

Welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! We would like to welcome our new starters to The Rivers:

Oscar, Oliver, Archie, Layla,  
Katie, Nathan, Isaac, Zak, Sophie,  
Emmie and Amelia!



Dates for your diary

Football sessions start  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Bounce and Bop sessions start  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

6<sup>th</sup> February - Waitangi Day  
(New Zealand) We will be  
making feathered headbands.

8<sup>th</sup> February - Chinese new Year  
(dress in Chinese  
clothing/colours)

9<sup>th</sup> Feb - Shrove Tuesday

14<sup>th</sup> feb - Valentine's Day

Half-term - 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February  
(return Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb)

Mother's Day -6<sup>th</sup> March  
(afternoon tea - Friday 4<sup>th</sup>)

17<sup>th</sup> March - St.Patrick's Day

Easter Break - 24<sup>th</sup> March - 8<sup>th</sup>  
April (return Mon 11<sup>th</sup>)

Nursery will be closed Good  
Friday (25<sup>th</sup> March) & Easter  
Monday (29<sup>th</sup> March)

Children attending under the  
stay and play scheme will finish  
22<sup>nd</sup> March and restart on  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

The FOSBNS are still looking for more parents to get involved with fundraising events and ideas. Why not join them and get to know some friendly faces? Email: FOSBNS@outlook.com or check out Friends of Shotley Bridge Nursery school on FB! In particular, we would like to raise money for some staging so that future performances and events can be viewed better by parents. We would also like to purchase some proper woodwork equipment! Speak to a member of staff for details.

Over the next few months we will be focusing on language. We will be using repetition of favourite songs, stories and rhymes to build on children's vocabulary and understanding. Each week we will be focusing on one particular song and story. The *Again Again* research suggests that it's not the number of books, but the repetition of each book that leads to greater learning. It is thought that each time a child hears the book they are picking up new information. The first time it might just be the story, the second time they are noticing details of description, and so on. If a new word is introduced in a variety of contexts (as happened with those who were read three different stories) children are less likely to focus on the new word.

We would like your help deciding which books and stories to introduce to the children. Please let us know which their favourite is!

Topics we are covering this term

January - winter stories including *Betti and the Yeti*, talking about cold / hot, melting, snowmen, winter walks, *Burns Night* etc.



February - we will be celebrating Chinese New Year (year of the monkey) and will be making money pockets and fruit smoothies. We will also be enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and making crafts for Valentine's Day.



March - we will be celebrating Easter, Mother's Day & St Patrick's Day. As a celebration for Mother's Day we would like to invite all mothers, grandmothers etc. to join us for afternoon tea on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2-3pm. As it is Dr. Seuss birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and World Book day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, we would love it if any parents/grandparents would pop into nursery during this week to read a story to the children. Please speak to a member of staff if you would like to volunteer.

**Reminders: For obvious security reasons, please could we urge you not to let anyone else into nursery once you have been buzzed in. We know that this may feel impolite but it is highly important that staff only buzz in one person at a time. If someone does hold the door for you please decline and buzz the room yourself.**

Remember to bring your child's water bottle each day with fresh water. Studies show that staying hydrated aids concentration, learning and development.

If you haven't signed up to the parent zone, are unsure how, or are unable to do so, please speak to our manager Mrs Lant.

Remember to check out our Facebook page for regular updates about what is happening!