

BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Welcome to our June newsletter

Welcome to the June Newsletter. The weather has been beautiful so all the children have enjoyed spending lots of time in the outdoor areas. Unfortunately the weather did take a turn for the worse for our Royal Wedding picnic. However, the children enjoyed a special 'High Tea' in the dining room instead! We are very pleased to say that the air conditioning has been installed this month so the rooms will be feeling much cooler.

We intend to develop our outdoor play areas, and are in the process of discussing lots of exciting plans for the Nature Garden, Under Two's garden and the main play area. If parents have any ideas, then please write them down and post them in our parent feedback box.

Summer Diary Dates

Summer Social - please come and join us on Saturday 18th August, 10am-1pm for a morning of fun in the garden! We are planning to have a bouncy castle, cake stall, ice cream stand, face painting and plenty of other fun activities. We would love parents to get involved, so if you would like to set up a stall, bake cakes or donate raffle prizes, please let us know in the office. All proceeds will go to developing the Day Nursery gardens!

Pre-School Leavers' Disco - All Pre-School children leaving to go to school in September are invited to join us with their families on Monday 13th August from 3pm - 5pm. Our leavers' disco will include party food, dancing and games and will take place in our special disco Hall (the dining room!) Don your party outfits and dancing shoes and see you there!

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome back Becky Harper to the team. Becky has worked for us since September 2014 and been travelling, and then she re-located to move in with her fiancé. Becky is now moving back to Cheltenham and will be returning to us at the end of June.

We would also like to welcome Giovanna Foresta who will be joining the Bear Cub team from the end of June, and Gemma Henderson who will be joining the Wise Bears five mornings a week. Giovanna has lots of baby experience and has been working in a baby room for the last 7 years. Gemma has lots of experience with older children, having worked in a Pre-School environment. She has a young daughter of her own.

Sadly this month we have said goodbye to Debbie. Debbie has lots of exciting events coming up in her personal life and has decided to devote her time to this instead - who can blame her!? We would like to wish her all the best!

Alison from Cuddly Bears will take over from Debbie. Although we will miss Alison in the Cuddly Bears' room, Alison will be brilliant in the Day Nursery office. You may also still see Alison in the rooms from time to time as she is keen to still work with the children.



JUNE NEWSLETTER

Diary dates...

Summer Social Please come and join us on Saturday 18th August

For a morning of fun in the garden! 10am-1pm.

Pre-School Leavers' Disco

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Notes from the Day Nursery... continued



Star of the Month

Star of the Month goes to Shannon from the Bear Cubs' room. She received lots of nominations and lovely feedback this month so well done Shannon!

"She is such a lovely and caring person, and her genuine love and affection for the children she looks after is infectious."

"Theo loves Shannon so much and looks forward to seeing her every morning."

We had so many nominations for Star of the Month this time, so thank you so much to everyone who took the time to write one. Every nomination is read by the team, and it is lovely to have the recognition for the fantastic work they do here. Other staff receiving nominations included: Katie, Martyna, Maria, Alison, Ella, Collette, Caroline

A huge well done to you all, and please parents keep the nominations coming!

Sensory Room

We are delighted to announce that our new Sensory Room will be opening this month. The Sensory Room will provide an oasis of calm, where small groups of children can have some time away from their rooms and enjoy exploring all the different lights, textures and sounds. Sensory play is such an important part of the Early Years' Curriculum. Young children learn best when they can play, discover and explore using all their senses. Having a dedicated room equipped with rainbow mirrors, twinkling lights, bubble tube and special light table will offer children of all ages a varied and rich learning experience. As you can see, the children have already had a sneak preview of the beautiful new room and very much enjoyed exploring with their senses!



Pushchairs and scooters

We are sorry to say that temporarily we are unable to store your car seats, pushchairs and scooters etc. Due to the increasing number of buggies being left, and the opening of the new sensory room, we just don't have the capacity to store them at the moment. This is a service we would like to resume, so we are looking into 'Berky Buggy Park' options and will keep you updated. We thank you for your understanding in the meantime.

Values Tree

As you will have already seen, we have a lovely new Values Tree in our foyer. The idea of the Values Tree is to celebrate children's special achievements linked to the Berkhamstead Nursery and School values of Perseverance, Kindness, Trust, Honestly and Politeness. Each month the children awarded with a values leaf will be included in the newsletter and their leaf will go up on the tree. Achievements can be awarded from their time here at the Day Nursery, or at home, so please inform of us of your child's achievements at home.

We are very proud to announce our first values leaf goes to Isla B for Perseverance. Isla has recently been signed off from the Physio as she has made such fantastic progress and is now walking! Isla has shown great perseverance in learning to walk and we are so pleased to say she can now (quite literally) follow in her twin brother Jacobs's footsteps. Well done Isla!



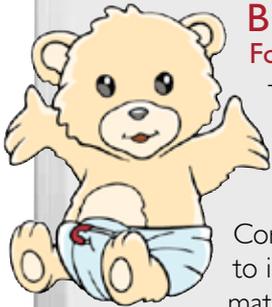
*Best Wishes
Smily and the team...*



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News from the Rooms...



BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

The Bear Cubs have been enjoying a wide range of sensory activities such as playing with jelly, shaving foam, shredded paper, porridge oats and Cornflakes. They have had the chance to investigate different textures and materials in an exciting new sensory den.

The babies have also been exploring the idea of healthy eating by painting with fresh vegetables and tasting delicious fruit smoothies. We currently have two displays in progress reflecting our fun sensory and healthy eating activities.



CUDDLY BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

The Cuddly Bears are currently learning all about 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' We have read the picture book and are enjoying learning the names of different fruit and vegetables. We are using flash cards and are curious when touching and smelling the various fruits as illustrated in the book. The children are loving painting with the fruit and vegetables which have been carved into stamps, thus creating imaginative patterns.

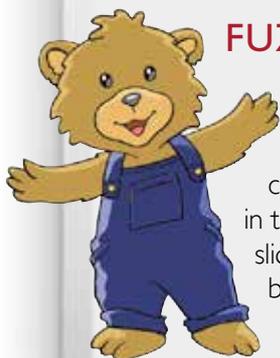




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News from the Rooms ...



FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½

The Fuzzy Bears have been enjoying lots of water play in the garden and classroom, helping everybody keep cool in the lovely sunshine! Sian set up a water slide in the garden which was appreciated by all of the children in the Nursery.

We are currently making a cardboard house in the role play area and the children have had great fun decorating the panels with paint.

It is that time of year again when lots of children are going on holiday, and so we are reflecting their experiences by creating an aeroplane and helicopter display.



TEDDY BEARS:

For happy bears 2½ - 3½

The Teddy Bear Room have made a beach relating to their own personal experiences on holiday. Along with this they have been getting creative making colourful boats, sandcastles and seaside pictures. As a follow on activity we will be looking at sea creatures and creating our own animals.

They have been enjoying lots of different sensory play exploring and describing the various textures of jelly, gloop and rice.





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News from the Rooms...



WISE BEARS:

For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

The Wise Bears celebrated the Royal Wedding with a lovely picnic tea and the children dressed up as princes and princesses. The home corner was transformed into Windsor Castle using the children's art work and we created some Union Jack bunting to hang across the room.

The children have been growing sunflowers from seeds that were planted in April. They have really enjoyed taking care of the plants by watering them and watching them grow. Hopefully, all of the seeds will survive and we will have some pretty sunflowers to plant in the Nature Garden. Our theme of 'growing' was expanded into measuring the children with string and making a display of their different heights, monitoring them as they grew.

The Wise Bears have loved hearing the story of 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and kept asking to re-enact the story. We have had fun pretending to wade through water and squelch through mud! There is an exciting new display in the classroom depicting the various places that the family explore in the story.

Now we are well and truly into the Summer we have been talking lots about ice-cream and this week we made our own ice-cream parlour. The children role played making lots of ice creams out of different flavours- they did look delicious!

