***November/December 2019 Newsletter***

**Caterpillars News (baby room):**

Caterpillars have enjoyed looking at different types of messy play, including Gloop, Jelly and even a pumpkin😊.

We have been busy with harvest crafts and will soon be starting our Christmas ones.

We are enjoying outdoor walks in the local community at the moment, so please ensure you bring along warm coats, hats, scarves and gloves for all weather.

**Butterflies News (2yr old room):**

Butterflies have been looking at colour matching and exploring the beautiful Autumn colours around us.

We will be soon focussing on Christmas songs and craft shortly, exploring new textures and colours too.

Please can you remember to bring SPARE clothes in every day your child attends, as well as warm outdoor clothing please.

**Holiday Club**

Our holiday club is running from 2nd-6th January 2020, please collect a booking form from reception if required.

**Christmas service**

We will be holding our annual Christmas nativity/ carol service over at Longtown school, on Monday 16th December at 1.30pm. It will be a little different this year as we have a lot of little ones and are only having some children dressed up. If your child attends on a Monday all you need to do is turn up at 1.45pm, if your child does not attend feel free to bring them over to the school at 1.30pm and give them to a staff member to get seated or changed. We will have a cake stall and raffle available in the hall all proceeds go towards some new outdoor toys for all the children at Pear Tree.

Please can we limit families to 3 people per child attending, this is for fire risk reasons at the school.

We also ask if your child is really unsettled or doesn’t want to join in then please allow them to stay with you to prevent distressing themselves.

**Household Items:**

If you have any unwanted household items, nursery would love to take them off your hands, e.g. telephones, remote controls, lamps, vases, dressing up, handbags, jewellery, hats (all adults sizes too please 😊)

**Funded hours**

If your child attends here at the setting term time only (whether they are 2yr or 3yr old funded). Their return date back to the setting will be Tuesday 7th January to work alongside their funded hrs. All year-round children return date is Thursday 2nd Jan, please let us know if you need to make any changes to this. Ali B.

**30 Hours free for 3 & 4 year olds**

As you are probably aware the government brought out a new scheme last year for parents to be entitled to 30 hours free childcare. You can access information about this at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) We offer 30 hours here at Pear Tree, with the option of term time only, all year round, banking hours and sharing with another setting, please speak to Ali Blair for more information.

**Pre-school room News:**

The pre-schoolers have been drawing pictures from their favourite stories to go on our display board. We have also been focussing on colours and matching them making bonfire pictures and Halloween crafts.

We will be sending some pencil control sheets home with your child over the next few weeks, please could you return them to nursery one completed.

We had a fantastic time at forest schools over the past few Thursday mornings. Theses sessions were funded through a grant Broom hills received for that age group, a massive thanks to Catherine for organising this.

**Nursery News and dates to remember:**

\*Please ensure you are regularly checking your eligibility codes for the 30hrs funding for 3 & 4 yr olds, this is a parent’s duty not the setting’s. Also, children turning 3yrs old between now and December 31st, if you are entitled to 30 hrs and would like to access our setting, we must have your details by November 30th, 2019.This also includes 2 yr funding codes and hours you require.

\*Christmas closure dates: Setting will be closed on the evening of Friday 20th December, and re open on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

\* Christmas Jumper day Friday 13th December.

\*You have the option to purchase Pear Tree t-shirts for your child, they are just a mini version of the staffs and can be purchased from Border embroideries. Their web address is [www.border-embroideries.co.uk](http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk)

**\***We took part in a scheme a few years ago with Cumbria County Council adoption service. This was for perspective adoptive parents to come along to the setting to play alongside the children’s age group they were interested in adopting, and staff would feedback. We have had an enquiry for a couple to come along and work alongside some of our babies, butterflies and after school club too. This would be in the new year, and the perspective parents have had thorough dbs checks and would never be left unsupervised with your child. If you would not like your child to take place with this, or have any other questions please speak to Ali B.

\*Our raffle will be set up at reception in a few weeks please feel free to purchase any tickets from Charlotte, £1 per strip.

**Recipe of the month: **

**Mince pies:**

**Recipe**: (Pastry) 200g plain flour, 100g butter (cold) & 2 tbsp cold water, 1 jar of mincemeat.

**Method**: Mix sieved flour and butter together until breadcrumbs then gradually add water. Please have cold surfaces and cold hands when making pastry or it will crumble. Once mixed well form into a large ball and roll out on a floured surface, using a scone cutter, cut out 12 shapes (this recipe should make around 12 mince pies). Once placed in an appropriate bun baking tray place mince meat inside (around 1 tsp) and cover with pastry tops then decorate. These also taste delicious with brown sugar and cinnamon sprinkled on top too.

**Smile 4 life**

We have a new smile 4 life board outside the baby room it has details of nutrious and healthy foods that you can eat and how to register with a local dentist.