they become due on the previous Friday. Late payment of fees will incur a £5 per day late payment fee until all of the outstanding fees have been paid. In extreme cases where childcare is repeatedly paid late each month then sadly childcare might be suspended pending payment of fees.

It would be really appreciated that where possible all of your childcare fees are paid via Bank Automated Credit "BACS". However we have noticed that some parents have been rounding their payments up, or not indicating who the payment is from. Please don't round payments up and make it clear who the payment is from, e.g. Childcare for Beth. If you would like to change over to paying your fees by "BACS", you should normally find our bank details printed on the bottom of each invoice. If you can't find them just email, Denise would be happy to provide them for you, our email address is:- denise.tupman@inbox.com.

We are still very happy to receive cash payments, but would appreciate it if these are placed in a sealed envelope with your child's name clearly written on the outside, so that we can allocate the payments to the correct child.

Sadly we cannot accept cheques, but we are very happy to accept employer childcare vouchers as part payment of your childcare fees, we are currently registered to accept Allsave Vouchers, Kiddivouchers, Sodexo Vouchers, Care4 Vouchers, Edenred Vouchers and Computershare Vouchers. Please ask Denise for an information leaflet about using vouchers schemes if you would like to find out if this scheme might be a viable way of you saving some money on the costs of childcare, every penny counts!



Short Term Planning for February & March 2012

We had our planning meeting on the 13th February so we would be able to plan our topics for the second half of the Spring Term. We had postponed our staff planning meeting from the previous week, because sadly not many of the children's "My Favourite Things In... Have Been" pages or Parent Quick Note sections, had been completed for some months.

The information which you impart in these pages is hugely important for your child's Key Worker and as part of our ongoing working in Partnership with Parents. Parents can help us by regularly completing them remembering that the info which you supply helps us to specifically gear some of our plans towards the current interests and developmental needs of your own child.

We find it very perplexing that over the past few months so few parents have given us any feedback via these pages, which is a real shame as we then struggle to plan effectively for some of the children. This is even more difficult for those children who only attend for a couple of sessions a week and the majority of their time is spent at home or with other carers. Our next staff planning meeting will be on Monday 12th March, can we make a huge plea to those parents who have not been completing their child's "My Favourite Things In... Have Been" pages before now, to please make a supreme effort to do so during the next few weeks. You have nothing to lose and your child has everything to gain. Thank you.

Our focus over the next half term will be Valentines Day & why it's important to talk about emotions, Pancake Day and learning about Mardi Gras traditions in other parts of the world. We shall be converting our Chinese Takeaway into a Crêperie, watch this space!

On the 1st March it's St David's Day and World Book Day, both of which we are going to cunningly link into many of the children's current fascination with all things to do with the Pixar film Cars.

On Monday many of the children enjoyed a shopping expedition down to Austin's Toy store where they purchased some Cars Play-doh sets, Jigsaw Puzzles and of course some of the toy cars themselves from the Movie! We shall link our Cars Topic into World Book Day which we shall extend into the whole month of March by using our set of Sensory Storysacks from around the World, each is packed with musical instruments, sensory-rich artefacts and countless activity ideas,



Staffing Developments

Sadly Kerry Whitehead our Senior Nursery Nurse with the over twos has left us after only four months and is moving on to pastures new. We wish her all the best with her new appointment at a Foundation Nursery Unit in Exeter.

However all is not lost we are delighted to welcome back Sadie Beer who worked for us previously for three years before trying her hand as a Registered Nanny. As many of you will already know she is delightful and has just the right qualities we were looking for to rejoin our small team. Sadie will normally be working on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then studying on Thursdays and Fridays for her Foundation Degree in Early Years with the Open University, as is Emily Treneary our under twos Senior Nursery Nurse, although she works full-time.

Sadie and Emily are both responsible for implementing the daily routines in their own base rooms, and directing and supporting junior staff and students here on work placements within their rooms and within the setting as required. Both Sadie and Emily have lots of relevant and current experience.

Dayle Browse & Julie Yesin have now both completed their Apprenticeships with us and Julie has moved on to take up a new post in Exeter. We wish her well with her new position working with a national charity which is all very exciting for her and a real change of direction. Dayle has now started a full-time position with us as a qualified Nursery Nurse congratulations and well done for all your hard work! We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Naomi King as our new Apprentice Nursery Nurse with our under twos, she is already settling in really well and showing a real aptitude for working with children.

Lastly we are delighted to have been joined by Lyndsie Bartram a very experienced and competent qualified Nursery Nurse, she will be joining our team with the over twos. The children are already getting to know her and enjoying her bubbly personality and lovely singing voice!

School & Grafton Admissions for 2012/13

The school admissions for 2012/13 have now closed and parents will be informed formally around the 15th April 2012 about which school their child has been offered a place. This Autumn we have 10 4 year olds due to start school, which is our highest amount of leavers for a number of years.

We are always very sad to see them leave us, although not all of them will as we do still provide wrap-around childcare for Decoy & All Saint's Marsh Primary School. We are mindful of the fact that we do need to start thinking about how we shall fill their term-time spaces in August/September. So as ever if you have any friends or family who might be looking for Flexible Family Based Childcare please give a shout for us here at Grafton Childcare. Remember as a thank you we give recommenders a £20 M&S Voucher once the children start with us, as they say recommendation is always the best form of Advertising.

Road Closure for Resurfacing Works

Between Friday 24th February and Friday 2nd March South West Highways will be resurfacing Albion Hill and Northernhay. Northernhay is the access lane at the rear of Grafton Childcare. SWH intend to close Northernhay and Albion Hill to all access whilst this work takes place, although they hope to have access open from 4.00 pm each afternoon.

I appreciate that this will cause parents huge problems with potentially dropping off and then collecting their children during this six day period and would advise that during this week you allow extra time for parking somewhere nearby, we have been advised that the local Civil Enforcement Offices **will** be issuing automatic £30 parking tickets to any parent found to be causing an obstruction. Could we remind all parents who park out the front of Grafton Childcare on the double yellow lines, that you must ensure that the near side of your car is parked directly beside our stone wall, thus allowing other road users to negotiate past. Then it will not present an issue for the DCC Highways Department and that parents may park their cars up **briefly** whilst dropping off and collecting their children during these resurfacing works. However "if" parents wish to enter Grafton Childcare for a meeting etc then they will need to find an alternative place to park.



Emily's Appendix!

As most of you now know Emily, our Senior Nursery Nurse for the Little Ones was rushed into Torbay Hospital late on the 16th January and had her Appendix removed on the 18th. Although she is now back at work, it will be a little bit longer before she will be able to carry any of the Little Ones or take them to and from parents at the door. She would like to pass on her thanks for all of the lovely cards and chocolates which many of you sent in whilst she has been convalescing here with us, it has been funny



seeing her toddle about in her PJ's. I know many of you were confused as you didn't realise she is very much part of the Tupman family being the Girlfriend of Denise and Phil's eldest son Matthew. Thank you for your understanding whilst we had to rearrange who was writing Daily Diary's etc during her brief absence. She is well on the mend but won't be up to competing in our Pancake Races next week!

Newsletters

Would you like to be added to our database for the sending out of our notes, newsletters and invoices via email. If you have not as yet given us an email address for this purpose, please could you send Denise a quick email to denise.tupman@inbox.com and she will add you to our database.

We are very happy to send it to both your work and or your home email address. For parents who work away from Newton Abbot, they might wish to have their child's Newsletters emailed to them at Work so they can be kept up to speed with all things here at Grafton!

Thank You

We would like to say a huge thank you again to the following people, it is because of these ongoing generous donations that the children are able to create such wonderful masterpieces to be taken home and admired by one and all.

We would like to say a huge thank you again to the parent's of the following children:- Jack, Emily, Sophie, Fynn, Isaac, Milly, Joshua, Lilly, Lucy, Lewis, Tyler & Charlotte, Who have donated dressing up clothes, Christmas Ribbons & Stars, Gift Bags & Boxes and lots of Christmas Cards and Junk Modelling Items, Oh and not forgetting Ricky for 2 cases of A4 and A3 paper, which came in very handy for printing paperwork for our new children who have joined us in January and February.

Chinese New Year

During the past few weeks the Children have really enjoyed learning a little bit more about Chinese culture and the New Year Festival and Celebrations, they enjoyed learning how their names were written in Chinese. We moved our home-corner into the conservatory and created our very own Chinese Takeaway, which was a massive hit and encouraged lots of very creative role-play and the rich use of new language within their play. We culminated our Chinese topic with the creation of an enormous Dragon which is now festooned around the walls of our classroom, if you have a spare couple of minutes one evening when you pick up your children do pop in and take a look at it, before we take it down as it would be such a shame if you miss it. All of the materials we used to make it were donated by parents and grandparents so thank you all very much.

The Little Ones have enjoyed painting the Chinese Zodiac characters which we have displayed in the baby-room, they have also enjoyed lots of sensory play with a Chinese theme including exploring in our Tuff Spot which we filled with cooked Noodles which we then coloured with various food colourings. This activity kept them all engaged for most of the afternoon, it was fascinating observing them as they investigated the noodles with their whole bodies!

Donations of Resources

Donations of toys and resources help us keep our costs down, so if you have any of the following items on hand and are willing to donate them, it would be greatly appreciated.

- Dressing up clothing child sized not old adult clothing, costumes, hats etc.
- Magazines that depict other cultures, old Christmas & Birthday cards etc.
- Crayons, water colour paints, or any misc. art supplies, such as fabric scraps, glitter, pipe cleaners, paper plates, etc.
- Any odd shaped boxes or packages, especially if you can get a dozen or so of the same size and shape, maybe from your place of work, we are very happy to help you recycle, these come in very handy for our junk modelling.
- Any small clean tins from sweets and chocolates the more funky shaped the better, for heuristic play
- Anything that you think we might find useful for arts and crafts, just ask if your not sure.

We do not need any more plastic milk bottles thank you, if we have a specific craft activity in mind when we need some, we shall send out a request thank you.



Toes, Bottoms & Calpol!

If you have not already done so please can you supply us with a pair of either clearly labelled slippers or plimsolls (without laces) which your child can wear here as we do not permit the children to wear outside shoes inside, thank you. The children really enjoyed taking part in our recent fire drills, although those who did not have slippers did end up with very soggy socks, as we don't stop for shoes! Can we also remind all parents with children still in nappies, that we may only apply nappy creams and ointments to your child during changing if you have supplied us with a tube to use specifically on your child. If you have a particular brand you would like us to use, then please pop it into your child's Daily Diary folder we shall remove it and pop it into our cubbie in our changing area for use solely on your child as and when your child's keyworker feels it is needed.

Likewise with Calpol and other brands of Paracetamol Suspension, unless you have supplied us with sachets to use on your child, if they develop a high temperature during the day we will sadly have to telephone you to collect them. This can be very frustrating for you if it means you have to leave your place of work, but also distressing for your child. Because we have been unable to potentially treat their high temperature quickly. We will still of course contact you if we felt a child was really unwell and would be better off cared for at home.

