



Grafton Childcare

24 Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1AJ, Tel: 01626 355066



The Snowman and Snowdog - Monday 3rd - Friday 21st December 2018



Find us on Social Media

If you have not yet signed up to our new Instagram page or our existing Facebook page it is really worth you doing so. Each day Jade or Lara upload a couple of teasers to let all of our parents, grandparents and carers know what we are all up to today. Obviously we cannot possibly write down everything which the children enjoy here during the course of a whole day at Grafton in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet. Which is why we positively encourage all of our parents to sign up to as a minimum our Facebook Page and our Wordpress Blog and if you would also like to get some little teasers during the day then our Instagram page would great idea as well.



Follow us on Instagram



LIKE US ON facebook

Christmas Cards

Would your child like to send their friends a Christmas card? If so pop a note into your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet and we will let you have a list of their friends. Remember to post cards into our Postbox outside the conservatory door.

The Snowman & Snowdog & lots of Arctic Adventures

Our short three week topic for December is based around the everyone's favourite snowman, written 36 years ago by Raymond Briggs. One winter's night, a snowman comes to life and an unforgettable adventure begins. Raymond's favourite classic is a true piece of Christmas magic - narrated entirely through pictures, although we do also have a copy of the version with words, it captures the wonder and innocence of childhood and is now recognised throughout the world. In 2012 the 30th anniversary of The Snowman was celebrated with a brand new half-hour animation The Snowman and the Snowdog. It introduced a new adorable character, can you guess who? That's right, a lovable snow puppy!

We will be expanding this topic by adding our beautiful hand crafted wooden snowmen with removable hats, igloo, wooden arctic caves and not forgetting of course our wooden Santa Sled, Presents and of course Santa himself.

This year we also have some new additions to our family of gorgeous wooden Ned Robots. They have been joined by our Snowman Ned, Rudolf Ned, Santa Ned and of course our very

own Nelf Ned who has already been up to lots of mischievous shenanigans here at Grafton Childcare. See our Instagram page for daily updates of his high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans.





We would like to thank all of our parents, carers and grandparents for going all out and supporting us to raise an amazing £222 this year for Children in Need. Thank you so much this was our highest total raised for many years.

Grafton has also done their bit this year by purchasing a whole set of the bright and cheerful BBC Countryfile Pudsey Children in Need Ramble Hats. Which are ideal for keeping the children warm, cosy and visible when we are out and about on our trips to Decoy Park and Bradley Woods on our fortnightly Woodlands Experiences trips. Huge thanks to the branches of Newton Abbot and Exeter Millets for sourcing 27 of them for us!

Loaning Grafton's Carpet Cleaner

As a fundraiser for Children in Need 2019! We are happy to loan our Vax Commercial Carpet cleaner out to our parents' for £20, for a weekend, but this does not include cleaning solutions, sorry! Speak to Denise if you would like to loan our Carpet Cleaner and help us to start raising some pennies for **Children in Need 2019!**



November's Stay Play & Chat

Wow what a busy morning we had on Saturday 24th November for our Autumn Term's, 'Stay, Play and Chat'. Feedback received during the morning on splitting the morning into two sessions one for our Under 2's and another for our Over 2's means we will certainly use this format again for our Summer Term's, 'Stay, Play and Chat'. As we now know how successful it was at making it less of a squash and a squeeze for our parents and children.

Most of those who came along also took the time to read through our scrapbook which Jade has put together to evidence our journey through the process of Grafton Childcare gaining our accreditation to become a Curiosity Approach setting.

The feedback parents gave after reading through our scrapbook and getting a hands on tour of our Curiosity Approach loose parts resources and our classroom was really positive and really useful for all of the staff, so thank you.

Viewing Your Child's Learning Journal

If you didn't make it to our last Stay, Play & Chat in November, but you would like to arrange to come and view your child's Learning Journal and have a chat with your child's Key Worker or Buddy about how your child is progressing, then you are very welcome to come in for a chat about our planned 'Next Steps' for your child, you will be sent a copy of these at the start of each term, so in January, April and September. You could also arrange to come in and discuss any developmental concerns, issues or worries you may have in confidence with Lara, Natasha or Zoe.

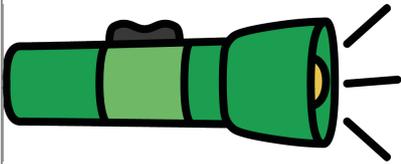
Or you could simply come in for a chat about exactly what all the little codes we use sometimes in your child's Daily Diary are all about!

Lara is available on Wednesdays and Fridays between 5 - 6 pm, **Natasha** is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5 - 6 pm and **Zoe** is available on Mondays and Wednesdays between 5 - 6 pm.

If you would like to arrange to come in just pop a note into your child's Communication Booklet or Daily Diary and we will arrange a suitable evening for you to do so, hopefully before we finish for Christmas.

Seven Day Challenge

Can you provide some of these invitations to learning at home for your children to support their interest in exploring light?



- * Prisms
- * Rainbows
- * reflections
- * Foil
- * Puddles
- * Torches
- * Sensory Toys
- * Light Boxes
- * Glass pebbles
- * Shades & Contrast
- * Fairy Lights
- * Silver Paint
- * Projectors
- * Windows
- * Mirros



Shadow Books

Some great books to introduce shadows are:

- * A Rainbow of my own - Don Freeman
- * My Shadow - Robert Louis Stevenson
- * The Black Rabbit - Philippa Leathers
- * Nothing sticks like a shadow - Niki Daly

The Curiosity Approach™ Let it shine! Introducing light & shadow play.....

Here at Grafton Childcare we believe in letting it shine and do this by introducing light and shadow play to provoke the children's curiosity and is of a staple of The Curiosity Approach™ philosophy.

Light is a source of ever changing wonder for our children. Simple curiosities such as exploring light can grow into explorations in all different areas of learning. Children, from a very young age realise that light can change, make shadows, and have direct sources such as the sun. Here at Grafton we strive to offer lots of attractive, inspirational explorations in light.

We are always looking to use nature to enhance our children's learning and their innate curiosity and inquisitiveness. Using natural resources which encourage children to observe closely and use all their senses.

The outside world provides an interesting and ever-changing environment for children to explore, to develop their curiosity, provide opportunities for them to ask questions and to talk about things they have discovered and observed.

As curious mindful adults, it is our job to provide opportunities for awe and wonder. To help our children notice that the sun creates silhouettes and shadows on carefully positioned materials or on the playground and walls.

It is our responsibility to help our children notice observe and be aware of these magical experiences, finding wonders in the world around us all. Experiences involving light and shadow enable our children to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world around them and provide an environment that is rich in possibilities for them to develop their natural curiosity.



Exploring Shadows

Just like Peter Pan, children often have a deep fascination with shadows, trying to capture them, catch them and watching as they change in shape length and size. Shadows are a natural phenomenon and a magical mystery that we can help children observe and discover.

How are shadows formed?

This question is often asked by our children, when the sunlight or light source, shines down on a surface, or on ourselves, our bodies or objects block out the light from passing through. We explain that whenever light is not able to go through an object, it creates dark areas around the object. This patch where the light cannot reach is then called a shadow.

The size of the shadow depends on the angle at which the light is falling on the object. Our shadows keep changing throughout the day. It is longest in the early morning and the late afternoon. At noon, when the sun is overhead there is little or no shadow at all. The reason being that the sun is high in the sky and therefore little or no shadow is cast.

Explorations using our Torches and Lanterns

Here at Grafton we know that these are wonderful tools to support discovery, experimentation, fostering creativity and curiosity with so many open-ended possibilities. Our Torches and Lanterns can be used to super-size and exaggerate the light experiences. They open up a whole new world when we introduce projected back drops and our light box for our learners to immerse themselves in, a magical experience! Combined with loose parts and open-ended materials and the opportunities for storytelling, awe and wonder are endless.



We know that many of the parents who were able to attend November's, 'Stay, Play and Chat' really enjoyed the items we had set out in our 'Playroom' to create our own Pop Up Sensory Room, but want to point out that staff and or a parent should be present at all times to manage risks whilst the children are being curious and leading their learning at home. Our 'Playroom' has been designed so that the reflecting light adds interest, imagination and varied textures. We have added acrylic mirrors and mobiles made from materials that sparkle and bounce light, such as old cd's to stimulate and provoke thoughtful play among the children.

Indoor Lighting

The right kind of lighting welcomes children into the Early Childhood environment and brings that sense of Hygge (see our earlier newsletter where we covered this). Unfortunately, some settings are stuck with pretty awful lighting, but we are very lucky that here at Grafton Childcare that we have been able to remove fluorescent overhead lighting and introduce the use of soft lighting; fairy lights; lanterns and battery operated candles etc to create a softer atmosphere and bring a sense of warmth and coziness.

Of course now with the Christmas season in full swing the lounge has also been transformed with our nine foot authentic Christmas tree complete with 480 sparkling glass baubles from which the



Season in full swing the lounge has also been transformed with our nine foot authentic Christmas tree complete with 480 sparkling glass baubles from which the light can bounce off and sparkle.

Light Box

Our light box was quite a pricy homemade pretty simply, there are you have somebody crafty or good at DIY willing to give it a go at home.

bit of early years kit but they can be lots of DIY examples on Pinterest if

Our light box brings a whole new level of dimension to light play for light is something you can touch and yet, not really touch! This and the glow of the table invite our curious learners with their roomy imaginations, to engage in playful and deep explorations. It's not unusual to see our children and even adults encountering light tables in immediate sensory, physical, and emotional ways. The light box or table can be such a delightful invitation to learning due to its simple design, drawing children in with its alluring lights and exciting promise of curiosity.

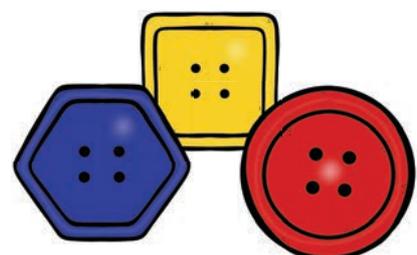
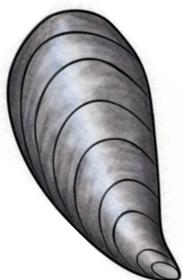
Loose Parts Wanted List

If parents, grandparents and carers would like support us we would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items which will be used during the Spring Term at our play dough table. Please do not go and buy anything we are very happy to have bits and bobs you find on your walks, or items you may have lurking in the back of your kitchen cupboards which may be out of date or no longer used, but are ideal for us to use in our playdough:-

- Wooden Sectional Trays
- Lacey Tablecloths
- Dried Lavender
- Flower Heads
- Walnuts
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Essential Oils
- Dried Sunflower Seeds

- Cupcake Cake Cases
- Assorted Buttons
- Dried Pumpkin Seeds
- Out of date herbs & spices
- Shells
- Slices of Dried Oranges
- Unusual Food Colourings
- Fruity Tea Bags

- In Additions if you have...**
- Any old silk scarfs
 - Pieces of lace and ribbons
 - Metal & Wooden Bangles
 - Metal Biscuit Cutters
 - Metal Scone Cutters
 - Garlic Presses
 - Teabag Squeezers



Thank You Very Much

As always we are very grateful for bits and bobs which our parents pass onto us to make use of here at Grafton Childcare. In no particular order we would like to thank Avery, Shannon, Evelyn, Gracie, Alfie, Theo, Jack and Rebecca for the following much appreciated items:-

A Large Quantity of Shirt Cardboard, Junk Modelling Items, Herbs, Cookie Cutters, Cupcake Cases, Seeds, Plants and Red Milk Bottle Tops.

Recommend Grafton Childcare to a Friend

Do you have a friend looking for Family Friendly Flexible Childcare in September 2019?

Then why not recommend Grafton Childcare to them, so that they can also enjoy 'The Grafton Experience'!

Remember as a thank you we will give you a £25 Pizza Cafe Voucher for each family we sign up to join us here at Grafton Childcare.

Christmas Jumper Day

This year falls on Friday 14th December when all staff and children may wear a Christmas Jumper to help celebrate.

If you would like to take part, we ask for a £1 donation which will be added to our Children in Need Collection Pot, thank you.



Christmas Party

Grafton Childcare's Christmas Party this year will be held on Friday 21st December, between 1 pm - 4 pm.

Sadly as I'm sure parents can appreciate we cannot accommodate any extra children at the party because of the very strict adult to child ratio's imposed by Ofsted. This means we will not be able to accommodate any extra children who do not normally attend on a Friday.

However we will hold a waiting list, so if you know that your child will not be attending for their normal Friday session because you are away for the Christmas Shenanigans. P L E A S E let us know asap so that we are able to offer your child's place to one of the children on our waiting list. Spaces will be offered to the eldest children first and we will then work our way down the list. We thought this would be the fairest way of allocating any spaces which come up, as hopefully younger children will have a chance next year. Next year our Christmas Party will be on Monday 23rd December 2019!

Please wear your best party outfits, dresses and jumpers, we shall be awarding two prizes for the best dressed girl and boy and member of staff!



Bits and Bobs

As we are coming to the end of 2018 can we remind all of our Parents to please check your child's bag for Christmas Cards, Soiled Clothes and Dirty Nappies and top up their Calpol if it has been used up. We know it's a very hectic time of the year but if you could please find the time to complete your child's, 'My Favourite Things' page for December that would be amazingly helpful for your child's Key Worker. They are very busy updating your child's 'Learning Journal' and planning their 'Next Steps' which will be sent out in January.

If you could also try to remember to initial the top of your child's Daily Diary page each evening to confirm you have read it, that would be brilliant, thank you.

Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Spring Term (1)

Mon. 24th December - Tue. 1st January Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Christmas Holiday and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 for the beginning of our Spring Term. 2019				
Owl Babies				
Closed	Closed	2 January 2019	3 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	4
7 <small>Yoga</small>	8 <small>Library, Jacksons & Ashfords</small>	9 	10	11
14 <small>Yoga</small>	15	16	17	18 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>
21 <small>Yoga</small>	22	23 <small>Library, Hoopers & Ashfords</small>	24	25
28 <small>Yoga</small>	29 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	30	31 	1 February
The Large Family				
4 <small>Yoga</small>	5	6	7 <small>Library, Jacksons & Ashfords</small>	8 
11 <small>Yoga</small>	12 	13 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>	14	15
$\frac{1}{2}$ term for term time only kids 18th - 22nd February 2019				
18 <small>Yoga</small>	19	20	21	22 <small>Library, Hoopers & Ashfords</small>
25 	26	27	28 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	1 March
Nursery Rhymes				
4 <small>Yoga</small>	5 <small>Library, Jacksons & Ashfords</small>	6	7 	8
11 <small>Yoga</small> 	12	13	14	15 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>
18 <small>Yoga</small>	19	20 <small>Library, Hoopers & Ashfords</small>	21	22
25 <small>Yoga</small>	26 <small>Spring Term Adventure!</small> 	27	28	29
A Squash and a Squeeze				
1 April <small>Yoga</small>	2	3	4 <small>Library, Jacksons & Ashfords</small>	5 
8 <small>Yoga</small>	9 	10 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>	11	12
Mon. 15th April - Mon. 22nd April Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Easter Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 for the beginning of our Summer Term. 2019				
22 Closed	23	24	25	26 <small>Library, Hoopers & Ashfords</small>
29	30	1 May	2 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	3 
The Very Hungry Caterpillar				
6 Closed	7 <small>Library, Jacksons & Ashfords</small>	8 	9	10

Parents please remember to always send your children equipped with suitable warm waterproof coats, shoes and or welly boots (inc. long welly socks) for our regular educational excursions to Decoy Park and Bradley Woods. So they can enjoy our high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans to the full.