



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter.

We are starting to feel very festive here at the Day Nursery. The decorations are going up and the children are busy with Christmas craft activities, there is glitter everywhere! The children are also enjoying practicing their Christmas songs and the babies are boogieing to Christmas tunes!

Following a suggestion from a parent, we have invited some 'Kindness Elves' to set up home in the Day Nursery reception area. The Kindness Elves are here to look for acts of kindness big or small, a concept created by a mum of four and a former primary school teacher. We think spreading love and kindness, particularly at this time of year is a lovely message to teach the children. The staff will be looking out for kindness and we would love parents, friends and extended family to get involved too. Come and meet and read all about the Kindness Elves in reception.

Talking of acts of kindness; lots of the children dressed up and donated money to Children in Need. The Nursery has raised £46.38 in total, so a big thank you to everyone who donated. I am sure that Pudsey Bear will be writing a note to the Kindness Elves very soon.

We have had a fantastic response to our 'Thanksgiving Message' display. All the children's lovely messages are displayed in the foyer so please come and have a look. Thank you to all the parents and children who took part.

Also part of the Thanksgiving celebrations, the children have also enjoyed a traditional roast turkey lunch. Pre-School made some fabulous turkey hats and we had a special visit from Head of the School, Richard Cross who came and joined in with the Pre-School celebrations.

FROM THE HEAD

"It is always lovely to visit the very smallest in the Berkhamstead community and I look forward to the time I spend in our lovely Day Nursery. The children (and staff) have such a great time! In recent weeks I have seen turkey-shaped Thanksgiving hats being made, Christmas stockings being painted and I have joined in with the singing and actions to 'Wind the Bobbin Up'!"

"Emily has done a splendid job in recent months as acting manager, and I was delighted to appoint her to the role of Day Nursery Manager on a permanent basis. She stood out among a strong field of applicants and I know that her experience and commitment to Berkhamstead will mean that she will do a first class job. We have some super staff and Mollie, our Deputy Manager and the rest of the team will continue to use creative teaching and fun ideas to ensure that every child in our Day Nursery has superb care and a great start in life."



FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery... continued



OTHER STAFFING NEWS

We have some other exciting staffing updates to share with you.

I am delighted to announce the following promotions:

Lucy Peens – Head of Bumblebee Room

Becky Harper – Head of Ladybird Room

Katie Hawkes – Head of Sunshine Room

Colleen Jones – Head of Rainbow Room

I would like to congratulate all of the above on their promotions and thank them all for their continued hard work and commitment to the Day Nursery.

Sadly Kayleigh Purvis will be leaving us at Christmas time. Due to travel arrangements, Kayleigh has decided to move to a nursery much closer to home. We would like to wish Kayleigh all the best for her new role and her wedding next November.

I would also like to welcome our new starters Abbey, Jaynie and Emily. After a week of settling in, and getting to know the children and teams, they have each selected a room they would like to work in. I am pleased to inform you that Abbey will be joining the Ladybird team, Jaynie the Dragonfly team and Emily the Sunshine team. Caroline is currently on her settling in period but will be based either in Dragonfly or Sunshine Room.

PHOTOGRAPHER

We would like to thank Noel Hibbert from Cotswold Pictures for coming along on Wednesday 30th November to take photos of the children.

After many parent enquiries, we were so pleased to be able to secure a photographer. Noel is a former parent so knows the Day Nursery and children well. You will soon receive a private log in so you can view and order any photos you would like to purchase through Noel. We will keep you updated.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2017.

Festive dates...

Our Parents' Festive Open Evening will take place on **Wednesday 7th December from 5.45pm – 7pm**. Please let us know whether you'll be able to attend so we can get an idea of numbers for catering purposes. Children are welcome to come with you. Each room has an attendance list on the door, so please tick if you are able to join us. Also if you would like to run a stall, please let us know by Friday 2nd December. We hope to see plenty of you for a glass of wine and mince pie or two!

Christmas Sing Song for Sunshine and Rainbow Room will be held on Tuesday 20th December at 4.30pm in the school hall. This is an opportunity for children to sing along to some favourite Christmas songs with parents and staff.

CHILDREN'S PARTY DATES

Bumblebee Room – Wednesday 21st December 3.30-5pm

Ladybird Room – Thursday 15th December 3-4.30pm

Dragonfly Room – Wednesday 14th December 3-4.30pm

Sunshine Room – Friday 16th December 3-4.30pm

Rainbow Room – Wednesday 21st December 3-5pm

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Nursery will close for the Christmas break at **1pm on Friday 23rd December** and will remain closed until **Tuesday 3rd January**.

Best Wishes
Smily and the team...

Follow us on twitter

Our Twitter accounts are a great way for parents to get a glimpse into everyday life at the Day Nursery and School. The Day Nursery is a closed group which you are welcome to join.

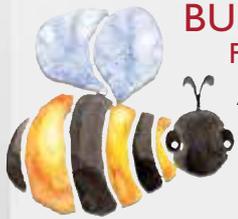
Do 'follow' us @BerkyDNChelt.
The School is @BerkyCheltenham.



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms ...



BUMBLEBEE ROOM

From 3 months

A huge welcome to all the little Bumblebees who have joined us, and a fond goodbye to the older Bumblebees who have moved rooms and have now become Ladybirds. We wish them lots of luck.

We are feeling very festive in the Bumblebee Room, and have been busy working on our Christmas displays and making little Christmas surprises that will be given out at our Christmas party on Wednesday 14th December. Please remember to tick your child's name on the list on our door if you are attending. We would be grateful if you could bring photos of your child and family decorating the Christmas tree to add to our display.

Finally, please can children come in Christmas fancy dress or Christmas jumpers during the week of 12th December!



LADYBIRD ROOM

From 18-24 months

This month in the Ladybird room, we have been exploring Winter. The children have created some beautiful Winter paintings using cool shades of blue and white and always plenty of glitter! They have loved listening to festive stories and singing songs about Christmas, as well as getting messy as they mark make with gloop, paint, mud and shaving foam. Our little Ladybirds are loving exploring our wonderful Winter Wonderland snow den. It is packed full of twinkling lights, shiny fabric and tiny little penguins to fuel the children's very active imaginations.





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News from the Rooms ...



DRAGONFLY ROOM 24-30 months

This month we have been thinking all about our bodies. The children have been interested in exploring different ways to move during 'yoga' sessions, and they have also enjoyed foot massage! Body painting has enabled the children to see the marks they make; stamping, patting and rolling on the paper on the floor - great fun for our energetic toddlers! Our young group have also been exploring the different ways they can prepare food and how the tools to prepare food can be used safely.

We have loved introducing Christmas songs to the children, complete with pictures of Father Christmas and reindeers to help the children understand the words. The Dragonflies have enjoyed a variety of crafts to create their own Christmassy pictures.



SUNSHINE ROOM 2.5-3.5 years

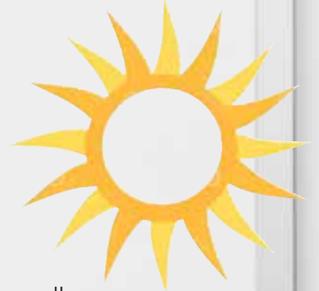
We have recently said a fond farewell to Sophie who has moved to pastures new, and we wish her the best of luck. We have welcomed Emily to our team in the Sunshine Room.

The children have shown great interest in construction, so we have introduced big soft blocks for building using their gross motor skills, and plastic straws to develop fine motor skills. Diggers are another Sunshine favourite, so we added a selection to our coloured-sand tray.

It was Road Safety Week recently, and so we made a road with traffic lights for the children, to enable them to learn about road safety and to also throw themselves into imaginative role play, dressed up in high vis jackets! Rhyme of the week and circle time have also been introduced, which the children love!

Over the next few weeks, we will be doing lots of Christmas activities, including a visit on Friday to Oakhaven Residential home with Pre-School to sing Christmas songs.

We look forward to seeing you and your children at our Christmas Party on Friday 16th December.





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News from the Rooms ...

RAINBOW ROOM

3+ Pre-School

Pre-School are so excited about the festive season, and we have a number of fabulous events to look forward to.

The School Early Years department have invited us to their Christmas Assembly on Wednesday, and it promises to be a treat. We are busy practising Christmas carols for our visit to Oakhaven Residential home, as well as our Christmas Carol sing-song afternoon on the 20th - we hope to welcome plenty of you to hear your children's beautiful singing voices. We are holding a Christmas party on 21st December which will be full of fun festivities and games – we hope to see you there too.



**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year from all of
us in Pre-School!**

