

It's the Little Things Children's Day Nursery

Welcome!

A big 'hello' to you all for our first newsletter of the year!

Police, camera, action

As part of this month's topic of 'People who help us', we invited the local police to the nursery. PC Dian visited the Pre-School Owls, talking to the children about the importance of helping others and telling them what they should do if they get lost from their mums and dads. She also brought her truncheon, torch and all of her hats, which some of them tried on.

Ello, ello, ello: Alex tries on his helmet



Starting the investigation: Matthew and Kieran



Watch out baddies! PC Abbie



Special offer

We're giving one free uniform to each child in the Pre-School Owls. Ask at the office for more details.

Letters on a postcard!

One of the values underpinning the ethos of our nursery is that we like to hear your feedback and your thoughts about what we are doing well and where we can improve. You will find a questionnaire enclosed, which we would love you to complete. It should only take you a few moments of your time and is completely confidential. We will use the results of the questionnaire to make judgements about future decisions and improve our practice.

Spring Fair

We are hoping to hold a Spring Fair at the nursery on Saturday 12th April, so please put the date in your calendar and let your friends and family know too! We would like to raise funds to buy new equipment so if you have anything you think would make good tombola prizes, or sell on a bric-a-brac stall, then please start sending them in.

New Starters

May we take this opportunity to welcome all of our new children and their families to the nursery.

We have a very busy week now in Little Bunnies with lots of gorgeous new babies in our care! We also have new children in the other rooms and they all seem to be settling in brilliantly!

New Staff

We would like to welcome Michelle to our staff team. Michelle is level 3 qualified and has lots of experience of working with children. She will initially be working in all rooms of the nursery, getting to know everyone.

Achievements!

Two of our babies are now walking which means that they have recently made the move into Little Squirrels room – congratulations!

A pat on the back also goes to the staff of Little Bunnies, who recently claimed the first title of our new monthly award 'Best Room'. The hard work and dedication of Sandra and her team is appreciated and noticed by us all.

Indoor footwear

We are currently reviewing our indoor shoe/slipper policy and would welcome your views in the enclosed questionnaire.

We believe that it is good for the children to change their shoes on entering their room but feel that the children in the Little Hedgehogs and the Pre-School Owls will get more protection from a pair of black pumps (like the ones worn in school, for PE) than they currently do in slippers (or in some cases bare feet where no slippers are provided), so are urging parents to please provide children with a pair as soon as possible. Children in Little Squirrels need either pumps (if you can find any small enough!) or slippers, but ALL CHILDREN (except babies) MUST HAVE SOMETHING.

We did a fire drill two weeks ago and some of the children had to exit the premises with nothing on their feet, which we consider to be a Health and Safety issue.

The children
with their
Chinese dragon



Matthew with his
Chinese fan



The lumberjack
children. Our
tree comes
down



Chinese New Year

We had great fun celebrating Chinese New Year as part of our commitment to celebrating festivals from different cultures. The children made a huge Chinese dragon, musical instruments, lanterns, fans and masks. They danced to traditional Chinese music and ate Chinese themed food throughout the day – with some delicious sweet and sour chicken and rice for lunch – yum!

REMINDERS!

Labels

Please label everything with your child's name – shoes, clothes, wellies etc.

Hairclips

Due to the size of hairclips and following a risk assessment of the possibility of one being swallowed, we must now insist that hair clips are NOT worn for nursery.

Registration Packs

Please could all parents/carers remember to return the registration pack given or sent to you just before Christmas. It is essential that we have updated records for your child.

Nappies/wipes

Could all parents please remember to bring in nappies and wipes for their child as soon as a reminder is given by staff.

Breakfast time

If you wish your child to have breakfast in the morning, could you please get them to the nursery by 8.45am.

Exclusion Procedure

There has been a change to the exclusion procedure chart you received in your latest registration pack. Under 'temperature' it currently states '24 hours', but the new policy is that the child can come in as long as their temperature has returned to normal.

If you have any questions on these points, don't hesitate to ask.

Garden Project

Two very enthusiastic members of our team have recently attended the first of a two-part course about how to make the most of our garden. Gemma (with the help of Jenni – both hedgehogs) and Natalie (squirrels) are currently working on a plan to develop both sides of the garden, to make it just as important a play space as the indoors. The project will run for a few months and hopefully, money raised at our Spring Fair will help us to buy resources.

We would value any contributions that parents/carers can make in terms of ideas and advice, or examples of where we can get resources.

Our garden tree

You may, or may not have noticed that our tree has been cut down. We were very sad about this news as the tree gave us somewhere to hang things and provided lots of natural shade in the summer.

The reason for the tree having to be cut down was that it had rotted and the roots were beginning to show – especially in the strong winds, when the tree was seen to sway dangerously. We took the decision to have the tree removed within an hour of this being noticed and the children watched as it was gradually taken down. But watch this space – a new baby tree will return in the Spring!

Meanwhile, the wood chip made from our old tree is now being used to pad out areas of the garden, which were running low!

And Finally...!

We said a tearful farewell to our lovely Nancy at the end of January.

It was time for Nancy to retire and although she is going to truly miss each and every one of the children, she has also admitted that she is ready for a rest!

We will miss Nancy too, she has been a fantastic member of staff and we wish her all the very best in her retirement.

That's all for now, the next newsletter will probably be after Easter so – have fun!!

(PS, remember nursery will be closed for Good Friday, 21st March and Easter Monday, 24th March)