



## BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

# Notes from the Day Nursery...

### Welcome to our May newsletter

Welcome to the May Newsletter. As we have recently asked for the sun hats and sun creams, the nice weather typically has taken a turn for the worse! Hopefully there will be a need for our sun hats and creams in the not too distant future! Could we please ask that all sun hats and creams are clearly labelled with your child's name. It was lovely to see the children outside enjoying water play in the warmer weather and with the new Spring/Summer picnic teas, hopefully the children will be able to enjoy some alfresco picnics soon too.

We are having a bit of a spring clean at the Nursery and getting all organised to make space for our exciting new sensory room. We will keep you updated on progress, but we are hoping to create a lovely, calm space where children can explore different textures, lights and sounds. If you have any resources that you think we could use for the sensory room we would be really grateful for any donations. Useful items would include:

*Wind chimes*

*Torches*

*Different fabrics (silk scarves etc)*

*Fairy Lights*

*Old CDs*

*Musical instruments*

### Pepper Pig Muddy Puddle Walk

The children very much enjoyed their 'Muddy Puddle walk' on Monday 23rd April to raise money for a very good cause 'Save the children'. We are still collecting money so we will update you with how much we raised in next month's newsletter. If you would still like to make a donation then there is still time. You can donate money either in the office or with your child's Key Person.

### Polite Reminder

Could we please ask that parents arrive at least 5 minutes before the end of their child's session; 12.55pm for the morning session and 5.55pm for the afternoon session? This is to ensure that the children have actually left the premises by the end of the session times so that we can meet our legal staffing ratios, and to ensure the staff can leave promptly at 6PM after their long days. Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

### Staffing Update

As the Preschool parents will already know, Zac has moved on to a Deputy Manager position at another Day Nursery. We would like to wish him all the best for his new position.

We have Martyna joining us in Preschool to take over from Zac. Martyna is very creative and has a degree in Art. She has done lots of illustrations and art work for local businesses and has lots of experience doing workshops and creative groups for young children.



MAY NEWSLETTER





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Emma will also be joining us as a flexi member of staff. Emma has 11 years' experience working in a Steiner Educational setting. We are looking forward to Emma joining the team and learning some new approaches and techniques based on her interesting, previous experience.

We also have Racheal who will be joining us 5 mornings week. Racheal is an experienced Nursery practitioner and has a young daughter herself. Racheal will start off working across the age groups and then might settle into a particular age group - we will keep parents informed.

### Star of the Month

Congratulations to Molly from Fuzzy Bears! Molly has settled so well into the Fuzzy Bear team and has received some lovely feedback this month:

*"Molly always seems so happy and positive, and is really welcoming in the mornings! She has great relationships with the children. My son loves coming to Nursery and often talks about Molly on the way home."*

We have a new, upgraded 'Star of the Month' box so please keep your nominations coming. It is really lovely to hear the positive comments parents and other staff have to say about each other.

I also run regular, friendly competitions between the rooms. Last month's winners were Bear Cubs and Teddy Bears for their fantastic displays.

The current competition is regarding the learning environment and activities on offer so if you would like to nominate a room, then please come and let us know in the office or send an email.

### Parent Views

As always parent feedback is greatly appreciated. It forms part of our self-evaluation process so we would love to hear your opinions/ suggestions. Again we have a new and improved parent feedback box in reception so if you have the time, please stop and fill out a feedback slip.

### Key Person Handovers

As I am sure you are aware, pick ups can be a hectic time in the rooms, and children, especially the youngest - can find this period unsettling. To ensure the children's needs are met at all times, we would like to encourage parents to come in and sit down with their child's key person. In older age groups we would just ask for your patience and wait for a member of staff to come to you once the children's needs have been met. This might mean waiting until a member of staff is free to hand over. Thank you for your co-operation.



Best Wishes  
Smily and the team...



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## News from the Rooms...



### BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

Our youngest children are well into the swing of spring and have made some beautiful yellow hand prints for our display of sunflowers. We will be planting our very own sunflowers soon and will love watching them grow at home.

We have enjoyed experimenting and experiencing sensory activities involving feeling water, lentils, sand, shaving foam etc. We loved our full body painting and pasta play indoors and also playing outside in the Under 2's playground when the weather has been good.



### CUDDLY BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

Cuddly Bears have been busy this month creating a display with the theme 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We have loved reading this book and joining in with all the actions and sounds. We are enjoying our spring activities and especially love gardening. Our plants are thriving as we water them every day. We have looked, touched and smelt grass, and have created pictures out of it. We were very excited to make our own 'thick oozy mud' by using shaving foam and brown paint.

Our next activity will involve a family display and we would love to receive photos of your children during your holiday time or taking part in family adventures.





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## News from the Rooms ...



### **FUZZY BEARS:**

**For growing bears 2 - 2½**

With the couple of days of lovely weather that we have had, Fuzzy Bears made their own swimming pool and enjoyed water play outside which included lots of splashing. We have also loved our messy play which included painting cars. We have enjoyed singing and dancing to our favourite songs.

In the next few weeks, we are going to continue with the theme of cars, and as the weather improves, we will be taking our cars outside and making our own car tracks using paint and white paper.



### **TEDDY BEARS:**

**For happy bears 2½ - 3½**

Teddies have been very busy in our construction area with the diggers. We love building! We have built our own farm and enjoyed singing 'Old McDonald Had a Farm.' Our activities have been based on an animal theme and we have enjoyed making animal masks and playing in the mud.

Our charity 'Muddy Puddle Walk' to the park was a great success and the highlight was jumping in as many muddy puddles as possible! We even found Peppa Pig and George Pig hidden in the bushes in the park.





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## News from the Rooms ...



### WISE BEARS:

For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

We have had a very busy spring! The children loved planting seeds which are growing into little sweet pea and sunflower plants to brighten up our nature garden. This fitted in well with our interest in the story, 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which captured the children's imagination. We had great fun making a bean stalk to decorate the room. Recently we enjoyed the Peppa Pig Muddy Puddle Walk which raised money for Save the Children fund. Lots of jumping in very muddy puddles! Thank you for your sponsorship.

The children are now enjoying The Ugly Duckling story and we have turned the corner into a pond area and made ducklings, a pond and a beautiful swan!

For May Day, the children have constructed a May Pole and are enjoying dancing with the ribbons. We are looking forward to more fine weather in the coming months to enable more outdoor play.

