



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Welcome to our March newsletter

What glorious weather we are having! I hope you are all making the most of it with your families. Thank you to all the staff and parents who turned out in full force on Saturday for our sponsored walk; it really was a lovely day. We also want to thank everybody for their generous donations towards a blood gas machine for the Starlight Ward, where Archer received his treatment.

Charlotte, Archer's mum said, "We honestly do not know what to say, thank you. You guys have just been the best, we are so lucky to have a fabulous nursery for Archer, you and the team are incredible."

There is still time to donate if you would like to help get them over the £15,000 mark:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/archer-noar-starlightward

DAY NURSERY EVENTS

Mother's Day Treat

Please join us for on **Monday 28th March at 4pm** in the dining room. There will be canapes and Prosecco and a chance for you to have a half hour "break" and chat with the other wonderful mums.

10 Year Party - Saturday 9th April

We would be so excited if you could join us to celebrate our 10 year birthday. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting and other activities for the little ones to enjoy.

Please add the date to your calendar - **Saturday 9th April 1:30 until 3:30pm.**

Staffing update

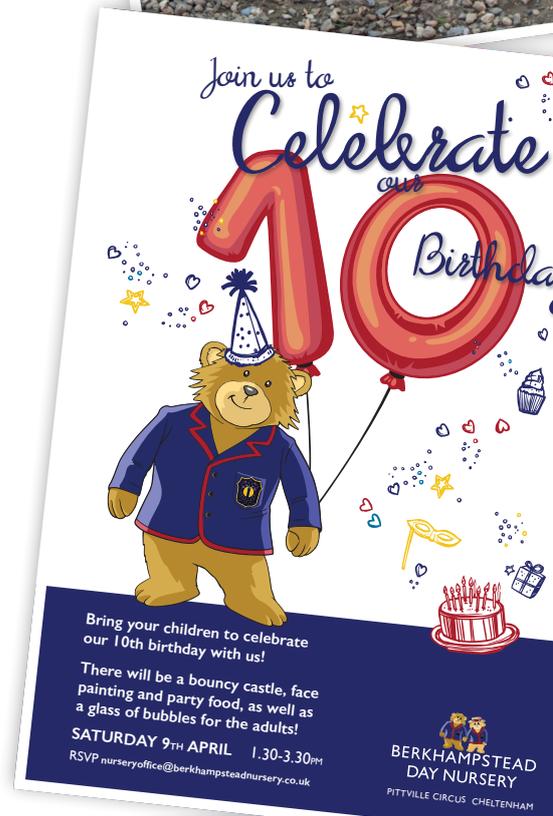
Leah and Kelly are starting next week, and both are fully qualified, full-time members of staff. Kelly has a wealth of experience and specialises in children's behaviours. She has worked in schools as the nurture lead, and I feel her understanding and variety of strategies to support the children's individual needs will be invaluable. Leah has worked as room lead at St. Edwards for over 6 years and she will be joining the Cuddly Bear team. We look forward to them joining the team.

As always, we have some staff due to depart on maternity leave. Tina is expecting her third son in June and Michelle is expecting her first child in September. We are currently pre-planning the staff changes to suit the children, rooms and numbers, along with advertising for these positions.

Maria will be returning from maternity leave in June and Paola who was due to return in June, is now pregnant with her second child, due in August. Therefore, she will not be returning until after her second maternity leave.



MARCH NEWSLETTER



Maria and Michelle





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

We will be moving our Day Nursery management system from First Steps to Family. The new system offers the function of staff completing daily registers on an iPad within each room, will log attendance and give a direct contact for parents using a messaging service.

This will improve our daily communication with parents and enable the rooms to send personal updates, any requirements and photos and videos of their child. This has been a regular request from parents on our feedback questionnaire. We are really excited about this new additional function - a snapshot view into nursery life!

Safeguarding

How do we safeguard your child?

I'm sure some of you are already aware of some of the procedures we have in place to safeguard your child in the setting, but I feel it is important to explain a few areas that affect you.

Collection from a different person

If you would like someone to collect your child, you must let us know their name and a password. The person collecting must bring photo ID and provide the password before being let into the nursery.

Mobile phone policy

We are a no mobile phone setting. Staff and parents are not allowed into the setting whilst on their mobile phones. The EFYS statutory framework prohibits the use of mobile phones, to ensure cameras on phones are not used, in order to safeguard the children.

Accident at home forms / hospital follow up forms

If your child comes in with a mark that has occurred at home, we ask you on the drop off to complete an accident at home form. This is to detail the injury / mark the child has and ensure all staff are aware. Similarly, if your child has to attend hospital, we ask for a follow up form to provide the details and aftercare.

Medication forms

If your child has been prescribed medication that they need to have at Nursery, you will be asked to complete a medication form detailing doses, times, dates and the medication. This provides us with your consent, and you will be asked to sign this on collection to acknowledge the doses administered to your child.

family.





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Star of the month

Star of the month is a staffing incentive and a way to praise and boost the staff for the incredible job they carry out every day. It is also a chance for you as parents to give individual feedback, make comments and thank staff individually or as a team.

There are comment slips at the front door, so please get involved and spread the kind messages.

Over the past couple of months, we have had some lovely feedback from staff and parents celebrating the team here:

"Jess has settled into the Cuddly bear team so well. She is extremely motivated and always has such wonderful engaging activities planned for the children".

"Sammy has such a gentle way with the children, she is so caring and attentive to their individual needs. Sammy has learnt the routine and has settled into Nursery life so well."

"Julie-Ann has been a huge support for the team, giving clear communication and discussing the plans with the team, keeping everyone involved but always ensuring the focus is the interaction with the children".

"Thank you Pat, the children love having you. You are so caring and always adapt your practice to suit the needs of the children, you are great!"

Jess, Sammy,
Julie-Ann
and Pat



Best Wishes
Mollie and the team...



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms...



BEAR CUBS: For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

Welcome to the new children who have recently joined us; you are all settling in so well. The children this month have been interested in sea animals. Therefore we have incorporated this into our activities, such as water play with the animals, making the noises and role modelling language through our play. We also added boats and this extended the children's level of interest and they were able to maintain focus for a period of time, as well as painting with the animal stamps.

We have been creating lovely Mother's Day cards, which we can not wait to share with you. The children chose a variety of paints and marking tools including daffodils to create their own floral creations.

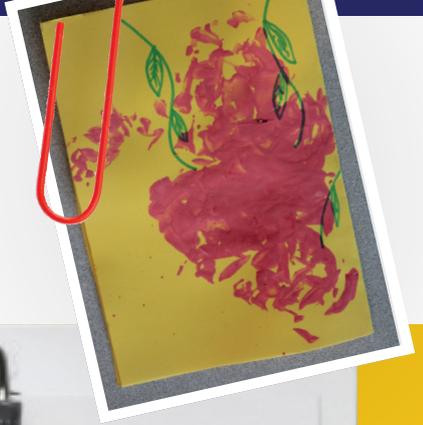
The Bear Cubs have loved exploring the sensory trays with coloured pasta, filling and emptying pots and pans, scooping with spoons and others utensils.

We love hearing about what your little one has been up to at home and we love to follow their interests and celebrate their achievements - so please complete the "Look what I can do at home" form and share with us your wonderful adventures.





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms...



CUDDLY BEARS: For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

We have been very busy in Cuddly bears over the past couple of months. We would love to welcome all of the new little ones who have recently moved into the room. We also say goodbye to a few children that have moved to Fuzzy Bears rooms; they have all settled in so well.

We have been very busy exploring and celebrating different events such as Valentine's Day and St Patrick's Day. The children had such fun using different mark making tools to create their lovely cards and they learnt to blow the paint through a straw to create a different mark.

We also worked on our fine motors skills, threading hearts onto string and developing number knowledge. The children really enjoyed this and spent time persevering until they achieved this.

Cuddly bears are looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day and Easter – we have such exciting activities planned such as a whole nursery Easter egg hunt.

As always we love hearing about what you and your child have been up to at home and all the exciting adventures you have been on, so please send any photos and fill out a "look what I can do at home" form.





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

News from the Rooms ...

FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½



The children in Fuzzy bears have enjoyed playing with the dinosaurs in the sand tray. This has encouraged their development of language, understanding of the world and sharing skills. They have enjoyed celebrating St Patrick's Day by looking at shamrocks in the garden and exploring a rainbow sensory tray.

We have also been creating masterpieces for Mother's Day and look forward to sharing these with you.

Mindfulness has been a new area we have explored for the children, and they have loved it. We have used a YouTube video with slow paced arm movements and breathing techniques to encourage the children to have a moment of calm. This has been a great part of our routine and we will continue to develop this.

We look forward to our Easter activities, 10 year party and all the wonderful interests of the children being explored. Some of the adult initiated focuses will be healthy eating and exploring a variety of healthy foods.





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms ...



TEDDY BEARS: For happy bears 2½ - 3½

Teddy Bears have been loving making "dinner" in our lovely new home corner. We have recently invested in a lovely new kitchen and role play resources. We have been celebrating St Patrick's Day and exploring four leaf clovers and a green themed sensory tray which the children had such fun in.

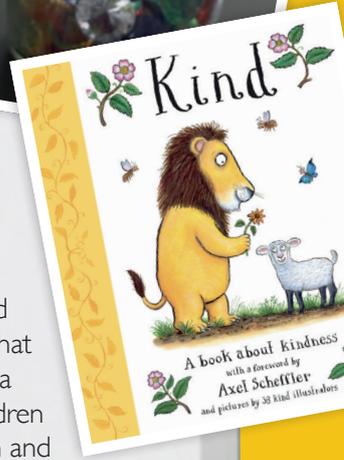
Robot Reg has been a firm favourite in our room. This is a phonics session focusing on different sounds and letters each week, with songs and activities around this.

We would like to encourage you into the room for your handover each evening. This is to ensure the children and the interaction with them is our priority. At the end of each day the children can become excitable and all huddle around the main door. If we are sat with the children at our activities, we feel it is easier for you to come over to us into the room, so we can tell you all about your child's day. Thank you for your support.





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms...



WISE BEARS: For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

As always the children having been getting involved in so much and we have followed their interests and development to further their learning.

We have welcomed this warmer weather and have spent most of our time outside in the nature garden and visiting the school's pond. One of the children noticed frogspawn in the pond, so we have been visiting frequently and discussing the changes we can see.

The nature garden has been a keen interest, from pouring, filling, and emptying on the water wall, which helps develop our maths skills to making our own potions and perfumes in the mud kitchen and planting. Each of these activities helps the children explore a variety of sensory opportunities, communication skills, maths and social skills. The imagination of the children has really shone through.

We also join the kindergarten assembly on a Wednesday morning, and this has sparked conversations and understanding around kindness and what this means to us. We have introduced a "gem jar" for acts of kindness. The children have been able to recognise their own and their friends' acts of kindness. Once they have demonstrated this, they take a gem and add it to the pot. they are halfway towards their target.

We also have been using the book "Kind" by Alison Green and Axel Scheffler, to help their level of understanding and how they can be kind to friends and the world around us.

Please let us know if your child has shown any acts of kindness, on a "look what I can do at home" form so we can celebrate this with you. Your input is very much welcomed.

