Welcome back to school after the Christmas break. We are now exploring Winter and all that it entails as part of our theme 'Out and About in the Winter'. To begin with we shall be talking about keeping warm, caring for ourselves and keeping healthy and fit. We shall also be working with the winter environment and colours, and hoping for some snow so we can get out and experience it hands on!

As Winter changes into Spring we shall be exploring new life and the changes we hope to see around us.

Our Value is 'Being Responsible'. Children will be encouraged to be responsible for themselves and to have a go at managing their own outdoor clothing. With a view to going to school for some of the older children in September this would be an opportunity for you to support children to be independent with their dressing and undressing at home. Children will be expected to manage this when getting ready for PE at school.

We will be developing an expectation for children to treat toys, equipment and their own belongings with respect and take responsibility for their care and finally we will be taking responsibility for the environment, feeding and observing the birds, recycling and caring for the world around us.

Chinese New Year

We shall be celebrating the Chinese New Year the week of 27th January. If you have any interesting Chinese artefacts, stories, books etc we can share with the children please speak to a member of staff.
We are singing the song 'when your nose is feeling runny' and talking about how to dispose of used tissues. We are addressing 'health and self care' through many different activities, discussions, etc. This is a prime area in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

In the Nursery we have set up a Doctor's surgery role play area where children can relive their own experiences.

Saplings are working with the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear'. Through retelling the story, using props and activities they will be reinforcing the children's early literacy skills.

The children have also been able to practice their fine motor skills on the old Christmas tree. Using the scissors they have discovered how tricky it is to cut the evergreen. We discussed what type of tree it was and remembered that a pine tree doesn't have leaves but pine needles.

Dates for you diary: an academic calendar is available on our website: www.thelawnsbiggleswade.org

- 17th to 21st February: Half Term
- Friday 3rd April: Last day of Spring Term
- 6th to 17th April: Easter break
- Monday 20th April: Inset Day
- Tuesday 21st April: First day of Summer Term
- Friday 8th May: Bank Holiday
- 25th to 29th May: Half Term
- Friday 17th July: Last day of Summer Term

Reminders
- There will be an increase of coats, hats and scarves so it will be even more important that you bring children's spare clothes in a draw string bag. Unfortunately backpacks take up too much room on the coat hooks.
- Please do not send in creams, lotions, drinks, food or medicines in the children's bags.
- Please send in wellies, ensure they are named clearly and that children have indoor shoes to change into.

We are recycling old Christmas cards as part of our recycling theme. Please place your cards in our recycling bin in the reception area.