



# Out of the Pot!



Autumn/Winter 2018

## The Autumn Spring

Albert Camus said that “Autumn is a second Spring when every leaf is a flower” and this feels particularly true at Paint Pots. Every summer sees many of our children moving onwards to new life experiences and it can be difficult to imagine what the nursery will be like without them. This inevitably gives younger generations of Paint Pots children even more opportunities to express their individuality and creativity. It is always a marvel to see how a nursery can be transformed by this new found confidence and in a short period of time it is difficult to imagine that nursery life has ever been any other way. Observing children blossoming in this way is one of the most rewarding aspects of childcare and something we look forward to encouraging during the Autumn and Winter months.



### Awards Season

On the 22nd of September, the Nursery World Awards 2018 took place. This prestigious ceremony is held annually in London and Joseph presented an award whilst other members of the senior team attended because Paint Pots was nominated for Nursery Group of the Year. We are proud to announce that as well as having a fun time, we won the award! Everyone is so proud of all the team members who assisted us in achieving this.

### A Star Is Born

David took a further foray onto the small screen this September when he was a guest on the Sunday Politics Show South. Opposite a local MP, he argued persuasively for an increase in nursery funding. This latest media appearance follows hot on the heels of his guest spot on the Victoria Derbyshire Show in July discussing Men in Childcare alongside his numerous early morning stints on Radio Solent providing his “Thought for the Day.” All this leaves us asking where will he pop up next?



### Our Christmas Charity

New Life Home Trust is a charity that rescues abandoned babies in Kenya, cares for them and provides a new life – back with their birth family; with adoptive parents or in a New Life home for those who need lifelong care, typically children with additional needs or disabilities. Over 1,700 babies’ lives have been changed by the charity since it was established in 1994. David and Anna are both trustees of New Life Home Trust UK CIO <https://newlifehometruster.org.uk> a partner charity which raises funds and awareness in the UK to support the important work in Kenya. David is a regular visitor to Kenya. In 2019, he will be taking a team of Paint Pots staff to visit one of the homes for babies and children with special needs. As part of our fundraising activities, we have produced a Christmas card for the coming season. Cards are available in packs of 10 at a cost of £3.50 All proceeds go directly to support the work in Kenya – less 15% to cover admin costs in the UK. We invite all parents to consider buying some cards if you would like to. It is a good opportunity to talk to your child about other children who are less fortunate than we are.



**Improvements** We have a rolling programme of maintenance, site development and improvements. In the last few months, works have included -

- New doors and windows at PP10. The whole nursery looks brighter!
- New security camera system
- Lots of redecorating
- New conservatory roof at PP3
- Lots of floors cleaned over the summer



## Autumn Activities!

### Leaf maze

With all of the leaves cluttering up our gardens at the time of year, you can put them to good use by creating a leaf maze. Children will develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills as they encounter road-blocks and dead-ends. Staying between the lines helps them develop special sense, and they learn to look and think ahead, and plan their steps as they navigate the maze from start to finish.

If you don't have time to create a maze, letting your children jump and crunch the leaves is just as much fun!



### Nature Hunt

This activity is a great one for teaching young children to follow instructions and to encourage their listening skills, as well as having fun with parents and siblings. Create cards with simple instructions e.g. "walk to the garden and find a blue bucket, what is under the blue bucket?"

- Under the blue bucket will be an item and the next clue.
- The children can then use the bucket and collect all of the clues from around the garden, collecting all different types of objects from flowers, coloured leaves, stones, hidden treasures you place around the garden.
- Let the children know how many objects they need to find so they can count them as they go along.

This is a great game that can be played in your garden, inside your house, in the forest or even on a shopping trip!

## Autumn updates



Hello from PP5 and a huge welcome to all our new families this term. We have been busy settling in the children these last few weeks and they have been amazing. We are looking at Autumn themes this term and the children have been busy creating their own pictures and talking about what Autumn means to them.

We would very much like to make some natural displays with the children for our rooms. If you are out and about over the weekends and you find things like twigs, acorns, conkers or interesting leaves then please bring them into us and we will use them to make our displays.



We have also welcomed some new members to our team, Fran and Emily in Pencils Room and Chloe and Ellen in Colour box Room. Hopefully you have met them all by now, please let us know if you need an introduction. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chloe for achieving her Level 2 qualification in Childcare and she is now looking forward to her level 3!

Congratulations also to Catherine, George and Frankie on the safe arrival of their daughter and little sister Isabelle, I am sure she will be popping in especially at our Christmas nativity so lots of opportunities for cuddles. We are all thrilled for her.

We will be looking forward to lots of Christmas activities too in this coming term.