**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021**

Dear parents/carers,

A very big welcome to everyone who has joined us at Sticky Fish this term! And welcome back to everyone else. We are delighted at how well your new little ones are adjusting to their new environment at Sticky Fish. They are beginning to settle in very well, and this has helped to keep everything calm, happy and inviting for your children. Thankyou for your support in helping with your child’s settling in period, it is an important time for them, and vital to keep it as calm and secure as possible. It is best to ensure that your child knows when you are leaving, and that you will return. Always ask a staff member to open our gate, so that we keep the children safe at all times.

Our core story for this first fortnight has been “Owl Babies”. It is a lovely, warm, caring story of a mother owls care for her young owls, exploring their fears of being on their own, and how this is overcome. We have been singing owl songs, retelling the story with props, and asking the children to come up with their own ideas for the baby owls. Our core stories make up part of our medium and long term curriculum plans. Our short term plans are the daily “in the moment” interests, ideas and curiosities that we gain from the children.

Our core story for the forth coming week will be The Little Red Hen, so we will be baking bread! Baking is always a favourite at Sticky Fish!

WILD GARDEN UPDATE

Our gardeners from the Avon Wildlife Trust have been back at work in the area for our wild garden project. This is located at the far end of our garden behind the back fence. It is an exciting project, and we have been asking the children for their own ideas for this area. If you would like to volunteer for an hour occasionally to help Ana with some of the jobs, that would be fantastic. Ana will primarily be coming in on Thursday mornings this term from 9, so if you can spare a hand, please do let me know.

CLASS DOJO

I will shortly be sending you an invitation by email to join our “Class Dojo” , which is just one of the ways of keeping you in touch with what is happening at Sticky Fish. You will be able to see photos and comments of what your children have been doing. You will be able to post comments and send short messages. Please do not leave important, confidential, or urgent messages on Class Dojo. For these, you should phone the Sticky Fish number or call, text or email Liz please.

CLOTHING

Please remember to clothe your child in layers, that can be easily removed. This is invaluable as we will encourage your child to learn to be independent when using the toilet or putting on or taking off shoes. We have adequate changing facilities, so it is not a problem at all if your child is still in nappies. Remember to bring spare nappies and wipes. Your child should be dressed in clothes that you are happy to get muddy/dirty. Trust me, your child will get messy at Sticky Fish! Bring a spare set of clean clothes in their bag, a raincoat, and welly boots each day. If you have waterproof trousers for your child, that is great too, but we do have spares of these. All of these items should be clearly named. Your child also needs an indoor pair of shoes, which ideally, should be named. Bring in one or two pieces of fruit per week to be shared at snacktime please. We provide fresh drinking water daily.

EASYFUNDRAISING

Sticky Fish has an easyfundraising page. This is a very simple way for us to raise funds for sticky fish. You just need to add us as your chosen charity, and then when you make a purchase, a percentage of the cost will be allocated to Sticky fish. Please chat to Jenny for more information.

LUNCHES

All lunch bags/boxes should be clearly named. Please chop all whole fruit, such as grapes, olives, cherry tomatoes. Whole ones pose a choking risk. The children are all supervisied at lunch time, but we do give encouragement for them to feed themselves independently. This is a brilliant time for learning self help and social skills. We view lunch times as an important learning opportunity for your children. No nuts or nut products please.

NATURAL RESOURCES

We love using natural resources in our play, so we welcome any donations of the following items:

Spent flower heads/petals

Seeds

Conkers

Dried flowers and grasses

Feathers

Various leaves

Bamboo canes

Shells, pebbles

Anything else that you see on your nature walks!

COFFEE WITH RADI (Family worker at Fishponds Baptist Church)

Radi has restarted her coffee mornings at the church. She is currently meeting in the large hall that was the toddler group room, but you may see her tables set up outside on the edge of the graveyard near to our garden. You are most welcome to pop along for coffee and a chat on Wednesday mornings from 9.15 am.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Term 1 - Sept 6th  – Fri 22nd Oct 2021**

**Term 2 - Mon 1st Nov - Fri 17th Dec 2021**

**Term 3 - Tues 4th Jan - Fri 18th Feb 2022**

**Term 4 - Mon 28th Feb - Fri 8th April 2022**

**Term 5 - Mon 25th April - Fri 27th May 2022**

**Term 6 - Mon 6th June - Thurs 21st July 2022**

**NOTE: THREE MORE INSET DAYS TO BE CONFIRMED.**

**Best wishes**

**Liz and the team x**