



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our February newsletter

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank you all for your encouraging and supportive comments following the announcement of my appointment as Day Nursery Manager. I feel thoroughly supported by you all, and will continue to work hard to provide the best possible care for all the children here at Berkhamstead Day Nursery.

I hope you and your little ones have had a ball in all the recent snow! We had plenty of fun here at the Day Nursery with our snow ball fights and sledging! We even brought the snow indoors, building our own snowmen, and watching the snow melt. All the children had a wonderful time... (and so did the staff!)

With Easter fast approaching we will be taking delivery of an incubator of eggs. Once they hatch, we will all be looking after them and tending to their daily needs!

Staffing Update

Congratulations to Lucy Peens on her promotion to Senior Deputy Manager and Katie Hawkes to Deputy Manager. Lucy - who has been here for four years and Katie three years - both know the children and staff very well, and have a thorough understanding of how the Day Nursery runs. They are both excited about their new roles, and filled with enthusiasm about the development of the Day Nursery. Their roles as room leads will remain the same. Hannah from the office has now moved over to the School bursary team, so Anna will be joining us to job share with Alison in the office. Please pop in to say hello.

Lastly, we have Alice joining us as a full time nursery practitioner. She will be joining either Fuzzy Bears or Cuddly Bears - we will decide once she has settled in.

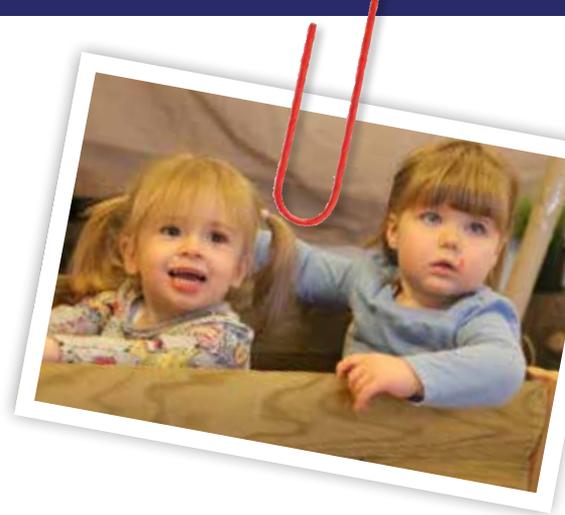
Polite Reminder

Could we please remind you to arrive at least 5 minutes before the end of your child's session - 12.55pm for the morning session and 5.55pm for the afternoon session. This is to ensure that the children have left the premises by the end of the session 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.





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Notes from the Day Nursery... *continued*

School links

We benefit greatly from our association with Berkhamstead School, and are constantly striving to further links. Mrs Main - Head of the School Kindergarten - has invited the Wise Bears over to play every other week, and the children are really enjoying this! We also use the School's gym, cookery room, playground and MUGA.

Wise Bears join the School's Early Year's assembly once a week where they learn important Berky values such as honesty and kindness. Assembly offers an opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements, and they are rewarded with 'value leaves'. (See Mrs Roddy-Watt's report on next page.)

Thank you to the marketing department who have been working hard to provide us with lovely displays throughout the Nursery! They are currently working on some rather super dining room displays.

Stars of the Month

Thank you for your nominations for Star of the Month; the feedback is very valuable, so do please keep voting. I would like to congratulate Georgia from the Wise Bears' room and Shannon H from the Bear Cubs' room for receiving the most votes this month.

Georgia has settled in extremely well, and is always so happy, friendly and positive. She has had plenty to learn in the Wise Bear room, and impressively, at the same time, she has been studying for her childcare qualification. She is doing a fabulous job!

Shannon's confidence has grown over the past few weeks and this has been displayed in her practice. We are so happy with her progress, she is a pleasure to work with. Thank you both for all your hard work.



*Best Wishes
Mollie and the team...*





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Notes from the Day Nursery... continued

REPORT FROM MRS RODDY-WATTS Head of Early Years, Berkhamstead School

Wise Bears visit the School's Early Years department on Wednesdays for assembly. It is wonderful to all come together to celebrate 'Living our Values'. At Berky we believe that our values are important to everybody in our community, and so it is very positive that the Day Nursery has adopted the values of our Early Years Values Tree, which are Perseverance, Honesty, Politeness, Trust and Kindness. We teach children a range of values which help them to work with one another co-operatively and with tolerance and respect. They learn the importance of friendship and unity, to approach life with positivity and hope and to show empathy and acceptance towards others. These values make our community happy and harmonious, a fun place where children feel secure. Leaves are awarded in assembly to children who have been recognised for 'living our values' each week. During the assembly we discuss what values relate to the story which has been read to them.

During assembly one day, the Wise Bears invited me to spend some time with them playing, and to have lunch too! When I arrived, the eager children wanted to share a story with me, and they all joined in with 'Bonkers about Beetroot'. They are very proud of their learning environment and couldn't wait to show me all the engaging activities the staff plan for them. I was told if I went to play with the water, I would need to wear an apron which I duly did! The children were constructively engaged, and staff effectively facilitated and challenged them. I had a wonderful time and it was lovely to see and feel the Berky ethos extended to the Day Nursery. I cannot wait to pay another visit!

BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Come and meet our Headmaster, Mr Richard Cross, our teachers and pupils and get a taste of the special 'Berky' way of life. You will be guided around the school by our Year 5 and 6 pupils and will experience our friendly and nurturing environment. You will also see evidence of our inspiring teaching and will learn just how we can encourage your child to shine with our wealth of opportunities.

You are warmly invited to our Open Morning on Saturday 9th March from 9.30am - 11.30am. If you can't make it, please telephone to make an appointment to view the School on an alternative day on 01242 523263.

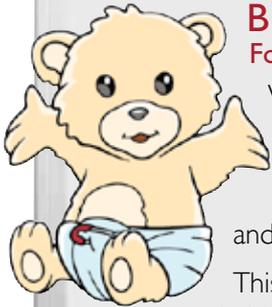




BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms...



BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

We would like to welcome all the new babies that have joined the Bear Cubs - all the staff are looking forward to watching you grow and develop!

This month during 'gather time', the babies all enjoyed the wonderful book,

'We are Going on a Bear Hunt'. Inspired by their interest in the story, we have made them a polar bear sensory tray, with white material and other white resources, as well as little polar bears. We have also used the polar bears to make marks with paint, and the staff have encouraged the children to notice these marks. We had great fun when we went on our very own polar bear hunt outside in the garden, using key words from the story to engage the children.

We are currently focusing on Valentine's Day, and we have a week planned with activities such as biscuit making and card decorating. We will have red jelly and red play dough in our red-themed sensory tray. We hope your little ones have lots of fun!

We have also been working hard to ensure that when the babies move on to the Cuddly Bear room, the transition is as smooth as possible. Cuddly Bears have now started to join us for lunch, so that our Bear Cubs begin to recognise adults from the next room - the aim is for them to build bonds with the Cuddly Bear staff. Babies have also starting visiting the Cuddly Bear room for plays, stories and singing time.

On a more practical note, we would be grateful for old newspapers, please.



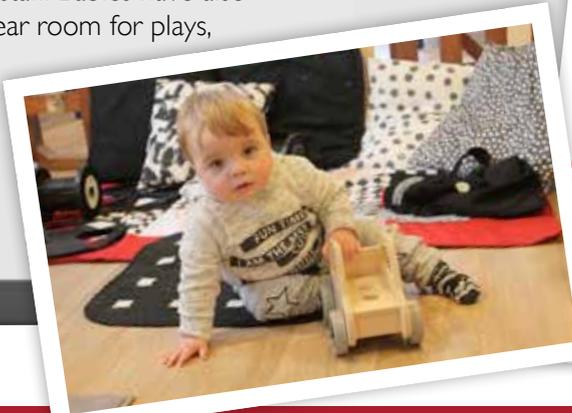
CUDDLIES BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

Cuddly Bears have loved playing with bouncy balls recently, and we have planned plenty of ball-themed activities! They have enjoyed making their own balls using play dough and snow, and we have also encouraged them to work together making their play dough balls.

The home corner continues to be a favourite spot for the Cuddly Bears. This month they have loved pretending to cook, and this role play has helped create bonds between the children. They have been making marks, painting with real and pretend food. This has helped the children's motor skills development.

We have put together a display to help parents' understanding of the 'Curiosity Approach' - please feel free to come in and have a look!





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News from the Rooms ...



FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½

The children in the Fuzzy Bear room have been fascinated by pirates and pirate ships. The corner of the room has become a pirate ship and island, and the children have loved role playing and using their imaginations in this fun area.

At 'gather time' we have explored books about pirates, furthering the children's understanding of the topic, engaging their imagination, and fuelling their role play.

All the children had a wonderful time in the recent snow, and enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year!

TEDDY BEARS:

For happy bears 2½ - 3½

We have been learning all about Winter, and have been making forest cobwebs, penguins and polar bears with a variety of creative resources. We have also created sensory activities including ice and snow play. Making foot prints in the snow was great fun! We have listened to snowy stories including 'Owl Babies', which has helped to extend the children's knowledge and understanding of this topic.

Dinosaur-themed activities have also interested the children, and we are going to build on this interest and are busy planning exciting new activities and adventures for them.





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News from the Rooms...



WISE BEARS:

For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

We have been learning about healthy eating and the impact this has on our bodies, and have made healthy and unhealthy food plates. Physical education lessons enabled us to explore the changes to our body, such as heart rate increase, and we have learnt about muscles and the importance of exercise.

This interesting theme was inspired when one of the children brought in a book entitled 'Our Bodies' during show and tell.

The children enjoyed their trip to the library and found plenty of good books. We have also found lots of books relating to Chinese New Year and enjoyed celebrating it with lots of colourful activities and different food choices to try. We read about the festival at gather time to create even more understanding and awareness.

Pre-School are going to be looking after some chicks at the beginning of March. They will learn about their development, growth and how to care for them - we cannot wait!

