



# November 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to the November Newsletter. For all those parents and children who have recently joined us, a very warm welcome to the Gelston family.

## Important Updates & Messages from Management

### NEW STAFF- WELCOME!

We are very excited to let our parents and carers know of our newest additions to the Gelston Manor family...

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to...

#### Bekii. C

Bekii will be joining us full time in our Bunnies classroom from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Bekii is a great addition to our team with over 10 years of experience in the early years sector, we can't wait to see what Bekii brings to our team.

#### Jo. F

Jo will be joining us part time in our Owls classroom from Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Jo has a great passion for enabling children to develop and achieve. Good luck, Jo!

#### Jess. H

Jess has joined us in the Owls classroom, sharing the role with Jo, also working part time. Jess joined the Gelston Team on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November as she is doing an amazing job already! Jess is currently undertaking a degree in child psychology and early years. We wish you the best of luck, Jess.

#### Nicola. C

Nicola has recently joined us in the baby unit over both Robins and Bunnies. Nicola will be covering over the two rooms, part time. Nicola has great experience working with children and has 3 children of her own. Nicola is currently undertaking a degree in Educational Studies.

### STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our November staff member of the month, Becca Rawlinson! Becca has been working extremely since becoming a team member in the Robins room, giving her all to the children and the Robins team. Well done Becca, keep up the good work!

### COMMUNITY NETWORK AND OUTREACH SERVICE

Recently we posted to our Facebook page about a local charity asking for donations. We have previously donated to this charity via parent donations. We ask that if any of our wonderful families can spare non-perishable items such as tins, pasta, rice, jars, cereals etc, we would

be extremely grateful. These items can just be passed on at the door on drop off or pick up. Thank you!



## Christmas at Gelston 2021

As we fast approach Christmas, we have an array of activities for the children to partake in, especially within our Christmas week. Please see the list below detailing the plan of activities for each day in each classroom.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Crafts  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December- Christmas Dinner  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December- Christmas Party  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December- Christmas Baking  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December- Pyjama Day (Nursery Closes at 12:30pm)

Bedtime at Gelston- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December (Bunnies and Robins)

Bedtime at Gelston- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Otters, Owlets and Owls).

\*Please note, spaces are limited for these dates to keep us all as safe as possible. Messages have been sent out from each room, if you would like a space for your child's room, please ask the relevant classroom to see if they have availability.

All our children are welcome to dress up in their Christmas clothes in the lead up to Christmas, lets get in the spirit!

A polite reminder to all parents...

Nursery closes at 12:30pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December and we will reopen on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 07:30am.

## UPDATES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

### BUNNIES

#### What have the children been participating in within the classroom?

The Bunnies children have enjoyed playing on the new push along dog. They have used it to take steps, enjoyed petting and stroking it and taking turns to push each other around on its back! The children have also been playing with the puppets, playing alongside other and putting them on their hands. The puppets have also been used to enhance our story times.

#### What the children have been enjoying...

At the beginning of the month the Bunnies enjoyed playing with pretend sparklers to celebrate bonfire night, waving them round and listening to firework sounds on Alexa. The Bunnies have been enjoying spending time in the garden, using adults for support to walk across the planks and jumping off at the end.

#### What are the children's current interests?

The Bunnies children are interested in the shop role play. They enjoy filling the baskets and trolley up with all the different items and exploring the till. The babies have also been interested in the sensory bottles, lifting them up and shaking them to explore.

#### What are the Bunnies going to be focusing on?

The children will be helping set up for Christmas, they will be able to help decorate the Christmas tree, unwrap boxes and listen to Christmas stories. We will also be doing lots of winter themed activities such as ice play, snow dough and Christmas collages.





## ROBINS

### What have the children been participating in within the classroom?

The children have been enjoying small world activities such as burrito, salad and cake making with our new wooden sets! The children have learnt new words and sounds from our enhanced provision, such as, "cake and burrito"!

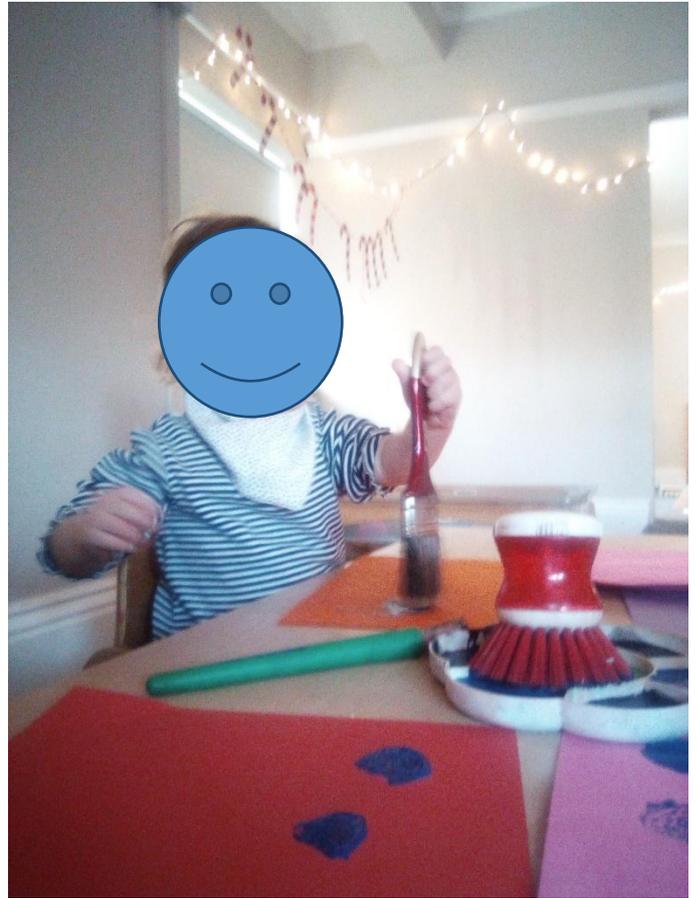
### What the children have been enjoying...

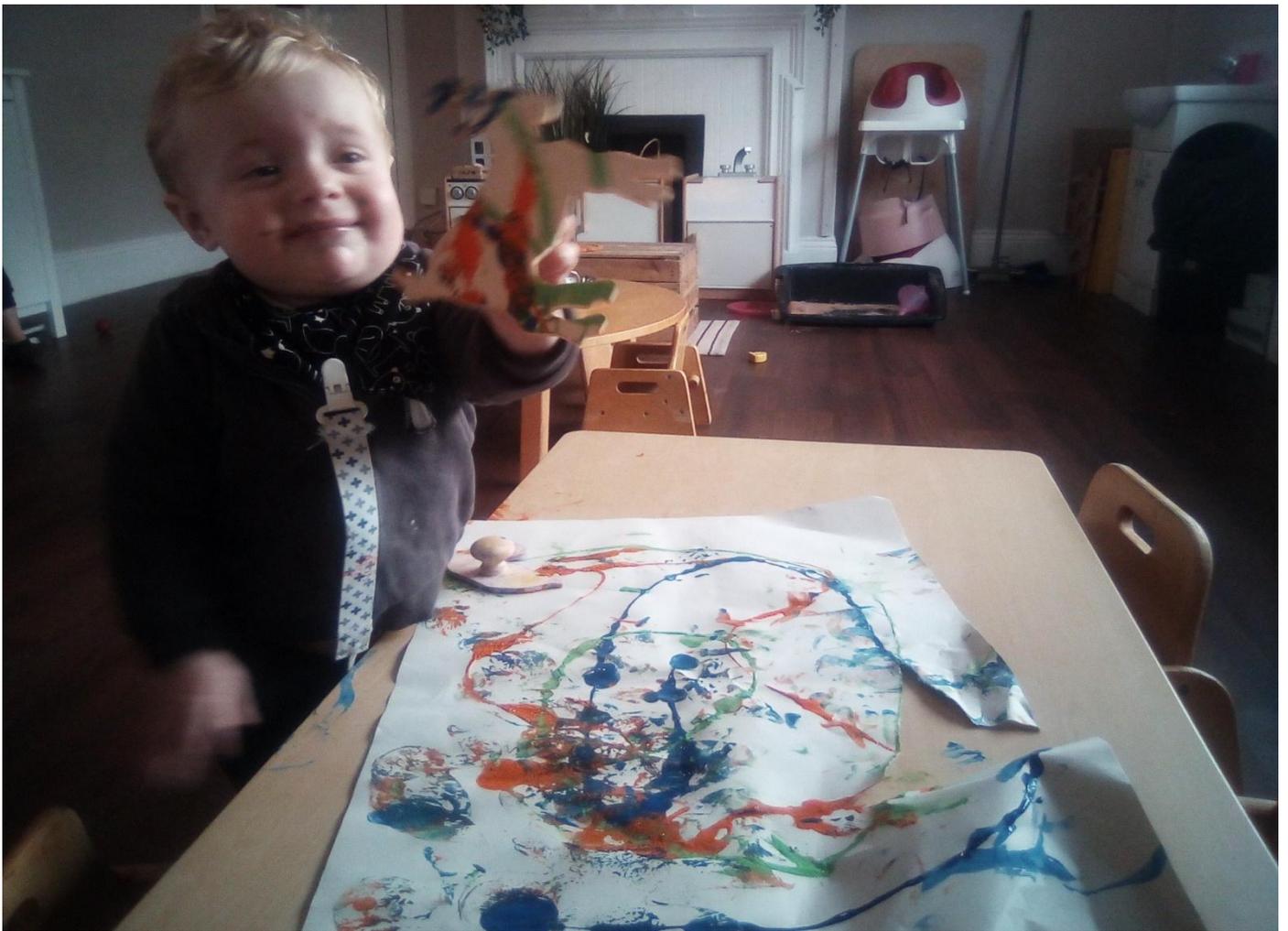
The children in Robins have very much enjoyed decorating our class Christmas tree this month using the different decoration. The children have loved using different shaped sponges to dip in paint and print to make marks, they have also been enjoying jigsaw puzzles and playing in the garden on the pirate ship.

### What are the Robins going to be focusing on?

The children will be participating in lots of Christmas themed activities including messy play activities. The children will be continuing to explore the outdoor area to discover the change the winter weather has had on our outdoors area, allowing us to explore the crisp cold leaves, crunchy grass, and frosty surroundings. We will be using stories and winter themed activities to enhance this.







## OTTERS & OWLETS

### OTTERS

#### What have the children been participating in within the classroom?

This month in the Otters classroom we have been exploring the change of seasons from Autumn into the start of winter and observed the change in the garden, looking at the frost and ice that has started to appear and the leaves that are on the ground.

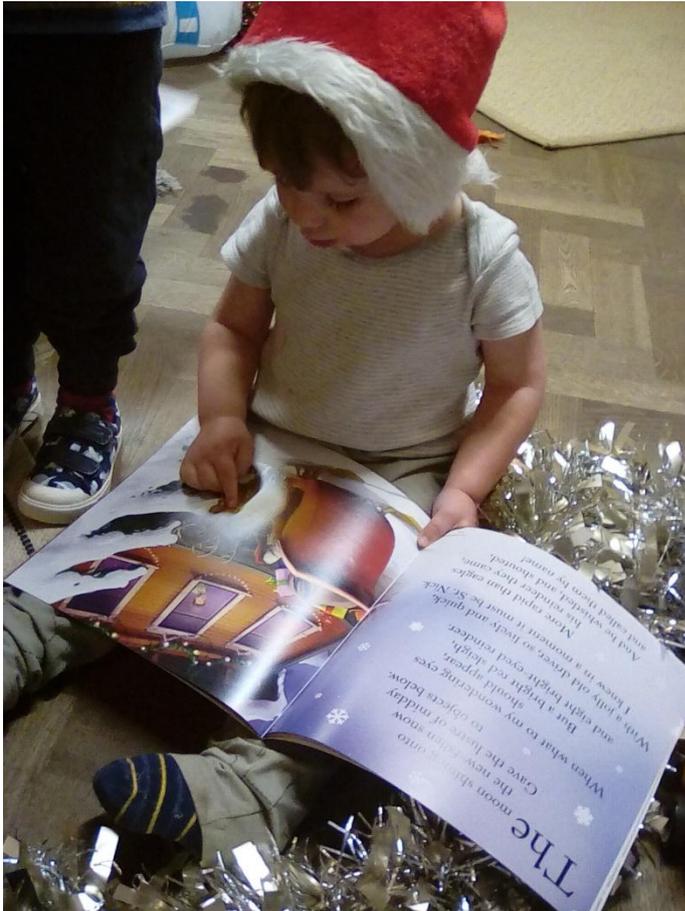
#### What the children have been enjoying?

We have been enjoying being independent at nursery by putting our snow suits and wellies on, trying to balance on the balance beams outside without any help and completing jigsaw by helping one another.

#### What are the children's current interests?

The Otters children are currently interested in talking all about winter and Christmas. We have been putting our decorations up in our room, and this is something we will be focusing on in the month ahead.





## OWLETS

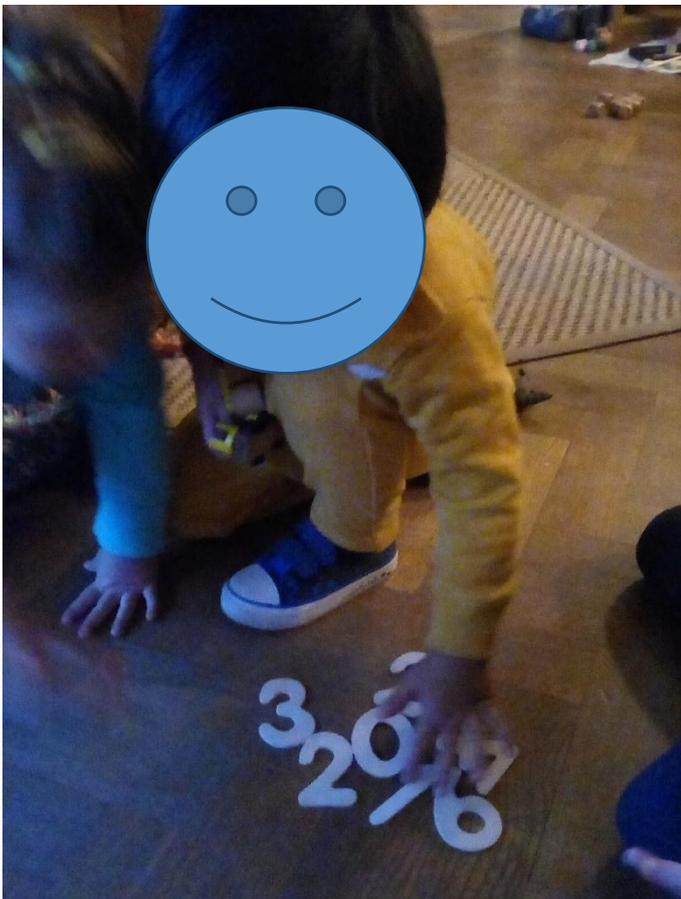
### What the children have been enjoying...

The Owlets have been learning about winter and the weather changes this brings, through stories, songs, and discussions. During the week of bonfire night, we listened to fireworks, made chocolate apples and had a special sparkler and firepit activity outside. We have also been getting excited for Christmas and the children helped to put up decorations in the room, whilst we discussed colours and shapes of the baubles on the tree.

### What are the children's current interests?/What are the Owlets going to be focusing on?

Most of the children have been showing interest in loose parts play (arranging objects, counting objects, and finding numerals to match up) and next month this will be explored further with Christmas objects and other various Christmas activities.





## OWLS

### What the children have been enjoying...

The Owls children have been developing their maths skills through various activities such as weighing pumpkins and placing them in size order. The Owls children have been participating in lots of counting and adding by adding legs to our pretend spiders. Some of our children have been looking for shapes in the environment using shape finders. We have also been learning how important it is to wash our hands and how to wash them correctly, using the NHS wash hands guides. This presented the children with a recap on the correct hand washing procedure we learnt and continued at the start of the pandemic.

### What are the children's current interests/what have we been focusing on?

The Owls children celebrated Diwali with some lovely activities including Mendi patterns and reading the story of Diwali. The children were very excited to celebrate bonfire night, we watched a selection of firework displays on the iPad, including London's new year celebrations. A couple of our children told us of how they had been to London, following on from this we created a "London" tuff tray scene. The children used loose parts to create the London fireworks in the night sky.

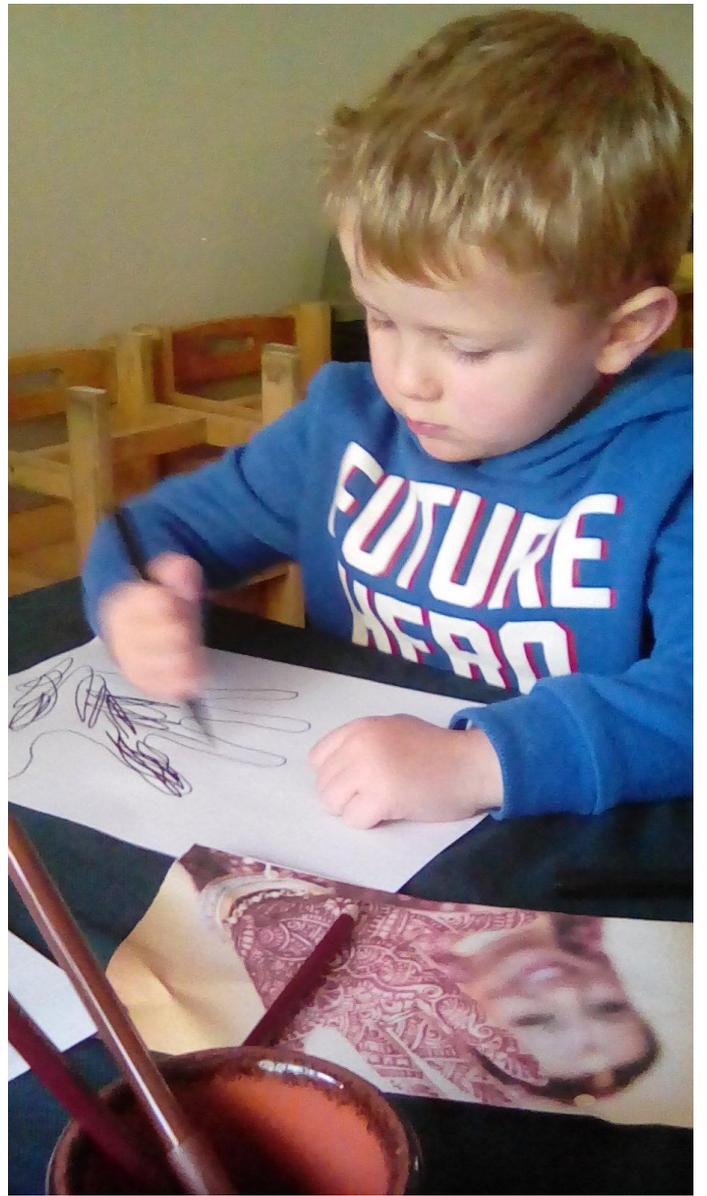
### What are the Owls going to be focusing on?

As the weather starts changing, the Owls are going to observe the changes that are taking place and explore those.

As Christmas approaches, the Owls will have some lovely provocations set up such as, Santa's workshop, letters to Santa and Christmas card making.

Owls "bedtime at Gelston" will be taking place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December @6:15-7pm. We will be decorating ginger bread men, reading Christmas stories and singing some Christmas song and we will be providing a mince pie and hot chocolate to finish off the evening before bed.





Thank you as always for your continued support