

Almond Park Nursery: December Update



Hello parents and carers!

It's already December, and in a few weeks' time it'll be a whole new year. Here's what your children have done this month!

Buttercup



This month, Buttercup have been learning about the Christmas season and exploring festive activities. We have been supporting and developing our fine motor skills and our 5 senses through Christmas sensory tuff trays with a variety of tactile experiences such as snow foam, snow flour, baubles that roll, snow-doh, Christmas rice, Christmas animals and many more. We have also enjoyed food tasting and exploring the wider world experiences through some winter walks and enjoying the different weather.

In January, we plan to continue developing our wider world experiences with more walks in the community. We will explore national days and new experiences such as the lunar new year and Burns' night through more food tasting, lots of activities to support their development and allowing children to be creative and express themselves.

Daisy



In December, Daisy room have been having great fun learning the reindeer pokey and Santa got stuck up the chimney. Daisy have also been doing lots of exciting Christmas crafts and activities including reindeer dust and penguin feet calendars. We have also been posting our letters to Santa.

In January, we will be discussing how our holiday was and what we got up to.

Snowdrop



This month in our Snowdrop room, we have been super busy with lots of different activities on offer every day. The Snowdrop children have been learning about seasons and different weather changes, and the children identified how cold it was getting outside. We did ice play recently which the children loved. The ice play represented the weather outside as it was super icy and cold.

We have been getting ready for Christmas. We have been making Christmas decorations, reading Christmas stories, party games and lots more. Every child will receive a little Christmas bag to take home which includes different things we have made and a little present.

Merry Christmas, Snowdrop, and we can't wait to see you all in the new year!!

Bluebell



In December we have been experimenting with water and ice, looking at what melts ice, which links in with the frosty and snowy weather we have been having recently. We have also been discussing what clothes keep us warm when using the garden and encouraging independence when putting on our jackets.

Our party week was full of arts and crafts using lots of paint, glue and glitter! We did lots of party games, sang lots of Christmas songs, wrote letters to Santa and checked out the Smyths catalogue!

Since December 1st we have been doing the advent calendar, recognising our numbers, days of the week and counting how many days left until Santa visits. We also wished Noelle a happy birthday.

In January, we will be settling back into our routine of nursery and welcoming new children from Snowdrop. We will continue to look at the weather and discuss what we did over the holidays!

Important updates

There will be a staffing shuffle due to staff qualifying and addressing the needs of each playroom so that the rooms can operate safely and we can get it right for every child. There will soon be a staffing post indicating these changes and each room will be contacting the parents of children most affected by this change (for example a change in key worker) and the rooms will be putting out posts themselves on Family with their new staffing.

We also have new staff joining us around the time we open.

Ross Quinn will be joining us on the 9th of January as a support worker in Snowdrop. Ross has prior experience in the care sector and has skills that may translate to childcare well.

Ellie Purvis will be joining us on the 9th of January as a practitioner in Snowdrop. She joins us as someone with experience in childcare, both professionally and personally.

Julie Knight will be joining us on the 4th of January as a support worker in Daisy. Julie joins us with prior experience in senior care and has skills that could translate well into a childcare setting.

Hannah Campbell will be joining us on the 4th of January as a modern apprentice in Daisy.

Aaliyah Morris will be joining us as a modern apprentice in Daisy sometime near the end of January/start of February.

Kerry Gallagher will be joining us as a modern apprentice in Buttercup on the 4th of January. Kerry joins us with prior experience with our routines, having been with us as a foundation apprentice.

Changes in policies and important date

Just a reminder that the nursery's first non-operational day is the 23rd of December and all children return to the nursery on the 4th of January 2023

We have greatly appreciated the support we have had from families throughout 2022 and we are incredibly thankful to our staff for their flexibility in times where operating the nursery would have been incredibly tough.

Happy festivities and a happy new year!

The team at Almond Park Nursery