



February 2026

Newsletter

Chair of Governors: Sarah Walker

Governors: Jade Brown, Joseph Burton, Adam Campbell, Grant Chaney, Suzi McIntosh, Amaritpal Uppal, Hannah Wadsworth and Claudia Wallis

Week 1 – Well what a start to the new year it has been. We have had new faces join us in Saplings and it has been lovely getting to know you all. The first week we had a slight hiccup with our facilities delaying our return, and once we did, we just enjoyed getting settled back into routine and telling everyone what we got up to over our Christmas break.



Our 2nd week of term we learned all about Winter theme through activities such as snowflake making, animal habitats, playdough and other sensory tuff trays. Squiggle while you wiggle is a firm favourite which works on gross motor skills to get children ready for fine motor skill development.



Saplings Reminders

- Please remember to name your child's clothes, bags, outwear etc. We are a very busy setting and things get misplaced; this makes it easier to reunite lost items with their owner.
- Bring a named water bottle in daily for your child so they can have easy access to water freely.
- If your child has had to have Calpol prior to them attending Saplings, it is highly unlikely they are well enough to be here and should be kept at home. If they are not up to doing their usual activities and are upset during the day, we will call parents/carers to arrange collection of them.
- If you utilise the wrap around care, please do note you will need to arrive by 9am in the morning, this starts from 8:45am. Recently families have been arriving late which then impacts our ability to get ready for the other children arriving.
- Please do ensure you are using and engaging with Class Dojo as we use this to update you on all things Saplings, what your child has been up to, events upcoming etc.
- In relation to funding eligibility, please do make sure you are re-confirming your funding codes with the Beststartinlife service to ensure you still remain able to claim these with us, and/or other settings.
- Please be mindful of parking when dropping off children to utilise the drop off zones and not the staff parking. This can impact teachers being able to get to their class on time as they cannot park.



Week 3 we continued our wonderful winter theme by exploring lots of different arctic animals, making handprint penguins, fox crafts, ice play and polar bear creations. The children did a lot of work on practicing fine motor skills this week making all different crafts using different materials. During group times, we explored dough disco to strengthen those hand muscles.



Reminder of session times AM/PM

- Gate opens 9:10am – 9:20am for morning drop off.
- Lunch time gate is open 12:10pm – 12:20pm.
- End of day gate is open 3:10pm – 3:20pm.

Please do contact us via phone, email or Class Dojo as soon as possible if you will be late, or your child is absent.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 13th February – Last day of term (Half Term)

Monday 23rd February – Return to Saplings

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day – More details can be found on Class Dojo.

Monday 16th – Friday 20th March – Mother's Day Morning – More Details to Follow.

Friday 20th March – Comic Relief Day – More Details To Follow.

Friday 27th March – Last day of term (Easter Holidays)

Monday 13th April – Return to Saplings





Our next week was National Birdwatching Week, exciting stuff! We made bird nests, feeders for our gardens, sensory trays with feathers, made binoculars to see what different birds we could see in the trees around The Firs. During group time, we enjoyed some lovely bird theme books such as owl babies and a busy day for birds.



Week 5 was National Storytelling week, what a fun one this was! We shared some wonderful stories that children brought from home during group times. The activities were inspired by Gruffalo, Snail & The Whale and many more fascinating fairy tales. The children explored sensory trays, interactive storytelling through puppets, Gruffalo masks, whale paintings, stick man creations and much more. Friday was also NSPCC Maths Day and we incorporated this in our group learning time, practicing counting and number recognition.



Week 6 and our last week of term was full of love and emotions! We had some fabulous valentines' activities including making cards, sensory play, potion making, size sorting. We also did lots of work on recognising different emotions, acts of kindness to our friends, and colour monster fun.

