



# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

## Notes from the Day Nursery...

Dear Parents,

The countdown to Christmas has begun here at the Day Nursery and the children are very excited! The decorations have started to make an appearance and we have plenty of festive fun to look forward to.

### Oakhaven visit

Over the past month or so the babies and preschool children have been to visit and make friends with the elderly residents at Oakhaven.

The children have already formed such lovely bonds with the residents. It has been a brilliant step to encourage positive relationships and for the children to be part of their local community. The elderly are so pleased to see the children and the visits really make their week!

The language, empathy and kindness shown by the children is wonderful.

This links to the children's development through communication and language, personal social and emotional development and understanding the world. Offering the children a variety of new experiences and enhancing their social skills is so important to us, as well as valuing friendships and demonstrating kindness. With your permission, we will be opening this up to the other rooms shortly.

### Children in Need

Thank you for all your donations and efforts made throughout Children in Need week. The outfits, activities and cakes were brilliant! **Together we raised £240** which has now been sent to the charity, so thank you again!

### 30 hours funding

Please check or renew your eligibility code for January 2020 funding. The forms will be in the front office ready for you to complete with your national insurance number and eligibility code. As soon as the bursary department has the forms we will send a clarion to inform you. For more info visit [www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare)

### Staffing news

Ruth, who has been working here on a zero hours contract, will now be working 4 mornings a week in the Fuzzy Bear room from January 2020.

Congratulations to Lucy, Baby Room lead, who is expecting her second child in April 2020.

Georgia in the Wise Bear room has almost completed her level 3 in childcare and Shannon in the Bear Cubs room who has nearly completed her level 2. Well done, ladies; we are so pleased with your progress, passion and dedication to the children.



## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### DIARY DATES

#### Christmas party dates

**Bear Cubs** – Thursday 19th  
December 3-4.30pm

**Cuddly Bears** – Wednesday  
18th December 3-4.30pm

**Fuzzy Bears** – Tuesday 17th  
December 3-4.30pm

**Teddy Bears** – Thursday 19th  
December 3.30-5pm

**Wise Bears** – Friday 20th  
December 3-5pm

#### Christmas hours:

Monday 23rd 8-6

Christmas Eve 8-1

*(please ensure you collect your child by 12:50 to enable our staff to begin their festive celebrations)*

**We are open Thursday**

**2nd January 2020 as normal.**





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### Star of the month

We have had so many nominations for Star of the Month lately which is fantastic. I would like to congratulate Alice - Cuddly Bears room lead - and Georgia in Fuzzy Bear room.

*"Georgia for her positivity and understanding of the children. She has recently carried out some fantastic circle times and the children love it! Her ideas and enthusiasm are great".*

*"Alice, you are doing so well and you really take time for each child and staff member to support them."*

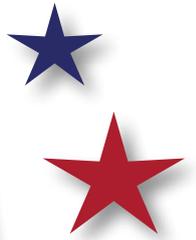
All the ladies work so hard and your feedback is hugely appreciated, so thank you and keep the comments coming. We have recently handed out parent feedback forms, so please complete them with any strengths or areas for development. This information is key for us to continuously improve our Day Nursery. Thank you.

### Events:

**Monday 2nd December** – Mr Titley - from the Prep School - will be joining Teddy Bears and Wise Bears to read stories with them.

**Friday 13th December** – Christmas Dinner for all the children and Christmas Jumper Day!

**Wednesday 11th December 4pm** – the wonderful Dani, who delivers Babel Babies, is moving to America in January. We would like to invite parents to join us for a singalong, so you can see what your child has learnt over the past few months. We will of course continue Babel Babies with Cate, the founder, in the New Year.



*Best Wishes  
Mollie and the team...*



### Reminder

Please ensure you are here to collect your child before 6pm.

### Ways to follow us

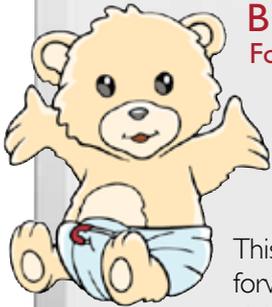
For further insight into life at Berkhamstead Day Nursery - please follow us at @BerkyDNChelt (Twitter) and at the School - @BerkyCheltenham (Twitter) berkhamstead\_school (Instagram)



# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



## News from the Rooms...



### BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

We would like to welcome all the new babies who have recently started with us here at the Day Nursery.

This month we have been looking forward to the Christmas season and celebrating it with creative Christmas crafts.

We are also looking forward to our Christmas Party which is on Wednesday 19th December 3 – 4:30pm. Please come along and join our fun! We will have mark making activities, Christmas biscuit decorating, playdough and much more.

As your little ones have been settling we have focused on the individual routines of each child. We have created a board for “Who is here today?” – the children are supported to recognise their photo and place it on the board.

We have also adapted our environment to create quieter, cosy areas which use more natural resources for the children to explore. We are really seeing the benefit of the curiosity approach within the room, allowing children to explore, create and use their own ideas to think critically through their play. In the New Year we look forward to lots of sensory-themed play!



### CUDDLY BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

In the Cuddly Bears room we have been cooking which the children have really enjoyed. Some of our creations have been cheese straws and Angel Delight!

We have also been focusing on signing and the children have really taken this on board. The signs we are learning and focusing on are “please”, “thank you”, “finished” and “more”.

With Christmas almost here, we are preparing for creative Christmas activities. The children have made some lovely “snowy” pictures and we are also enjoying Christmas stories, especially “The Farmyard Tales Christmas flap book”.





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## News from the Rooms ...



### **FUZZY BEARS:**

**For growing bears 2 - 2½**

In Fuzzy Bears, our children have been enjoying our new sensory tray, which we have been adapting and adding to based on the children's interests. They have created their own farm using farm animals and exploring using cereals - for example Weetabix - to make straw bales and other props. Sand, stones and roads have been created with a variety of open-ended resources, using cars to create tracks. We currently have a winter wonderland with flour, fake snow, animals and mountains. We have been building using foam blocks, screws and hammers to construct our own inventions.

We have also been creating wonderful Christmas crafts, such as painting our own reindeers, snowmen, gingerbread men and twinkly stars.

We have enjoyed mixing ingredients to make "play dough". The children have been mixing, pouring and squeezing the ingredients, choosing a variety of ingredients to add such as herbs, spices and colourings.



### **TEDDY BEARS:**

**For happy bears 2½ - 3½**

Over the past few weeks we have been creating our Christmassy crafts ready for the best time of the year! We have been making Christmas folders, cards and creations using different stamps, materials and, of course, glitter and sequins.

We have also been exploring loose parts, natural resources and open ended resources, fitting in with the curiosity approach. This has had a huge impact on the children encouraging them to share, use their own ideas and initiative and be mutually respectful of each other's ideas. Through creating their own ideas such as cars and planes from cardboard boxes, this has allowed them to grow, explore and use their imagination.

We have also enjoyed exploring vehicles, painting and creating marks using the cars and trains. This has encouraged the children to express themselves freely and to use different mark-marking techniques.





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## News from the Rooms...



### WISE BEARS:

For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

We are all becoming very excited about Christmas. The children have told us how Christmas means snow, snowmen, Santa coming down our chimney to give us presents and Christmas trees.

We have been creating lots of arts and crafts alongside these ideas to make our Christmas display.

We love playing with cars and trains and following the tracks the children have created using open-ended resources.

We have also enjoyed the role play activities and the children have just made their own hospital in the Pre-School room. We have been looking after our poorly babies and bandaging them up.

We have been learning lots of new words and songs in French. The most recent song we have learnt is "Head, shoulders, knees and toes". This weekly French session is delivered by the language teacher from the school, Madame McCreanor, and we love having her at the Day Nursery!

The children also visit the school every Wednesday for their assembly with Early Years at 9am. We discuss the importance of the values from our values tree (displayed on the main hallway) - these are kindness, perseverance, honesty, trust and politeness. Well done to everyone who has received a leaf for one of these so far; we look forward to handing more out each week.

Last week, Hudson received his first values leaf for Perseverance - *"For trying really hard and joining in at French"*.

This week, Lincoln B has received one for Kindness - *"For always being kind to his friends"*.

Rory also received one for Perseverance - *"For coming into preschool without becoming upset"*.

