



P.S.E. and Wellbeing SEMH Update at York Road June 2022

We have continued with our busy lives at York Road. Since the last update the nursery has continued to embrace 'living with covid-19'! Despite the many staffing issues this has brought with the leadership from Diane and the commitment from the staff team the children at York Road have continued to enjoy a full and interesting learning experience this year.

We were able to bring back the Panto – 'oh yes we did!' with Wilshire Dacre as usual allowing us to use their hall and letting the year 6 children join with us. It was a good event to start the Christmas season and important for our children to visit another setting enjoy the entertainment and feel confident with this experience.

We continued with all our old favourites, Celebrating Diwali, MyHappyMind, 5before 5 activities, Forest school, Peek-a-boo photography, Christmas tree festival, School clubs, visiting St Marks for the 'Nativity Story'. This year we introduced a 'Singing in the garden' and invited parents to join us which was really appreciated. We also did our usual fund raising which is a lovely way to introduce the children to doing things for others and having fun at the same time. We raised £68.00 for Children in Need. And an amazing £880.00 for our garden fund through a cake sale and contributions to Father Christmas. We finished the term with the Christmas party and a visit from the very man himself - 'Father Christmas'

We all hoped that the new year would be less stressful but sadly the Covid-19 impact continued and staff sickness again affected the nursery badly but again the staff's resilience shone through and we continued providing the exciting and positive experience we all know the children deserve.

The term started with Ebony going on maternity leave and later giving birth to 5 beautiful puppies who came and visited when they were old enough to. We hosted an 'Open afternoon' for new/perspective parents to visit – what a difference it made welcoming families back into our nursery. Our new reading corners arrived and have been embraced by all children. Enhancing their learning and ensuring the seeds are sown to grow their love for books. We were also able to celebrate 'World Book Day' with a silver/grey dress-up as it has been around now for 25 years – obviously a few Elsa's, Red Riding Hoods etc. also showed up. We celebrated 'Chinese New Year with food tasting, using chop sticks, Chinese music and each group making a dragon and joining a procession around the garden. We were successful this year with our application for 'Feeling Good Week' securing a £500 grant to enhance learning about 'What Our Bodies Can Do' we ended this week with a 'keep fit' session joined in with many of our parents. We welcomed back 'Living Eggs' and were successful hatching 8 chicks involving all the awe and wonder that goes with this for not only our children but parents and staff alike. The run up to Easter again saw the return of our favourites for painting eggs, basket making, egg rolling, egg hunt (always popular- can't think why!) and ending with another parade to show off the Easter bonnets the children had made at home with their families – of course not all children wanted to wear their bonnets but they were all keen to join in the parade and wave to the parents as they walked around. The fun and confidence the parades give the children inspired us all. We also held another Toy and Cake sale raising another staggering £400 for our garden project.

The Summer term has continued in much the same vein – staff illness prevailing but activities and enjoyment continuing. We celebrated the Queen’s jubilee with a Tea party and had our very own Queen, Mrs Maddern parade around to the flag waving and cheering of the children (and the rest of ‘lowly, humble staff’) We have had a visit from Ark Farm ensuring all children have the opportunity to see real live farm animals – it always causes great excitement seeing animals in our nursery garden (Wilshere Dacre are always very good at allowing the farm to access through their field). We have had Linda Bance in to a music session for the children and also to share music with the staff. We have also welcomed back a firm favourite with the children, ‘Story Teller ‘T’. We are currently preparing the children and their families for transitions to school and preparations and plans are forging ahead for our 80 Year Celebration Party.

This is a small snapshot of what has been happening within the nursery and much more has been naturally happening in addition to the everyday activities that take place. Always at the heart of what we do is ensuring the social skills and the wellbeing of all our children is being met and we continually adjust and adapt to meet the needs of all our children, families and staff each year.

We are also nearly at the end of completing the forms to apply for the SEMH Kitemark. This has been a big investment of several staff’s time and dedication. We are one of the first nurseries to apply for this but it is strongly felt, with what happens on a daily basis at York Road we should apply this accreditation. Working on the form has highlighted to us that we do not just plan for our children but for their families, the community and staff. This is a continual commitment and will ensure all families involved with York Road are valued, supported and provided for.