

## November/December Newsletter

Dear Forest School Family,

It is nearly time for us to bid farewell to 2020 and end our year with you all. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and we would like to take this chance to wish each of you a happier and healthier New Year. Many, many thanks also for your kind wishes, cards and gifts, you have all been extremely kind. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, we thoroughly enjoy coming to work to work and play alongside your children. It has been a joy to watch their development through the season of Autumn and be a part of their journey, learning new skills, making new friends and learning about outdoor life, nature and of course helping to provide and nurture our animals and environment. We feel truly blessed to be a part of their learning and their Evergreen Forest Adventure.

### Welcome!

We are still welcoming new children – we have welcomed another 3 boys to our setting since our last newsletter, Hunter, Ridley and Oscar. A warm welcome to you and your families. We have also welcomed Ellie in the last fortnight, a volunteer who is currently studying Level 3 Childcare. She has a wonderfully warm nature with the children and we hope she will be very happy here with us all.



Our Website is currently under construction - if anyone who would be willing to add a short paragraph on the advantages of Outdoor Education or a brief review of your child's adventures here, please feel free to let us know or message through Dojo. You could be famous!

### New life

'Lovey' is our hand-raised chick who became Monika's little shadow for several weeks in the autumn. The children have watched her grow from chick to hen and she is unbelievably friendly. She prefers human contact rather than being with the other hens, she follows us around the forest and waits at the Barn door to be let in. You will often find her cuddled up in the children's clothes boxes or on a cushion somewhere! She is thriving yet you may have heard the story about us not being able to find her one weekend - this is true. After a hunt, she finally arrived home and everyone, especially Monika was mightily relieved! It is great to share these stories with the children, real, life problem solving came into force - where to find her. Imaginative theories were shared about who might have taken her and then we sought evidence to see if we could piece the puzzle together. We have the time and patience to discuss, share and solve little life problems here at Evergreen and it is wonderful to see your children become detectives, imaginative story tellers and animal welfare officers all in one.

Also - news flash - we think Lovey might well be a Cockerel!!!!!!!



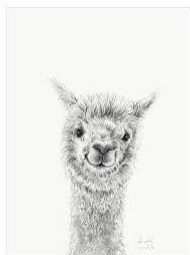
### Life stories

As you are all aware, our smallest alpaca Diego gained his alpaca wings last month... Whilst this is hugely upsetting, this is another of life's little stories – a huge advantage of an outdoor setting.

Whilst the parents may have been unaware that Diego was poorly, the children have been very involved in looking after him for several weeks. We had a routine where we kept Diego separately for feeding to ensure he ate sufficient and that he could manage to digest what he was being fed. He was kept alone and calm for feeding to allow him to eat slowly and manage his food. There is a constant dialogue that keeps the children informed about what we do and why and so they were very aware of Diego's little problem. We all know that the result was not what anybody wanted or truly expected yet the children have been congratulated on keeping him safe, well fed and looked after. Nobody could have done any more. We talk constantly about the need to keep alpaca food in their hands (gloved hands) otherwise muddy food is not good to eat, the children know to keep their gloves on to keep them safe and they know where we go to feed them – all life skills in their own way.

We thank you for your understanding about how we delivered the news to the children.

Huge thanks for your support in allowing us to cover this real-life story in our own Evergreen way.



R.I.P Diego,

As the weather cools...

\*The children continue to nap in the forest in our hammocks whilst the other children play. Snuggly blankets are used to keep them warm whilst they sleep.

\*We continue to care for our animals – hay for the alpacas, hen house closed early evening, hedgehog houses built and bug hotels built and our bees are asleep until the Spring. The bees have just been fed to help them through the cooler winter months!

\*The children wrap up warm with their many layers to walk, wander, forage and journey through the forest. (Hot chocolate is taken in a flask to keep us warm whilst we wander). The children have started commenting on the numbers of layers that they are wearing which is great!

\*We continue to serve warm porridge, toast, pancakes, soup and hot main meal are essential to keep our insides as warm as we can. Warm fruit tea is offered alongside water to keep us hydrated through the day. Hot chocolate as a treat whilst we are out and about to warm us through.



Autumn Birthdays – We have celebrated a total of 17 birthdays this Autumn! That's 73% of our cohort! We have loved them all, thank you for your wonderful cakes that you have provided.



We look forward to some Spring and Summer birthdays in the New Year. Please do let us know if your child is wishing for a certain theme – we aim to please!

As you may have noticed, we have begun to prepare our own breakfast each morning which is a super start to the day. Baking is a superb Winter activity so please feel free to pack your child's apron for each session.



Many thanks for your cooperation maintaining safety on our car park. We have felt much more comfortable with children crossing the car park and with the speed of vehicles entering the grounds.

