



# Newsletter

## December 2019



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**PLAY | LEARN | EXPLORE**

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**BILLERICAY | WICKFORD | BRENTWOOD | HANNAKINS | INGRAVE**



THE TREEHOUSE CLUB OPENS IN INGRAVE

Our newly acquired preschool setting at St. Nicholas Hall opened on Nov 4th 2019. We love growing the Treehouse family and are pleased to offer term time only preschool sessions (9:30-3:30) and breakfast club (from 7am) for school aged children in the local area. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to St. Nicholas Church Hall community for making us feel so welcome. The children have been enjoying country walks, saying hello to the horses and getting to know the local community. We have some ambition plans for our allotment; keep your eye peeled for photos on our Facebook page. In 2020, we will be opening our new head office and actively looking to open an additional setting in Billericay.



SPREAD THE WORD

NEW PRESCHOOL OPEN IN INGRAVE | TERM-TIME ONLY WITH BREAKFAST CLUB FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

# WELCOME

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW -  
MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Firstly, I would like to thank all our parents and wonderful children that have joined Treehouse Club; we couldn't be here and make wonderful memories without you! It's been an exciting 2019 with the opening of our Ingrave Preschool and we are happy to communicate that the settings are nearly at full capacity and our holiday clubs have increased in popularity. I would like to take this opportunity to share some staff changes and promotions (outlined below). An enormous thank you to all the staff for their hard work this year and tremendous efforts to improve our settings and practices.

- Ruth Edwards – Operations Manger
- Jayne Golding – EYFS Area Manager
- Josh Mortar – 2-year Room Leader
- Ros Smith – 3-year Room Leader
- Karen Martin – Wickford Manager
- Amy Yeo – New Ingrave Manager

The Treehouse Club would not be such a fantastic place without the staff dedication, each and everyone of them go above and beyond to support and deliver the best levels of education and care to the children, thank you to you all!

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!*



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I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL, PARENTS, CHILDREN, STAFF AND FRIENDS OF TREEHOUSE, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND TO WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A RESTFUL CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



# Connecting Kids with Nature

## TWEET TREATS

Simple bird feeding ideas for young children. Play based learning.

### What You'll Need:

- Lard
- Wild bird seed
- String or pipe cleaners

### Optional:

- Paper
- Pinecones

Identify a sheltered area where you have seen small birds. Providing some bird food will encourage those birds to stay and more to visit. Once you offer a food supply it is a good idea to sustain it as the birds may rely upon it in the winter.

### Instructions

- Mix a handful of bird seed with a handful of lard.
- Shape it into a ball or other shape and use a pipe cleaner or string to hang the feeder up.
- Alternatively push the mix into a pinecone or paint with the mix onto a piece of paper and hang that.
- Try to hang the feeders out of reach of cats and on branches that are too thin to bear a cat's weight.

### USEFUL TIPS!

This is a simple learning for sustainability themed activity giving children important contact with nature and enabling them to build respect and appreciation for their local wildlife.

Meet science outcomes by learning about the different species of birds that visit. Learn about the changing seasons and why birds find it harder to find food in the winter.

It could even be given a numeracy slant if the children attempt to count the different types of birds or how many birds visit each feeder.

# Activities for cold days!

**Watching birds at your feeder during the barren winter months is a great way to stay connected with nature and help creatures that might otherwise struggle to find their next meal.**





# Forestry Education

When it's dull and dreary, we love to organise a 'hunt' of some kind. The children find great fun in searching for signs of animals or plants in the woods such as feathers, nibbled nuts or prints. Not only do we find mud quite pleasing, it helps with spotting animal footprints. We seek out the paths less trodden to explore the woodlands.

There is so much to discover in nature that sparks brilliant conversations with the children. We take what we see in the woodlands and bring it into the setting to continue our learning.

Have you ever gone on a poo hunt? Might sound strange but tracking down wildlife by looking for droppings is a sure way to find evidence of wildlife in your local area. Based on an activity guide and ID sheet from Woodlands Trust we teach the children how to track deer, badgers, rabbits, hares, foxes and hedgehogs by their droppings.

Why not try it out on your next family walk?



EXPLORING COLD  
PROBLEM SOLVING  
NEW CHALLENGES  
VITAMIN D EXPOSURE  
GETTING FRESH AIR  
EXERCISE & MOTOR SKILLS

## Treehouse Nature Detectives



**Spotted some poo?**  
Break it apart with a stick to get a closer look.



**Rabbit and Hare**  
Keep your eyes peeled for little round balls of poo, which are yellowy-brown or green and full of grassy fibres.



**Deer**  
Look for smooth, shiny, dark pellets that are a bit pointy at one end. Deer regurgitate and chew their food twice before full digestion (rumination).



**Otter**  
Otter poo is called spraint, and it usually contains fish bones, feathers, seeds and berries. Find it on rocks and the riverbank.



**Fox**  
Fox poo is a bit like dog poo, but it can be a bit pointy at one end and full of fur, feathers, tiny bones, seeds and berries.



**Hedgehog**  
Hedgehog poo is dark brown-grey or black, and can be up to 5cm long. If you look carefully, you might spot beetles and the ends of worms!



**Badger**  
Badgers poo in shallow pits called 'latrines'. The poo is usually firm and sausage-shaped, but if it's sloppy, they've been eating lots of worms - yuk!

**Remember!**  
Never touch poo with your hands. It can contain nasty germs that could make you very ill.

Feel free to copy and share this for personal and educational use - and don't forget there are loads more brilliant activities to download on our website!  
woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives | 0330 333 5301 | naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk  
f Search for 'nature detectives' | #NatureDetectives  
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# Looking at Maths in EYFS

Mathematics has been identified as one of these specific areas of learning, alongside expressive arts and design, literacy, and understanding the world. Together, the seven areas of learning and development shape educational programmes in early years settings, and all areas of learning and development are important and interconnected.

As practitioners, we strongly believe that maths learning does not start at three or older. Children need to hear maths talk and have lots of opportunities to explore in a mathematical way from the very earliest months.

## THE EYFS FRAMEWORK EMPHASISES;

- Playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

When we are planning for maths, we promote active learning as children are playing and exploring, the experiences we provide support them to develop their own ideas.

The EYFS framework clearly states that each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. We meet this challenge by providing a simulating environment for our children, which supports their continuing development as confident mathematicians.



## CHANTS OF SUCCESS

RHYMES ARE A WONDERFUL WAY TO MAKE NUMBERS FUN FOR CHILDREN. INTRODUCE SOME RHYMES THAT USE NUMBERS 1-3, OR 1-5:

- FIVE LITTLE DUCKS WENT SWIMMING ONE DAY
- FIVE LITTLE SPECKLED FROGS
- FIVE ALIENS IN A FLYING SAUCER
- FIVE CURRANT BUNS IN A BAKER'S SHOP
- FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS JUMPING ON THE BED
- FIVE IN A BED (INCREASE TO 10 AS CHILDREN DEVELOP)

# Why not try these activities at home...

## MIXING IT UP

If possible, make collections of different sorts of toys or items (for example: frogs, spoons, blocks, ducks and so on) that children can explore together. You can use things you find around the house in your daily activities. It is much more fun for children to manipulate assorted puppets, household items, toys and wooden equipment.

These collections also offer so many opportunities to introduce and model the use of mathematical vocabulary: talk about things that are 'the same as' and 'different from', use number names and discuss how many there are 'altogether'. Support children's use of descriptive and comparative vocabulary as they talk about size, shape, colour and pattern.

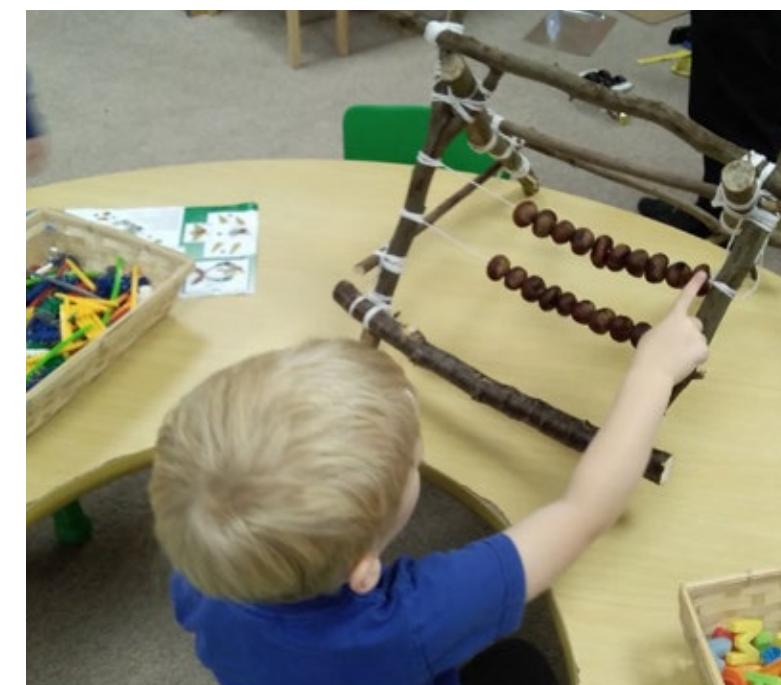
## MESSY MEASURING

As children explore messy play, sand, mud and water, ensure you provide a range of objects that they can empty, fill and make marks with. Introduce and model the use of measures as you play with children.

- When you are working with the youngest children, remember to include mathematical talk as you play together.
- Make collections of interesting objects (we love finding things in the woods), which children can explore together and with adults.
- Give children daily opportunities to play with number rhymes and finger plays.

### Going for a walk in the woods?

- Collect leaves whilst out and about in woods and parks.
- Children can grade leaves in size & colour.
- Children can also look at the different shapes of the leaves.



# Create a Stir

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN WATERMELON XMAS TREES! HEALTHY, FUN AND A BIT FESTIVE. SIMPLE AND QUICK. PERFECT FOR A KIDS PUDDING. THEY ARE SUPER SIMPLE TO MAKE AND A GOOD WAY TO GET KIDS INTO THE KITCHEN AND ENJOYING HEALTHY FOOD.

## Watermelon Xmas Trees

PREP TIME: 15 minutes  
TOTAL TIME: 15 minutes  
SERVES: 6

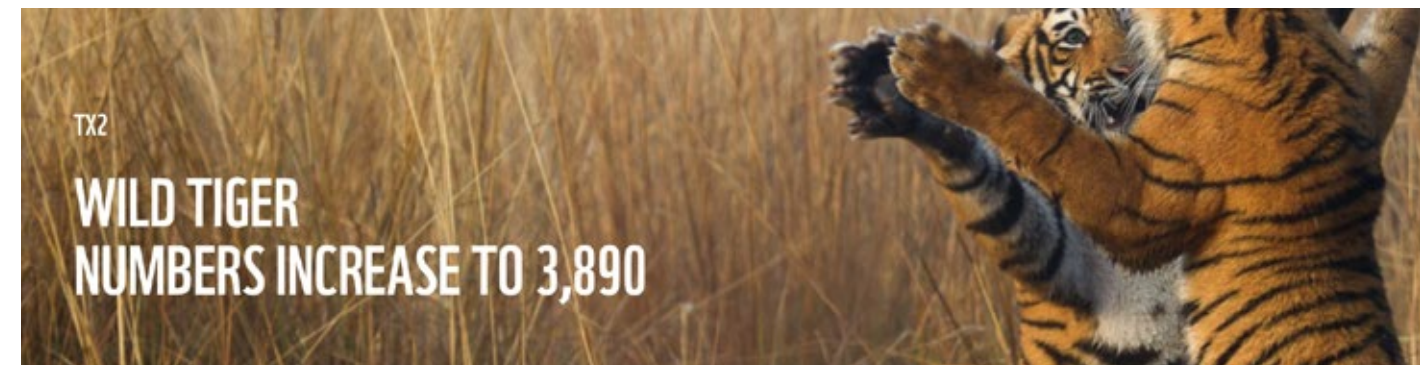
### INGREDIENTS

750 g piece seedless watermelon  
125g 1/2 cup natural greek yoghurt  
1 tbsp dried cranberries to garnish



### INSTRUCTIONS

Cut watermelon to make small wedges about 1cm thick and 6cm wide at base.  
Using a sharp knife cut out the tree base by cutting the rind into thirds and removing the outer two thirds.  
Line a baking tray with baking paper and place yoghurt into a piping bag or zip lock bag (cut the corner of the zip lock bag to pipe.)  
Pipe the yoghurt onto the watermelon wedges to achieve desired effect.  
Top with decorations (dried cranberries).  
Place in freezer until yoghurt is firm.



# Our Charities 2020

TREEHOUSE HAS JOINED THE FIGHT! LET'S DO OUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

We're facing a climate and nature emergency, and we are the last generation that can do something about it. It's never too early to teach our children about our environment, how to protect our planet, current issues and how to make a positive impact and to tread lightly.

Treehouse Club has joined the WWF campaign to make a small but important difference. We use this opportunity to involve our children and learn about global wildlife conservation. We have adopted a Jaguar and Tiger. The elusive jaguar has been virtually wiped out from most of its northern range. Jaguars now occupy less than half of their historic habitat where as the wild tiger populations have declined by around 95% since the beginning of the 20th century.

We'll be teaching the children about endangered animals and protecting precious habitats around the world.

Together, we can help connect with nature. Interested in continuing this conversation with your little one at home? Have a look at the WWF website, they offer free educational resources to learn more about our world and develop understanding of the environmental challenges.

<https://support.wwf.org.uk>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools>

LET'S DIG IN 2020!

Treehouse Club will join forces with the conservation volunteering charity '1 Dig Trees' to help transform green spaces for nature and for people. We will be planting some shrubs and trees in our settings early 2020. Together we hope to improve our community spaces and tackle the ever so important environmental issues that matter.

Find out more here: <https://www.tcv.org.uk>



At Treehouse Club, we believe it's never too early to get children interested and involved in giving back and learning about the importance of giving. Children are capable of tremendous compassion, and with a little help and direction, kids can begin to make a big impact in their communities.

We look forward to supporting these worthwhile causes and getting involved in local charity work. Feel free to contact your setting manager for more information and let us know about the causes that are closest to your hearts. We love to get involved.

# Have a look at some of our charity efforts this year.

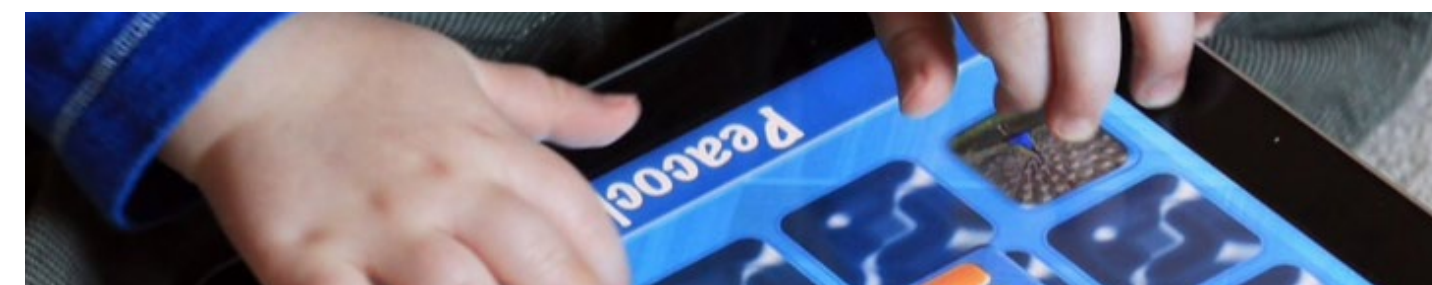


# Useful tips: Screen Time for children

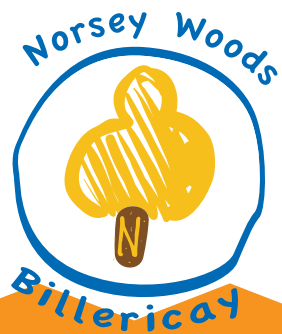
SCREEN TIME FOR CHILDREN BELOW THE AGE OF FIVE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO AN HOUR A DAY AND INFANTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO IT AT ALL, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The recommendation comes from the first ever WHO guidelines on physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep for kids below the age of five. The recommendations go much further than recent guidance from the UK's chief medical officers. This recommended a break from screens every two hours for all children. It also said phones should be banned from meal times and overnight.

At a glance   WHO guidelines on physical activity for children	
<b>Aged up to one</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 'More is better' for physical activity</li> <li>◆ 30 minutes of daily tummy time</li> <li>◆ No sedentary screen time (watching TV, videos, computer games)</li> <li>◆ Between 12 and 17 hours of sleep – including naps</li> </ul>
<b>Aged one</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ No sedentary screen time (watching TV, videos, computer games)</li> <li>◆ 180 minutes of daily physical activity</li> <li>◆ Between 11 and 14 hours of sleep – including naps</li> </ul>
<b>Aged two</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ No more than one hour of sedentary screen time. Less is better</li> <li>◆ 180 minutes of daily physical activity</li> <li>◆ Between 11 and 14 hours of sleep – including naps</li> </ul>
<b>Aged three to four</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ No more than one hour of sedentary screen time. Less is better</li> <li>◆ 180 minutes of daily physical activity</li> <li>◆ Between 10 and 13 hours of sleep – including naps</li> </ul>



# Norsey Woods



## IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS AT NORSEY

In our preschool room, we have been taking part in lots of story telling outside, gaining confidence and developing new friendships. During Forestry we have been looking at different habitats, showing care and concern for the animals outdoors and building our own habitats for them using lots of different creative ideas. Our children have been taking home and looking after Morrice (The Hedgehog) over the weekends. He's been on some great adventures!

We have many new faces in our toddler room and they have all settled in nicely, making new friends and relationships. Music has been a major theme this term and the Christmas Carol singing has been a favourite. Our Toddlers have been enjoying Tatty Bumpkin Yoga and have been on many adventures with her each Wednesday!

Our lovely babies are becoming increasingly more confident with exploring in the woods. We have been making the most of the wet weather splashing in every puddle we see and getting very muddy in our wetsuits!



GETTING READY FOR A TOASTY FIRE



WINTER FUN



SANTA CAME TO NORSEY!



WELCOME BEN

WELCOME SCARLET

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCARLET WHO LEFT ON MATERNITY LEAVE. SHE HAD A LITTLE BOY. BIG WELCOME TO BEN WHO JOINED OUR TEAM AT THE END OF NOVEMBER IN OUR PRESCHOOL ROOM AND IS OUR NEW OUT OF SCHOOL LEADER.

# Billericay



OUT OF SCHOOLS



LOVE ON THE ROCKS



WHAT A GREAT ROCK THANK YOU NORSEY PARENT!



## OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

At our OOS clubs in Billerica the children have been very busy over the past few months celebrating Halloween, Diwali and anti-bullying week. Children have been getting creative with 'Love on the Rocks' painting stones and hiding them within the Norsey woods. Keep an eye out on your travels for some of our stones! OOS having been taking part in Forest School with Amanda on Thursday Evenings introducing themselves with their Forestry names and taking part in creating Dens, Hapa Zome and creating cases to protect eggs in the woodland using leaves.

## A HUGE Happy Birthday to:

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| NOV       | JAN      |
| HARLEY —  | OSCAR —  |
| ZACHARY — | ANIYAH — |
|           | AMELIA — |
| DEC —     | EILIDH — |
| ALFIE —   |          |
| SOPHIE —  |          |
| LLOYD —   |          |
| —         |          |





# Dollymans



Across the nursery the children have been out for lots of walks, jumping in puddles and looking for bugs. Babies have been singing nursery rhymes, baking cakes and making marks in paint, leaf printing. 2's enjoying Music and movement – using instruments and moving in different ways to sounds. Turn taking by building towers, baking cakes, mark making with natural objects.

Preschool and cabin children are exploring forest school, making clay shapes which they have made into tree decorations, swinging on the hammock, natural paintbrushes, talking about fire safety – looking forward to building fires.

Preschool and Cabin enjoying Tatty Bumpkins on Wednesday mornings, this has been helping them with their listening skills. Pre-school have been sorting and counting conkers. Listening to familiar stories, practice cutting skills with scissors.

Cabin Looking at the Changes in the seasons. Using technology and learning new words around this e.g. computer, mouse. Group times, listening to stories and encouraging asking questions about the stories.

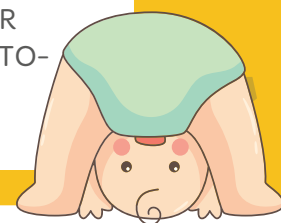


STARGAZING

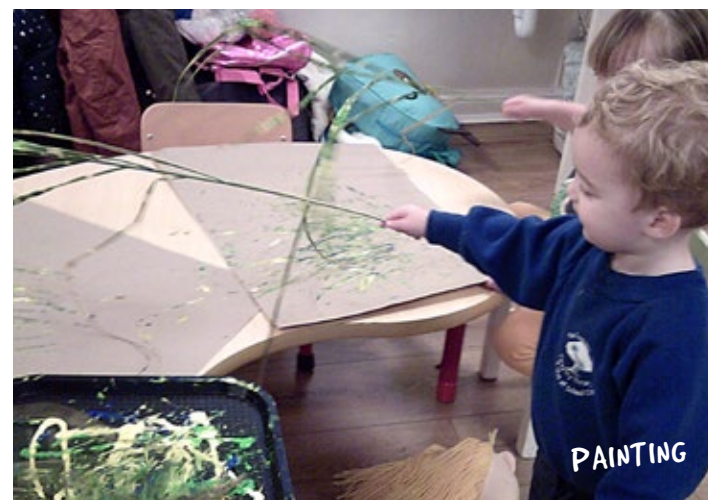
WE SAY GOODBYE TO DANI AT THE END OF DECEMBER. RACHEL WILL BE GOING ON MATERNITY. BIG WELCOME BACK GEORGIA AND SARAH.

ROZ, FRANKI AND KELSEY GAINED THEIR PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID CERTIFICATES.

PAIGE HAD A BABY BOY IN OCTOBER AND KATIE HAD A BABY GIRL IN OCTOBER!



# Wickford



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH  
 RACHEL & GEORGIA  
 IN HONOUR OF YOUR AMAZING DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE NURSERY

A HUGE Happy Birthday to:

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| NOV:          | DEC:             |
| EMILY 2YRS    | TILLY 1YRS       |
| NELLE 2YRS    | THEO 2YRS        |
| AALIYAH 3YRS  | FRANK 4YRS       |
| ISABELLA 4YRS | HENRY 3YRS       |
| JONNIE 4YRS   | SOPHIA 3YRS      |
| JOSEPH 4YRS   |                  |
| OSCAR 3YRS    | JAN: MAISIE 1YRS |
| ALISTAIR 4YRS | ALASTAIR 2YRS    |
| BONNIE 4YRS   | VALENTINA 2YRS   |
| FLETCHER 3YRS | RALPHIE 4YRS     |
| FRANKIE 3YRS  | ROBYN 4YRS       |
| LOGAN 3YRS    | ISABELLA 3YRS    |
| MOLLIE 4YRS   | NOAH 3YRS        |
| THEO 4YRS     |                  |



# Thriftwood



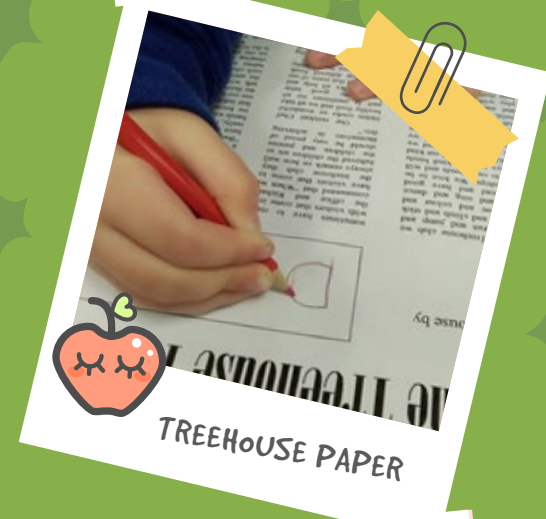
## IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL FEW MONTHS AT BRENTWOOD

We have been learning about all things festive, about animals that hibernate, exploring the forest in search of this, colours of the seasons, making Christmas activities in the forest such as pinecones decorations and xmas tree from sticks adding natural resources. The children have been leaning about colours, black and white x-rays and making skeletons.

It's been fantastic to observe the children learning the rainbow song through Makaton. (Makaton uses signs and symbols to help people communicate). The cold weather doesn't stop us from enjoying our superb surrounds at Thriftwood, in January we'll be planting some shrubs in the garden as part of the 'I Dig Trees' charity scheme as well as constructing bird feeders.



OUTSIDE FUN, INDOORS!



TREEHOUSE PAPER



OUTDOOR LEARNING!

STAR GAZON

DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH GOES TO HELEN MURNAME!

SETTING STAFF CHANGES & PROMOTIONS!

LAUREN IN BABY ROOM  
KHUSHBOO IN TODDLERS  
HANNAH OUR DEPUTY

# Brentwood



A HUGE Happy Birthday to:  
DECEMBER

- AIDEN
- MYA
- FERN
- FLO
- JOSEPH
- ALBY
- DYAN
- MYA
- IVY
- RILEY



# Ingrave Preschool



A BIG WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW INGRAVE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES!

As a new setting, we have been learning about our local village, with walks around the area. In the village, we have a post office, petrol station, care home and dentist which has been a preschool focus. This was also linked to road safety and the children have been rewarded with road safety certificates. During the month of December; there has been many Christmas celebrations. Visiting the church and singing Christmas carols, Christmas crafts, decorating our fantastic Christmas tree. Posting Christmas cards to our peers at the other Treehouse Settings. So much to do and so enjoyable.

We can proudly say that the children have settled into their new preschool well. We have been prompting our new rules and routine, making new friends and settled in really well. We look forwards to seeing all of you in the New Year!

Kindly spread the word that we'll be hosting Open Days in 2020 for Preschool and for Breakfast Club.



MAKING FRIENDS



# Gallery



SANTA IN THE CABIN



MAKING FRIENDS & VISITING THE LOCAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS LUNCH



KINDLY SPREAD THE WORD -  
NEW PRESCHOOL IN INGRAVE, BRENTWOOD  
OPEN DAYS COMING UP: FEB 17 & 19, MARCH 19 (10AM-12)



KINDLY SPREAD THE WORD -  
WE HAVE A GREAT HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP  
NEXT DATES: FEB 17 - 21



Forest School



Christmas Giving

PASSIONATELY COMMITTED TO DELIVERING HOLISTIC EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND HIGH QUALITY CARE; TO CREATE A COMMUNITY OF RESILIENT ACTIVE CHILDREN, EMPOWERED BY VALUING, ENJOYING AND BEING CURIOUS ABOUT THEIR NATURAL AND SOCIAL SURROUNDINGS.



# Reminders

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE

**FUNDING INFORMATION:** From 1 January 2020 the Late Payment Fee is changing to being a standard charge of £10 for every invoice that is paid late and £10 for each week it continues to be paid late.

Parents need to reconfirm their 30 Hours Funding codes with HMRC (even if they have sent their Termly Funding Form back to us). We have no authority to do anything with HMRC and if they don't reconfirm before 31 December 2019 then they will be unable to claim the 30 Funded Hours and will have to pay for anything above the 15 Universal Funded Hours.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ACCOUNTING QUERIES?

Kindly contact: Jan on [j.groom@thetreehouseclub.co.uk](mailto:j.groom@thetreehouseclub.co.uk)

Any enquiries regarding availability / holiday club bookings: kindly contact Mydge on [m.clark@thetreehouseclub.co.uk](mailto:m.clark@thetreehouseclub.co.uk)

Norsey Woods, Billericay Enquiries: Contact Ruth [r.edwards@thetreehouseclub.co.uk](mailto:r.edwards@thetreehouseclub.co.uk)

## Treehouse Club Ethos

**Our door is always open!**  
Feel free to contact us, we would love to hear your feedback and comments:

[adventure@thetreehouseclub.co.uk](mailto:adventure@thetreehouseclub.co.uk)  
01277 656 921 (Billericay - Norsey Woods)  
01268 956 005 (Wickford)  
01277 402 016 (Brentwood)

ONCE AGAIN WE WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A WONDERFUL FESTIVE SEASON AND ALL THE BEST FOR AN EXCITING AND ADVENTEROUS YEAR