



The Dolphin
Pre School and Nursery

April Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

14th - 17th April
Easter Weekend

Sunday 23rd April
St George's day

28/6/15
Concept Photography

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The Dolphin Family would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following Children during April

2nd Joseph (4), 5th Caspian (3) & Ivy-Rae (3), 9th Freddie (2), 12th Freddie (4), 15th Olivia (2), 21st Florence (4) & Sebby (2), 22nd Isla (3), 27th Hannah (4), 29th Amelia (4), 30th Olivialilly (4)

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Welcome to our April newsletter, the month has certainly started with some lovely weather and it looks to be staying for a few more days yet. Fingers crossed everyone for a warm and sunny Easter weekend.

### Learning Themes

The learning themes for Little Tots and Busy Bees this month is Spring and Easter and Pre-school will be learning all about life cycles.

### Parent/carer Questionnaire - update

We are very grateful as always for the time you all took to reply to this year's questionnaire. The feedback gained gives us a brilliant insight into how our parent/carers perceive the overall service we offer. We are delighted as always with the response and we felt this year's survey was one of the best results in terms of meeting our goal of working in partnership with parents. The questionnaire also throws up some brilliant suggestions for improvement, one such example from this year was we clearly need to look at a different venue for our Christmas nativities. We are in the process of looking at different venues and thank you for this honest feedback. Other suggestions aren't so easy to incorporate, however we still like to hear them in case we can adapt them to make them suitable.

We are continuing to discuss the results with the room supervisors and with the whole team at the next staff meeting so once again thank you for your time in completing it.

This year we also offered respondents the chance to win a prize, the draw took place and we have 3 winners - Emma Butt won the Boots voucher with Beverly Eynon and Natasha Cross each winning a bottle of wine. A further bottle of wine has also been awarded for the comment that made me laugh the most and this goes to Ria Ball - Well done everyone and Many Thanks again

### School Admissions

If you applied for a primary school place online, Devon County will email your child's offer of a school place on Tuesday 18th April 2017. Devon County will be sending postal offers out on Tuesday too but this will be via second class post so may take a couple of days to arrive. Fingers crossed everyone will get their first choice. Can we please ask you to let us know when your place is finalised so that we can start planning for their transition.

### Let's Talk More Everywhere - Speech and Language initiative

The Let's Talk More Everywhere project continues all over Devon and the strategy for March and April is

#### **Use objects, pictures and gestures to help your child understand.**

When you are talking with your child point things out and hold things up to show them. Showing objects or pictures that go with what you say really helps children learn what words mean.

Gestures work well too.

For example:

Hold up a nappy and saying "nappy time"

Point to a cat and saying "look, cat"

Show and talk about pictures in a book

'Park your scooter in the shed' - point to the shed

#### **Why?**

Using an extra visual clue (such as an object or picture) will help your child make the connection between the word and the object more quickly. It will help them follow your instructions more easily, and help them remember new words.

Soon they will start to say the words themselves. This works well with older children learning new words too.