



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Welcome to our February newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all! What a way to start the year - **Outstanding in all areas!** Thank you for all your kind messages; it is lovely to receive such positive comments and these have all been shared with the team. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaires from ISI and to those who took part in the discussions with the inspectors. I would encourage you to read our report which is now on the website.

“Children show great enjoyment in their learning. They are very curious and inquisitive and are keen to explore their surroundings. Children make excellent use of the available resources in the room. These allow them to explore real life objects and experiment with different textures, thereby fostering the children’s innate curiosity.”

Staffing update

As many of you know, Sian is now on maternity leave and Becky has moved to Fuzzy Bears to replace her. Becky has a natural flair for the Curiosity Approach and she feels most at home with this age group. We look forward to seeing the developments.

Congratulations to Jessica who has been promoted to Teddy Bear Room Lead. Jessica’s confidence has developed hugely during her time here and the children are always at the forefront of everything she does. Jessica has a natural spark of positivity and ability to guide her team.

Congratulations to Tina who is expecting her second child in June. We will keep you informed once he/she arrives.

Alison has now moved on to work at Holy Apostles Primary School, to a term time only position. We wish her all the best with her new position. Mary will now be covering the office on a full time basis.

Lastly, huge congratulations to Georgia in the Wise Bear Room, who completed her Level 3 qualification in December, and Shannon in the Baby Room, who has completed her Level 2 qualification. Well done, ladies – we are so proud and you have both worked so hard!

National Story Telling Week

Over the next few weeks we have lots of exciting events to look forward to. It’s National Story Telling Week from 3rd February to 7th February. Encouraging children to enjoy books and stories is a great thing, and so to celebrate the event we are going to have a fancy dress week. Your child can dress up (if they wish) as any character from their favourite story. Mr Titley - a fantastic teacher at the Prep School - is a wonderful storyteller, so we have arranged for him to come and read some stories to the Teddy Bears and Wise Bears. If your child would like to bring in their favourite story book, we will read them during this special week.



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER





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Notes from the Day Nursery... *continued*

Events

The Day Nursery have a police car coming to visit on 5th February, following the children's interest in fire engines and police cars. The Police Officers will talk with Teddy Bears and Wise Bears about safety, how to keep themselves safe and then we will explore the car, lights and sirens!

We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year by having a special themed dinner on the 30th January and we will be making Chinese lanterns with the children. We also look forward to Valentine's Day and Pancake Day!

On Friday 17th January, Ella donated her wonderful locks to the Little Princess Trust. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching Ella have her super long hair cut! Ella has raised £245.00 and we think she is amazing donating her hair to a charity for children! Well done, Ella.

Phone lines

It has been brought to our attention that some parents have struggled to get through to the Day Nursery after certain times in the afternoon. Please ensure you have the correct number for us, as the school line will take you to an answering machine message instead. The Day Nursery number is 01242 533830 and lines are open 8am until 6pm. Many thanks.

Star of the month

Thank you for your nominations for Star of the Month! This initiative is a really useful way of hearing your feedback, views and praise for the staff here. There are sheets to fill in at the front door, so do feel free to complete one and add it to the box...

Well done to Becky and Amanda! You both take such great care of the children and ensure they are happy and settled. You both make great efforts to meet the individual needs of each child. You and the whole team work so hard - so thank you.

"Becky for supporting Celine with potty training. The journey has been a challenge and having the support of the staff has been really helpful".

"Amanda for continuously showing great practice in all rooms and overall general care for the children. You are brilliant!"



*Best Wishes
Mollie and the team...*



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms...



BEAR CUBS: For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

Welcome to all the new children who have recently started – we look forward to sharing the beginning of your Nursery journey with you, and to getting to know you and your families.

The children's main interest is sensory exploration, and they have very much enjoyed getting messy! Some of the sensory materials we have used are sand, water, lotion, playdoh and foam. This helps develop the children's gross motor skills, as well as giving them the freedom to explore the world around them.

The children have also enjoyed exploring the bubbles and have made sounds and facial expressions as the bubbles are being blown. We have been role modelling language and sounds such as 'pop' 'ohh' and 'bubble'.

Over the next few months we shall continue to settle in the new children and, as a lot of children are enjoying singing, we will explore the instruments whilst singing nursery rhymes.

We also look forward to our visit to Oakhaven to visit the elderly on a Friday morning. Please feel free to join us; just ask the team when the next visit is!



CUDDLY BEARS: For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

The children in the Cuddly Bears have been showing lots of interest in glueing and sticking so we have set out various collage activities for the children to explore. Using different colours and textures when creating their collages develops their fine motor skills and encourages them to be independent and make choices.

We have welcomed lots of new children to the room and we will be focusing on communication and language activities. The children have enjoyed animals and transport activities and have been using single words or two words together to name the vehicles and animals.

We also look forward to our visit to Oakhaven to visit the elderly on a Friday morning. Please feel free to join us; just ask the team when the next visit is!





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News from the Rooms ...



FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½

We have had a big move around in the Fuzzy Bear Room. Since the move, the children have become more interested and engaged in the home corner and construction area and have really enjoyed filling and emptying activities. We have used water, rice and lentils to allow the children to explore filling and emptying. This develops their mathematical skills as they are able to use the language of quantities such as "more" and "less". The children are all given the opportunity to share and take turns which supports their personal, social and emotional development.

We have enjoyed exploring the home corner where they are able to use their imagination and re-enact real life experiences from home. The children like to look after the dolls by dressing and feeding them. They also like to make their friends "coffee".

The small world/construction area is another keen interest; the children particularly enjoy building roads with ramps and tubes to push the cars down.

TEDDY BEARS:

For happy bears 2½ - 3½

This month we have been exploring mark making following the children's interest in using different writing tools. This has helped to develop the children's imagination and strengthen their fine motor skills. The children have enjoyed experimenting with paint, exploring how colours can be changed.

We also created a new dinosaur area following the children's interest; the children have loved exploring this and using the different natural objects to represent other objects. They are beginning to build stories around their play.

We will all be dressing up for National Storytelling Week from 3rd February so please feel free to bring your little one dressed up as their favourite book character. If they do not want to dress up they can bring their favourite book in to share with their friends. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful characters!





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News from the Rooms...



WISE BEARS: For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

The children have really enjoyed construction play and have enjoyed using natural materials and foam blocks to design their own creations. The children have continued to show a real interest in mark making and writing and are beginning to copy letters from their names. We are now moving into a winter

theme following on from the children's interest in the four seasons from our daily calendar, and the children are becoming more curious about winter.

We are going to be visiting the library in the town centre on a monthly basis to look through and choose our own books to bring back to Nursery, and to join in with Story Time. We will, of course, gain parental consent before doing this.

As you know, we focus on a sign per month to embed our signing skills. This month it is "Play" – you will see signs around the Nursery and we will be encouraging this through our play.

We welcomed Madame McCreanor back, Bonjour! The children thoroughly enjoy the French classes and absorb the new words and sounds so quickly. We look forward to seeing what they learn next...

Well done to the following children who received "Values Leaves" in the recent assembly at the school. We encourage the following values in our children - Honesty, Perseverance, Kindness, Respect and Trust - and recognise the importance of praising their development.

Olivia - "for always being so kind to her friends".

Arlo - "for continuing your hard work with phonics".

Rory - "for always telling the truth even when it may be difficult to do so".

George - "for always having a beaming smile on your face".

