

## Winter 2019/20

### Elmscot Group Continues to Champion Support for Health & Wellbeing



Some of the amazing activities we did for #HelloYellow

Settings across Elmscot Group came together to show their support for World Mental Health Day.

#HelloYellow is a campaign launched by YoungMinds, a UK charity that fights for the future of children and young people's mental health. By wearing yellow and making a donation, people across the country have shown their support for the cause.

Back in April 2019,

Managers and Practitioners across the group completed courses that focused on support and early intervention from early childhood or on adult and workplace health awareness.

Most recently, seven of the Managers successfully trained in Mental Health First Aid – showing our continued commitment to mental health support and awareness.

Rachael Lyons, Elmscot Group Operations Manager said: "The importance of good mental health and support is a priority for us across the group. We are gradually getting closer to achieving the goal we set out this year of becoming an emotionally healthy childcare business.

"Being able to show our support for such an incredible campaign means a lot to us and we were delighted to donate and raise awareness."

### Forthcoming Events



#### Christmas Party

Woodlands - Wednesday 11th December  
Elmscot Nantwich - Wednesday 11th December  
Elmscot Altrincham - Wednesday 11th December  
Broussa - Thursday 12th December  
Elmscot Chester - Tuesday 17th December  
Hale - Wednesday 18th December

Children are invited to come to nursery in their best party outfit. They will enjoy a day of fun and games, as well as a visit from Father Christmas!



#### Christmas Dinner

Elmscot Nantwich - Friday 6th December  
Hale - Wednesday 11th December  
Elmscot Chester - Thursday 12th December  
Broussa - Thursday 12th December  
Woodlands - Thursday 12th December  
Elmscot Altrincham - Thursday 19th December

Children will enjoy a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings!



#### Nativity/Carol Concert

Elmscot Altrincham - Monday 9th December  
Hale - Tuesday 10th December  
Elmscot Chester - 4th December Carol Concert, and 10th December at Chester Lodge  
Broussa - Wednesday 11th December  
Woodlands - Tuesday 10th December Carol Concert  
Elmscot Nantwich - 9th December Carol Concert for residents at Richmond Village



#### Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 13th December

Children are invited to nursery in their Christmas jumpers. We ask you to bring a small donation in for the Save the Children charity.



#### National Cupcake Day - Monday 15th December

Children will be making their own cupcakes. Broussa is inviting parents to join in and Hale are having their own Junior Bake Off!



#### Hanukkah - Monday 23rd December

The children will be learning about the meaning of Hanukkah and each setting will be creating a menorah.



#### World Braille Day - Friday 3rd January

All settings will be looking at Braille, learning how to write and discussing how it is used and other ways that blind people explore the world around them.



#### Chinese New Year 'Year of the Rat' - Friday 24th January

The children will be talking about this New Year celebration, making dragons and coin envelopes, tasting chinese foods and Broussa will be having a guest to speak to the children about traditions.



#### Australia Day - Monday 27th January

Children will be invited to talk about and look at pictures of Australian animals and the Australian flag, as well as make some of their own artwork.



#### Send a Card to a Friend Day - Thursday 6th February

Children will choose a friend, write a card for them and take a trip to the post office to send these out!



#### Valentine's Day - Friday 14th February

The children will be making and sending cards for the people they love.



#### Mardi Gras & Pancake Day - Tuesday 25th February

For Mardi Gras the children will be making coloured masks and having an afternoon of dancing and colour! For Pancake Day the children will be making and tasting their own pancakes.



#### International Polar Bear Day - Thursday 27th February

The children will be looking at where Polar Bears live, talking about the weather and how we can make changes in the environment to keep the bears safe.



# Our Nursery Gallery



The children at Elmscot Altrincham Oak have been making natural resources pictures using conkers they have collected from outside.



At Elmscot Woodlands some of the children have been exploring spaghetti using their whole bodies!



Elmscot Broussa invited Grandparents to the nursery for the afternoon and a wonderful time was had by all!



Elmscot Altrincham's natural resources art extended to conker painting which required lots of skill and teamwork!



Babies at Elmscot Nantwich have been enjoying a wide variety of sensory activities and showed a great interest in lights and the patterns they make in the dark.



Children from across Elmscot Hale went on a wellbeing walk to support World Mental Health Day. They talked about what makes them happy and what makes them sad.



At Elmscot Chester the children were treated to an afternoon by Safari Rangers from Chester Zoo! Here they are looking at fossils.



Each nursery wore yellow for world Mental Health Day. At Elmscot Broussa the children were exploring with all things yellow and took lots of smiling pictures all day!



Elmscot Broussa hosted a pre-school leavers reunion to see how the children were getting on since leaving us and going to school - what a fabulous group they are and such happy faces!



There was a lot of activity over Autumn at Elmscot Nantwich. All the children enjoyed pumpkin carving.



-  Not So Mellow Yellow – Elmscot Group Supports World Mental Health Day
-  From the Heart - Generous Hale Preschooler Donates Entire Money Box to Children in Need
-  Hale Nursery Becomes First in Region to Achieve Plastic Free Status  
[elmscot.co.uk/blog](http://elmscot.co.uk/blog)



The Otter room at Elmscot Woodlands spent an afternoon exploring Diwali and parents kindly came in to teach the children about the festival of lights.



The children in Badger room at Elmscot Hale used powder paints to change the colours of puddles, before jumping and splashing in them. If only all puddles looked so colourful!



On a recent trip to the Bus Station the children at Elmscot Chester demonstrated their use of Makaton to communicate with the staff.

# Nursery Community News

## Elmscot Broussa

Broussa invited Grandparents for an enjoyable afternoon tea and play. The children loved showing off their nursery and toys. We raised money for #HelloYellow by wearing yellow clothes, taking part in yellow activities and yoga. We also talked about our feelings and focussed on our personal, social and emotional health.

After having a visit from a Guide Dogs for the Blind handler, we decided to raise money for this worthy cause. We also invited the children and parents that had left us for school this year for a play, catch up and to speak to our current pre-school children about their transition offering tips and advice.

## Elmscot Nantwich

One of our children was the star attraction on the 23rd November when he switched on the Nantwich Christmas lights in the town centre.

He has spent the past year being in isolation fighting cancer at Alder Hey with only his mother and close family allowed to see him. He has not had the same opportunities as our children and has missed out not only on social interaction, but also his life experiences and developmental needs. In September, he and his family received some good news that he had responded well to treatment and is now in remission. With this in mind his mum was very keen to make up for the lost time he spent in hospital and was determined to give him all the opportunities and experiences that he has missed out on. A big thank you to our parents for nominating this child for this exciting event.

## Elmscot Woodlands

Our Defibrillator Fundraising Fun Day was a huge success and we have now raised enough money to purchase our own onsite defibrillator - thank you so much to all involved. In the upcoming months we will be holding some 'Twilight story sessions' with our preschool families encouraging a love and passion for books and the memories these create.

On 30th November we will be attending the NMT Awards ceremony in London as we have successfully made it through as finalists in the category for 'Outdoor Learning Environment'.

On Saturday 7th December we will be holding our 'Bumps and Babies' festival here at Woodlands. We will be joined by some amazing professionals including sleep and baby yoga, as well as Lynda Phoenix from Baby Massage. There will be information on different classes and taster sessions of local baby groups intended to offer an array of support, advice and ideas for pregnant and new parents.

## Elmscot Chester

Our toddler room is currently being developed, we are having new flooring and a new layout of the room which will suit the babies and toddlers needs better. Our reception area is also having a lovely re-paint to keep it welcoming for visitors.

## Elmscot Hale

We have recently had lots of maintenance work carried out by Andy, including a revamp of the reception area and new flooring in different parts of the nursery!



## HOLIDAY CLUBS

Outstanding childcare for 3 - 11

**February Holidays**  
10th-14th February 2020

@  
Bollin Primary School  
Cloverlea Primary School

0161 960 0003  
[www.kids-collective.co.uk](http://www.kids-collective.co.uk)






# How We Are Becoming More Eco-Friendly

Reducing waste and our impact on the environment is an issue many people and businesses are increasingly taking into consideration.

Over the last year, we have been looking into ways we can be kinder to the environment. Areas we are looking to tackle include:

- Re-usable or compostable cups for drinking water
- Reducing use of single use plastics in activities
- Reducing plastic waste within our kitchens
- Having digital versions of our Newsletters



Surfers Against Sewage is a national charity that takes action to empower communities to protect our environment. They have created a number of action plans - including ideas for individuals as well as educational settings.

Elmscot Hale have put in place the Plastic Free action plan and have put measures in place. This includes switching to reusable aprons, using local milk suppliers who deliver in glass bottles and litter picking within the community.

Having put forward evidence of their efforts, Elmscot Hale have now become an official Plastic Free Nursery.



We will be extending this success across all Elmscot settings to reduce our single-use plastic usage and general waste. We have already switched to digital newsletters to cut out printing and paper usage. We also have reusable aprons which can be used within all nurseries and will soon be using reusable bottles for the children to access drinking water throughout the day.

So what could you be doing at home?

Spreading awareness of looking after our environment can have such a great impact. There are many small changes we can all make that will go a long way to reducing plastic waste and keeping our communities tidy.

- Taking a reusable cup for your morning coffee
- Recycling using local schemes
- Asking for paper straws
- Using reusable plastic containers to store dinner leftovers instead of clingfilm
- Taking part in a local litter picking session

# Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular

Extra Value

Extra-ordinary

Free extra-curricular sessions run by specialist professionals.

	Fun music, movement and singing classes that are exciting and educational.	Woodlands Wed PM (Otter)
	A music class that provides fun, progressive and age-appropriate music classes for the under 5s.	Nantwich Mon PM (Under 2s)
	At Stretch 'n' Grow, children learn about how their bodies work whilst joining in fun, physical activities.	Hale Tues AM Little Wrigglers Class (Rabbit & Hedgehog) Woodlands Fri AM (Rabbit & Hedgehog) Altrincham Wed PM (Maple) Brousa Wed PM (Badger & Owl)
	Pyjama Drama provides unique drama-based classes for babies, toddlers and young children.	Altrincham Tues AM (Willow) Brousa Thu AM (Rabbit & Squirrel)
	Incorporating yoga alongside positive thinking, mindfulness, meditation for children. Helping them lead healthy and active lives.	Chester Tues AM (Giraffe)
	Children, parents and staff walk to the designated woodland site where they will get creative with mud, puddles, creepy crawlies and the great outdoors.	Altrincham Fri AM (Oak) Brousa Tue AM (Owl) Hale Wed AM (Owl) Woodlands Mon AM (Owl)
	At diddi dance we realise and encourage endless enthusiasm and energy in an action packed, full of fun 45-minute dance class	Hale Thurs AM (Badger & Owl)
	Fun, interactive yoga sessions for children. Helping them to take time to reconnect, refocus and recharge.	Altrincham Weds AM (Beech & Oak) Hale Thurs AM (Squirrel) Woodlands Tues AM (Owl)

## Team Training

Nursery staff have attended the following training since September 2019:

**Allergy & Intolerance Awareness** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W  
**Behaviour Management** - Lauren O'B, Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W  
**Curiosity and Loose Parts Play** - Nancy C  
**Equality & Diversity** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W, Sue C, Becky G, Natalie McL, Sophie M, Emma C, Bianca P, Sofina C, Eleanor B, Hayley B, Sian F, Alicia S  
**Elmscot Curriculum** - Brousa Team  
**EYFS** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W  
**FGM** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W, Sue C, Alex P, Sophie M, Mia H, Bainca P, Sofina C, Satveer S, Eleanor B, Maz I, Emma E, Kate H, Hayley B, Sian F  
**Fire Safety** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P, Alex P, Eleanor B, Hayley B, Sian F, Maz I, Charissa S, Alicia S  
**First Aid** - Amy H, Anne-Marie B, Kat B, Casey-Jo W, Charlie M  
**Food Hygiene** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W, Maz I, Hayley B, Sian F, Charissa S  
**GDPR and Safeguarding Level 1** - Danielle W  
**Health & Safety** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W, Allica S  
**Literacy, Language and Story Telling** -  
**Maths in Early Years** - Gina C  
**Mental Health First Aid** - Annette D  
**NDNA Exemplary Practice with Babies** - Olivia B  
**Phonics** - Lauren O'B  
**Prevent Duty** - Kim T, Chelsea M, Claire P-W, Alex P, Eleanor B, Hayley B, Sian F, Maz I  
**Safer Working Practices** - Danielle R, Stephanie G, Marina F, Lauren O'B, Ciara B, Jessica B, Catherine G, Leah L, Denver K, Gina C, Katie D, Rosie M, Aaron T, Nicole P, Faye B  
**Safeguarding Level 1** - Chloe P, Emma W, Lucy T, Jodie L, Olivia H, Chelsea M, Charissa S, Alicia S  
**Safeguarding Level 2** - Tracey S, Ami M, Abeda P, Annette D, Rebecca H, Nancy C  
**Transforming Practice & Improving Outcomes** - Danielle R

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