The children have been continuing to learn about the season winter, which has opened up a lot of discussion around ice and the properties of water and also the clothes we wear in the cold. They have also been exploring some of the celebrations and festivals that are celebrated around the world during Winter. We have been tasting different foods as we have learned about Chinese New Year and Burns Day.

Our focus book for Talk4Writing this block is “Going on a Bear Hunt” and Mrs Ramsay is working with both rooms with those children who are showing an interest in storytelling and writing. For some of our younger children we are piloting ‘Helicopter stories’ which is a similar initiative, whereby the children act out their stories with adult support. Mrs Stewart and Miss Smith are currently leading on this with the full-time room.

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**Outdoor Learning**

The children in both rooms are all having an opportunity to experience outdoor learning

either at Vogrie Outdoor ELCC or within our local woods. This will continue after the February holiday. Many of our families have supported staff on these visits and we will continue to appreciate your support with this. Please speak to your child’s Keyworker

if you are interested.

The format going forward after the February Holiday is as follows:

**Part-time room**: all children will be offered an option to go out Monday and Tuesday if they choose too so please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for outdoors on these two days in case they choose this option.

**Full-time room**: keyworker groups will continue to attend with a staff member (not always their keyworker but it will be a familiar member of nursery staff as staff will be rotating). We will also be accommodating any children who choose to go over the course of the four days (Monday to Thursday) as Vogrie can now take 24 children on each of these days. Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for outdoors on these four days in case they choose this option.



**Family Learning**

We have a number of family learning opportunities taking place. We welcome all

* **PEEP** – Monday 13:15 – 14:15 and Wednesday 9:00 – 10:00
* **Lending Library** – Monday AM room 8:30 – 9:00, Full Time 14:45 – 15:00, PM 15:45 – 16:00. Please ensure packs are returned before receiving another.
* **Bookbug Group** – Tuesday 11:45 – 12:15 and 13:05 – 13:35

**Clothing**

Our stocks of socks and boys trousers are running low. If your child comes home in nursery clothing, can you please return this ASAP. We would welcome any donations if you have items you child has outgrown.



**Nursery Times and Pick Up**

Can we please remind families that the door opening times are as follows;

**Little Seedlings (Part time)**

AM 8:30 – 8:50 until 12:15 – 12:30

PM 13:00 – 13:20 until 15:45 – 16:00

**Little Acorns (Full time)**

8:30 – 8:50 until 14:45 – 15:00

We appreciate our families supporting our decision around early pickups and staff bringing children to the office as this has had much less of an impact in disturbing the part-time room.

**Toys**

We have had several incidents of children’s personal toys being lost or broken whilst in nursery. We are happy for children to show a special toy at group time and then be put in a safe place until home time. We do ask parents for toys to stay at home, if possible, as it’s difficult for other children to understand these are not nursery toys. We will accommodate children who require a comfort toy but again when not needed we attempt to put these away in a safe place such as a child’s bag or their personal tray.

**Open Door Policy**

Although we have our family learning approaches which families can opt into if they so wish there is no commitment for families to attend all of these as we appreciate how busy family life is.

We are also happy at any time for grownups to spend time within the nursery supporting the children with our outdoor learning, reading stories, baking, playing games and so much more. If you would like an opportunity to do this please speak to your child’s Keyworker, myself or Mrs Faulds.

Our next Shared Learning opportunity will have a numeracy focus and will be week beginning 2nd March. Details to follow.

**Diary Dates**

Nursery closes on Friday 7th February and resumes Monday 17th February.

Monday 6th January: Inservice

Tuesday 7th January: all children resume

***We wish all our families a happy & healthy 2020 Audrey & nursery staff***