



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Welcome to our November newsletter

Dear Parents,

What a busy few weeks we have had, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring pumpkins and the autumn leaves. Our Children in Need week went down so well - from the wonderful cake baking and sale and Teddy Bears' Picnic to our Superhero Dress-up Day and PJ Day! The children had an absolute blast but, most importantly, we raised an amazing £244.77 for Children in Need.

A huge thank you for all your efforts and donations. The collection is still ongoing so if you would like to add to this before we send it off, please pass on to the main office.

We have so much to look forward to over the next few weeks, such as our Christmas parties. We had hoped parents could attend and join in with the wonderful activities we have planned, but at this stage it is looking unlikely. So, we have planned a weeks' worth of parties the week commencing 20th December. This way all the children will be able to enjoy the Christmas party fun and meet Santa and receive their gift!

PARENTS' EVENING

Apologies for the cancellation of Parents' Evening but with the confirmed Covid cases amongst staff it did not make sense. We will be planning one for the New Year and I will let you all know once we arrange some dates.

STAFFING UPDATE

Recruitment has recently been difficult, and I know this is a national problem in all areas of businesses. I thank you for bearing with us during this difficult time and understanding the need for agency workers and your child's key worker not always being in their room. As always, the staff have been absolutely outstanding, giving it their all under the pressured circumstances.

On a more positive note, we have made some progress with recruitment! Please find below details of staff based in each room.

Bear Cubs - Ellie, Amelia, Naomi, Nicole, Tina

We have employed Nicole, who will be joining the Baby Room full time. Nicole is level 3 qualified; she has worked in nurseries for many years and has a clear passion for the under 2's. Nicole has a wealth of experience; she is thrilled and very much looking forward to starting.

Tina will be moving from the Teddy Bear room to the Bear Cubs' team. Tina has previously spent lots of time in our Bear Cubs room, and now that her youngest son is moving up to the Cuddly Bear room, it seems a good time for her to move rooms. We can't wait for such a nurturing mummy to join the team! Naomi will also be joining the Bear Cubs' team from Cuddly Bears. Naomi adores the Bear Cubs' age and can't wait to get to know all of our little Cubs.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Diary dates

DECEMBER

Day Nursery will be open on Friday 24th December from 8am until 12:50pm

JANUARY 2022

Welcoming back children on Tuesday 4th January, 2022.





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Cuddly Bears - Ellie, Shannon, Kelly, Jess, Ella

We have employed Jess as a part time member of staff in our Cuddly Bear room. Jess has been a Mum at the Day Nursery for almost four years and we are really excited that she has chosen to work with us as her first step into a childcare career. Ella will also be joining the Cuddly Bear room in January. Ella is level 3 qualified and has worked in nurseries for many years. She has a real passion for messy play and is thrilled to be joining our Cuddly Bear team!

Ellie will be overseeing the under 2's rooms (Bear Cubs and Cuddly Bears) as a short-term plan until we secure another under 2's Room Lead. Ellie originally moved from babies to Cuddly Bears and has made a huge impact on the room. However, Ellie has the knowledge skills and years of experience with babies, and she feels she isn't ready to say goodbye to the babies just yet... we are thrilled and know she will make such a positive impact on the room, team and, most importantly of all, on the children!

Fuzzy Bears - Emily, Julie-Ann, Michelle, Ellie

Ellie has recently joined the Fuzzy Bear team as an apprentice and is enjoying getting to know the children and learning all about their needs and interests.

Teddy Bears - Jasmine, Emily, Emma, Abbie

Wise Bears - Louise, Isabel, Maggie, Trudy

Louise has decided to pursue her career in teaching after really missing being in a school-based classroom. She will however stay on, working on a zero-hour contract as and when she is available. We are advertising for a pre-school room lead and hope to fill her position ready for the New Year.

Flexi staff - Pat, Jessica, Giovanna

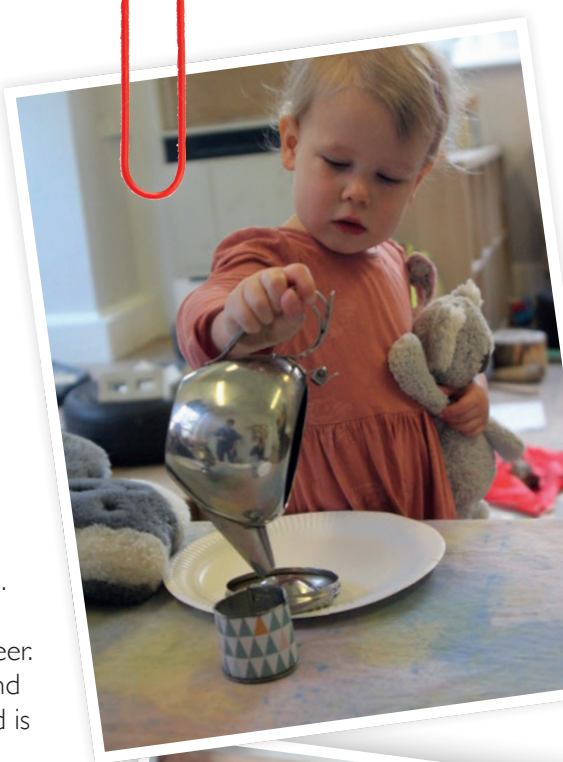
We have extended our zero hours team too... with Ruth, who many of you will recognise from previously working in the Day Nursery.

Cerys and Olivia are students from the school, who are in their second year of university. They will also be joining the zero-hours team.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The Day Nursery will be open on Friday 24th December from 8am until 12:50pm; please ensure you arrive promptly to collect your little one, so we can ensure everyone can start their Christmas celebrations. Please let us know if your child will not be attending on Christmas Eve, if this is their normal session.

We will then look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 4th January, 2022.



Best Wishes
Molly and the team...



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

COVID AMENDMENTS

Following your feedback, I have made a few changes to the Covid Policy and Procedures and hope to be able to continue with these; however, if anything changes, I will have to revert back to tighter restrictions. I of course will let you know and hope we do not have to move backwards; however, we have a clear contingency plan in place should Covid 19 cases rise within the Day Nursery.

Previously, you collected your little one on your own. Moving forward, you will be able to collect your child with someone else (mum, dad, grandparents etc.)

You are now welcome to come into your child's room for handover.

Previously your little one was not able to come back to Nursery following a temperature, until 48 hours after a negative Covid test. Moving forward, your child can return to Nursery following their negative result without having to wait another 48 hours.

Calpol will be administered at the Practitioners' discretion. As always, we only give paracetamol for teething and children should not attend Nursery if they are needing to have paracetamol before attending. If your child is teething but has a temperature, we will not be able to give them paracetamol.

If you have any queries or questions, please let me know. Of course, this is a personal choice, and you are more than welcome to continue wearing masks and not entering your child's room.





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News from the Rooms...



BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

This month, the children have been exploring different materials during sensory play: pom poms, feathers and shaving foam. They have all loved this!

We have also been supporting Children in Need and raising lots of money; they have been able to do a Teddy Bears' Picnic for which we used crushed Weetabix and placed the children's teddies inside the sensory tray.

We are also introducing the children to different animals and again set up a farmyard within the sensory tray. The children have loved hearing the different noises and have attempted some themselves too.

We set out a painting activity for "World Prematurity Day"; the children used their hands to create different marks, using purple paints.



CUDDLY BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

This month, the children have been learning about "Children in Need". We had different themed days throughout the week such as PJ Day and Spotty Day, Teddy Bears' Picnic and Cake Decorating and Fancy Dress Day.

We decorated a large Pudsey bear, exploring different materials for sticking such as crepe paper and tissue paper. We used a variety of colours and textures to create a lovely rainbow-coloured Pudsey!

We loved making our very own rice crispy cakes, taking it in turns to mix, shake and stir the ingredients, along with spooning the mixture into individual cases and learning about hot and cold with the melted chocolate.

We have also been exploring different scents through playdoh, such as parsley and mint, and mixing real flowers into the mixture.

We look forward to our Christmas celebrations this month and have already begun salt dough decorations. We can't wait for you to see what your little one has been up to! The Christmas tree will be making an appearance very soon, along with Christmas goody bags, as it is never too early.





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News from the Rooms ...

FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½



In Fuzzy Bears, we are enjoying lots of construction play - building towers and using tractors and diggers to scoop different materials.

We have also been looking at different experiments to encourage the children's curiosity in their play. We have created volcanoes and explored them whilst they erupt, as well as searching for spiders' webs in the garden to look at how unique each one is.

We have loved all the brilliant activities for Children in Need Week - making a wonderful Pudsey Bear which all the children helped to decorate with matching masks and lots of colour matching.

We have enjoyed making our own fireworks following the children's real-life experiences of seeing them a few weeks ago. Lots of the children were excited to tell us what they had seen over the weekend and we created our very own pictures using paints and marbles. Fuzzy Bears are also thoroughly enjoying Robot Reg, our phonics and music class each week! It is a great addition to our week.

We are all working towards encouraging the children to put their own coats and shoes on during the day; could we ask you all encourage this at home too? We look forward to celebrating your child's progress; if there are any other achievements at home, please do let us know!

TEDDY BEARS:

For happy bears 2½ - 3½



This week for Children in Need, we have been doing lots of Pudsey-related activities, which has led to the children showing an interest in the theme "Teddy Bears' Picnic". We have been setting up pretend picnics and all the children have brought in their own teddies too to have a picnic with! Linking in with Pudsey Bear, we have had different coloured playdough spots in our sensory tray and have done a spotty hunt in the garden for which the children had to go and find certain coloured spots which were hiding!

The children really enjoyed going over to the school cookery room to make their flapjacks to raise money for Children in Need too; they did such a great job working together as a team and taking turns.

Following the children's interests, we have also made a baby role play area and a new construction area with diggers and stones. We have also been getting messy in our dinosaur sensory tray - making green gloop for the dinosaurs to stomp around in!





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News from the Rooms...



WISE BEARS:

For curious bears

3½ - 5 years

We have had a busy couple of months in Pre-School! In October, we enjoyed celebrating Halloween. We did lots of themed activities, such as painting our own scary spiders and creating pumpkin masks. We have also shown a love for threading. We have made various beautiful necklaces and bracelets using hoops and pasta; it was a little tricky to begin with, using our fingers to thread the small objects onto the string. This month, we have delighted in all our Children in Need activities. We have been learning to paint spots carefully onto Pudsey, making sure we don't mix the colours. We had a great time wearing our pyjamas and fancy dress to pre-school. We have made the most of the last of the sunshine and have loved our outdoor fun, especially making paper boats and sailing them down our waterfall. Now we are looking forward to Christmas and can't wait to make our wooden angels (and lots more!).

