

🌻 Grasshopper Class Newsletter

Welcome Back & Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and a joyful start to the new year. It has been such a pleasure welcoming the children back — they've returned with big smiles, lots of excitement, and even a few cuddles.

And what a magical surprise to start the term... **snow!**

The children were captivated — watching it fall, feeling it land on their faces, and listening to the crunch under their feet. It gave us some lovely opportunities to explore the outdoors together.



❄️ **Settling Back Into Routine**

After a busy festive season, we focused on helping the children feel comfortable by offering familiar, well-loved activities.

🥄 **Messy Play**

- Rice and utensils were available throughout the week.
- We noticed lots of interest in *container play*, so we added pots, boxes, and a small tuff tray to extend this schematic learning.



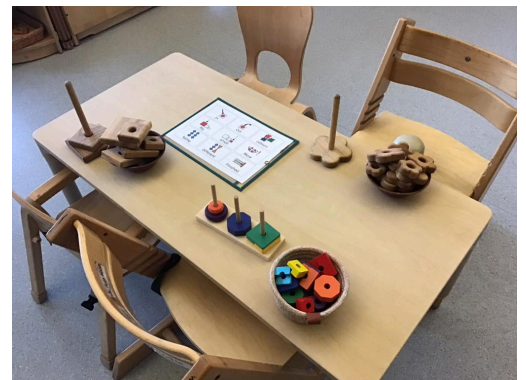
🧩 **Table Activities**

Our wooden stackers were a huge hit, as always.

Each child engages with them differently:

- Placing shapes onto the rods
- Sorting by size
- Watching and having a go

We supported language development using repetitive vocabulary and communication boards in each area.



Floor Area

Before Christmas we introduced some **Identiplay** during some of our floor-based activities.

Using a tea set, the adult and child each have their own set and follow a simple play script. Over time, the child begins to copy the actions.

Identiplay helps children learn:

- Simple play routines
- Imitation skills
- Parallel play
- Confidence in structured play



The children have responded so well that we extended this into the **kitchen role-play area**, giving them the chance to transfer these new skills into a more natural, playful setting.

We also kept a variety of utensils and play food available for all children to explore. The role play area is a great time to spend time watching and teaching the children simple role play sequences, like as simple as cutting the fruit in half, stirring the pot or making a cup of tea.

Group Time Highlights

To re-establish routine, we used familiar favourites:

Stage 2

- Pouring rice, lentils, and pasta onto musical instruments
- Listening to the different sounds
- Watching materials fall from different heights

Stage 3

- Crawling through a tunnel while we sang a song
- Encouraging movement, confidence, and engagement



Gentle Reminders

- **Morning session:** 8:40am – 11:40am

Afternoon session: 12:40pm – 3:40pm

- Please call the school if you are running late.
- Repeated late pick-ups may incur a late fee, in line with school policy.

- When parents begin arriving, some children can become unsettled. Our goodbye song helps signal that it's time to go, so arriving on time really supports their emotional wellbeing.
- When entering to collect your child, please ensure the **garden gate is closed behind you**. This is a huge help — thank you.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

We're excited for a wonderful term ahead with your children.

The Grasshopper Team