

10th May 2022



Welcome to Little Leo's Nursery Summer term newsletter

The Nursery is steadily growing and with lovely recommendations we have seen friends of friends visiting and taking up spaces. So, thank you for recommending us.

Thank you for your support and patience with all the routines and ways of working that we have had especially for the new children settling, whereby the parents have only been able to spend limited time settling their child in the nursery.

Coronavirus Update

With all the restrictions lifted by the Government and staff no longer required to do rapid tests twice per week, we are still being cautious and continuing with regularly fogging the rooms with an Eco-friendly Disinfectant killing 99.99% of viruses including Coronavirus and continuing with our systems of control along with following Barnet Councils guidelines. We will review our systems of control again in September.

Children wash their hands when arriving at the nursery and regularly throughout the day we also have enhanced cleaning schedules in place. We have CO2 monitors in the rooms which enables staff to identify when ventilation needs to be improved, such as opening windows/doors and the monitor also provides reassurance when the ventilation measures are working effectively.

If a member of staff or child has a temperature or feels unwell they will be sent home until their temperature has gone and they feel well enough to return to the nursery. Whilst free testing has ended, where a child or staff member tests positive, staff are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days. Children testing positive will be advised to stay at home for 3 days.

Safeguarding

Sector organisations and nurseries have roundly criticised Boris Johnson's plans to change the rules to cut the number of staff caring for children in early years settings.

Reports from a Cabinet meeting suggested that the Prime Minister wants to relax staff to child ratios in nurseries to help cut childcare costs for parents and tackle the cost of living crisis. The BBC reported that the proposal came directly from the Prime Minister, with sources saying he wanted to lower the legal limits on adult supervision for children in England, as part of a drive to reduce living costs.

Both the National Day Nurseries Association and the Early Years Alliance have slammed the plans. Purnima Tanuku, chief executive of the NDNA said, 'The prime minister suggesting that the best way to help families with childcare costs is to tinker with ratios is short-sighted and will not achieve the desired outcome. It shows a lack of understanding of how the early years sector works in this country.

'We risk putting additional pressure on an overworked workforce while undermining efforts to give children the best start in life.

Neil Leitch, chief executive of the Early Years Alliance, said, 'It is absolutely ludicrous to suggest that the relaxation of ratios is any kind of solution to the current cost of living crisis.

'Such a change would be a catastrophic and retrograde step for the early years sector, and it is all the more galling that this suggestion from the Prime Minister came on the very same day that Ofsted has warned of the damaging impact the pandemic has had on young children's learning and development.

We will keep you updated on any further news regarding ratio's as and when we receive it.

School Readiness

We have 21 children leaving us at the end of this term to go to school. Cherry Blossom are focusing on supporting and promoting school readiness / transition to school.

School readiness is vaguely described in the foundation stage as "Children reaching a good level of development in the prime areas and literacy and mathematics. It goes much deeper than this, a school ready child should be displaying many other characteristics.

Some of which are:

- Independent in toileting
- Able to dress themselves
- Understands expected levels of behaviour
- Confidence and self-esteem
- Can take turns and share
- Can sit still for a short period
- Can separate from parent/carers
- Communication and language skills needed to communicate needs and listen to there
- Can actively learn creatively and critically thinking

Some of these characteristics may be difficult for all children to achieve and this shouldn't leave parents concerned that a child isn't school ready. The important thing is that we are able to identify and offer support and encouragement. For Parents with children leaving to go to school you will receive a booklet, preparing your child for starting school, from the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years.

Cultural Capital

Cultural capital is building strong foundations that will make a real difference to child's future, giving children experiences and opportunities to be curious, explore, try new things and experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live.

Cultural capital is about preparing with the knowledge and skills for what comes next in their learning and development. What children learn in these vital early years of life will stay with them forever.

The children have been engaged in lots of cultural capital. The children have celebrated lots of festivals. The Babies will be focusing on the very hungry caterpillar. They will be getting a butterfly Lore, to watch a caterpillar change into a butterfly along with decorating their board outside their room The toddlers have been growing vegetables and talking and doing activities around healthy eating. The pre-school have enrolled on a young brushers daily tooth brushing programme, where they will be learning about the importance of brushing their teeth (more information to follow) and they have also been talking about healthy eating.

As the weather is warming up the children have become more engrossed in the mud area, looking for bugs and putting them in the magnifier to get a closer look. So we would like to apologise if they are coming home with muddy clothes but the children are really having fun! We have been asked on numerous occasions by parents for recipes for messy play that we use at nursery I have attached some recipes for you to try out

Parent Helpers

I would like to remind all parents that they are welcome to come in and read a story, help celebrate a festival or talk to the children about your profession. The children really enjoy it when parents come in. If you would like to come in, please speak to the Room Team Leader to arrange a convenient date/time for your visit.

REMINDERS

Breakfast -: if you wish for your child to have breakfast, please can you ensure that they arrive on time for breakfast which is between 8.00-9.00am,(unless you have booked an early start 7.30am)

Buggies – Can parents / carers please fold up your buggies and place in the buggy shed.

Spare clothes – Can you please ensure that your child has a spare set of clothes with their name written in them

Sun cream – the weather is getting sunny so please can I remind all parents to make sure we have sun cream for your child, please ensure you write their name on the bottle/tube

Absent - If your child is going to be absent from nursery, please ring in the morning and let us know. Also ring and let us know if you are going to be late and your child requires lunch (lunch is at 12.00noon)

Office **020 8211 3119**

Children's belongings – Parents, please limit extra toys brought into nursery, as we do not accept responsibility if they are lost or broken.

FESTIVALS TO BE CELEBRATED BY NURSERY THIS TERM

Ramadan

Eid

Shavuot

Father's day

Orthodox Easter

Easter

STAFF- Continuous Professional Development

Casey – Working towards her Level 3 Childcare

Marido – Working towards Level 5 Childcare

Melody – working towards level 5

Savannah – working towards Level 3

Gabriella – Apprentice – working towards Level 3

Katie – Apprentice

Staff Training undertaken this Term

Safeguarding

First Aid

EYFS

Brilliant Babies

Looking towards your Ofsted inspection

The Learning Walk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jubilee Tea party Tuesday 31st May – 3-4.30 – All children are invited. If it is not your Child's day, your child is welcome to come along. Please let Staff know if your child will be attending.

Coffee "On the Go " We will be reintroducing "coffee on the go" along with your healthy piece of fruit, which will do on a weekly basis on a different day each week starting in June

Sports Day for Pre-school Children 14th July – More information to follow

Graduation day **Wednesday** 6th July approx. 2.30pm for a tea party and a bouncy Castle for the Day. Graduation ceremony will take place around 3.30pm. All parents/carer of the children graduating welcome for 3.30pm graduation ceremony. More info to follow.

End of Funded Term For children accessing the 15 hours funding the last day of term is 22nd July 2022

Current List Of Staff

Nursery Management Team

Athena Koukoutas Nursery Manager / Senior Designated Professional/ Health and Safety Officer

Debbie Richardson Deputy Manager / SENCO Co-ordinator, Deputy Designated Professional & Behaviour Management Advisor

Faranak Shabbak Third in Charge & Equal Opportunities Officer

Cherry Blossom Room

Faranak Shabbak Team Leader

Maria Nicolas Early Years Practitioner – Maternity Leave

Casey Reddy Early Years Practitioner

Marido Joret Early Years Practitioner

Melody Dawson Early Years Practitioner

Christine Picard Early Years Practitioner

Gabriella Vassiliades Apprentice

Holly Berries Room

Georgina Georgiou Team Leader

Savannah Benjamin Early Years Practitioner

Mhairi Watson Apprentice

Little Buds Room

Farhana Ali Team Leader

Julia Quinlan Early Years Practitioner

Nursery Support Staff

Savoulla Papamichael

Katie Talbot

Colin Curtis Chef

Kind Regards
Athena Koukoutas

Athena Koukoutas
Nursery Manager