

22nd March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, I cannot believe how busy the children have been! I think the children and staff are ready for a break and are looking forward to the summer term with the usual feeling of 'how has the academic year gone so quickly'.

This term the children have enjoyed our second Parent Breakfast, an opportunity for the parents to come and have a coffee and the children can enjoy breakfast with their friends. One of the children was so excited to come to the 'Big sister breakfast'; we also enjoy seeing siblings at the Breakfasts. There will be an opportunity to come to the last one of the year next term.

The nannies also had their own coffee morning which was very well attended. Again, this is a chance for our wonderful nannies to all get together for coffee and a biscuit. Hopefully the weather will be a bit warmer for the next one and we can host it in the garden and have more space.

Chinese New Year

The children celebrated Chinese New Year a little early and they made an array of creative pieces from lanterns to dragons. They all had a chance to go to the local shop to buy the noodles and the ingredients to go with them. The Ducklings played with yellow and red noodles and tried to use chopsticks and the Ducks tried their hand at writing using Chinese symbols. Thank you to Olive and Isla's parents for coming in and talking about the celebrations.

There have been many weird and wonderful national days celebrated by the children this term: popcorn day, pig day and dentist day to name a few.

The children all made cards for their mummies for Mothers Day and the Ducklings planted bulbs early in the Spring to take home as a present.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's day was celebrated by all. The children enjoyed sensory play with pink and red rice, pom poms and wooden hearts and they made cards to take home. The Ducks completed some heart number bond puzzles and heart word writing.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is always popular; the chance to eat pancakes at school is a special treat with a choice of lemon, a little bit of sugar, jam or honey.

World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success and each of the groups had many parent and nanny readers; thank you to all those families who joined us during the week. We had a dressing up day and it was great to see so many costumes. There were the lots of superheroes and princesses but also Paddington Bear. This year, I decided to give up on the Disney princess theme and decided to be Cruella from 101 Dalmatians. Miss Sandra was Snow White, Miss Tricia was cat in the hat and Mrs Frost, a giant banana!

Fire Service Visit

We enjoyed a visit from the fire service on 12th March; its always so much fun as the children get to climb onboard the fire engine and even have a go at squirting the hose in the park. We just managed to get the first 4 children on the engine and the firefighters got an emergency call: a very quick descent from the engine and they were gone! They did return about 20 minutes later after rescuing someone from an elevator.

Red Nose Day

This year we held a pyjama day to celebrate Red Nose Day and raise funds for Comic Relief, a wonderful cause. The children enjoyed strawberries, watermelon, peppers and raspberries for snack to keep the red theme going. The Ducklings took part in red nose and spoon races and had a Teddy Bear's Picnic. The Ducks made some red balloon nose funny faces and played other red themed games.

Forest School

Forest school in Avondale Park for the Ducklings has been an amazing addition to the curriculum. The children have a different activity each week: magic fizzy mud, we're going on a bear hunt, colour matching hunt, making natural paintbrushes using sticks and leaves, bog babies and mud pizzas to name a few. Sometimes the children just explore the space independently.

The Ducks have also gone to forest school in the Park on Fridays and really enjoyed it. They will go to forest school at Holland Park after the break.

Easter Activities

As the term comes to an end, we hold our usual Easter activities. The children are looking forward to our annual Easter egg hunt in the garden on the last day of term and exchanged the sparkly eggs hidden in the garden for a chocolate one to take home. The children also make Easter hats/crowns and it's so lovely to see how excited they get.

Welcome to our new children: Lyra in Ducks this term and Felix and Garrett will be joining Ducklings after the Easter break and Jupiter in May. This year we have a slightly larger Duckling group than normal with our early entry children who joined in January and April. The children are still taught in small groups after the initial drop off. Half the Duckling children spend the morning at Avondale and half at Kenley, swapping on alternate days. We still maintain a ratio of 1 adult to 4/5 children which is significantly lower than the legal ratio required of 1-8 for 3 year olds. It is lovely that so many families are wanting to join us but we are now full and will not be accepting any more pupils until September. Not all of the children in the current Duckling group will move up to the Ducks in September as they are on our early entry programme and will therefore stay in the Ducklings for the next academic year.

I want to say a huge thank you to the families who have supported my charity 44 mile swim for Diabetes UK. My elbows are definitely letting me know I have started my journey! I'm about half way across the English Channel right now!

I hope you all have a wonderful break, whether you are staying at home, going to the countryside or travelling abroad and we look forward to seeing you back on 17th April.

Kind regards

Lisa Murray
Headteacher