



# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

## Notes from the Day Nursery...

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the May newsletter! We hope you all enjoyed the beautiful weather, hopefully it will continue for us! If so, please can you provide a sun hat and sun cream, clearly labelled with your child's name.

We have had a busy past couple of months - Thank you to everyone who attended our Easter Egg hunt, it was great to see so many of you there. Wise Bears enjoyed looking after nine chicks, watching them hatch and grow with their fluffy yellow feathers, learning about the needs and life cycle of the chicks.

The Mother's Day event was a great success too, with many of you attending and meeting other parents. Of course we have Father's Day coming up and thought it would be a nice idea to hand out Bacon Butties to all the brilliant Daddies. This will be Thursday 13th June from 8:15am.

### STAFFING UPDATE

Most of you will remember Mary, who left having had her third baby boy. We are so pleased to say she will be rejoining the team and working alongside Alison in the office from June.

We have employed Emily, who previously worked as the baby room lead in a nursery in Bristol. Emily will be experiencing all the age groups before we assign her a room, and will join around the middle of May.

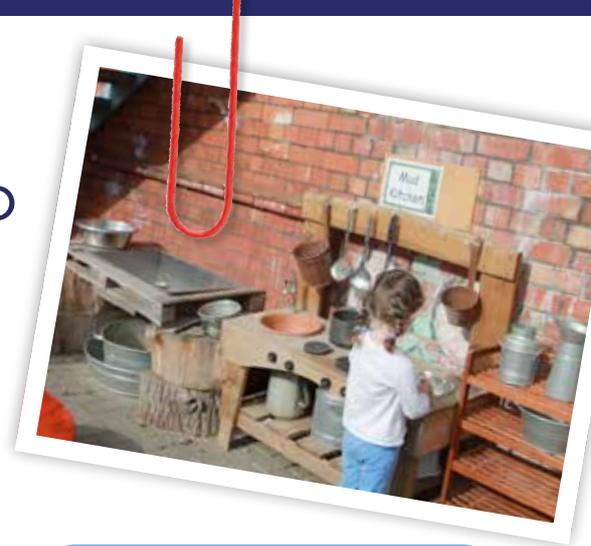
Maggi has also joined the team, as a flexi member of staff, she has previous experience of managing a playgroup and supporting other settings. We look forward to you all meeting Maggi and Emily over the next few weeks.

Congratulations to Giovanna in our baby room who is expecting her first child, a boy. She will be going on maternity leave in July.

### NATURE GARDEN

Our maintenance team have been working extremely hard on the Nature Garden over the past few weeks and it looks amazing! The children now have a 'construction area' including a gravel pit, mark-making, wendy house, a mud kitchen with a table and seats, a pond to watch the wildlife, a small world area with bark, a den area and their very own digging area to plant and look after herbs and flowers.

We are so pleased and know the children will gain so much knowledge, creative skills and understanding of the world through our wonderful Nature Garden. Thank you to Simon and Simon!



### MAY NEWSLETTER





# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

## Notes from the Day Nursery... *continued*



### BABEL BABIES

We are still enjoying learning languages and exploring the world with Babel Babies on Wednesday mornings. Cate, the Babel Babies founder, has launched a new podcast called The Language Revolution Podcast. Her first guest is neuroscientist Thomas Bak, and they discuss HOW we learn languages in Episode 1, WHEN is the best age to learn in Episode 2, and solutions for the UK languages crisis in Episode 3. You can listen on all podcast providers, including iTunes, and on the website: [www.thelanguagerevolution.co.uk](http://www.thelanguagerevolution.co.uk)

We are planning an evening event with Cate soon where parents can come and ask any questions you may have about supporting your children's language development.

### STAR OF THE MONTH

We have had so many nominations for Star of the Month lately which is fantastic! I would like to congratulate Jasmine, Emma and Lucy. All of whom received some lovely feedback and have each won "Star of the Month" over the last three months.

*"Emma always gives such detailed feedback with valuable and constructive suggestions."*

*"Jasmine - the staff and children love you. Thank you for your activities, routines and ideas for the children!"*

*"Lucy for taking on the role of Deputy Manager on so well. Her kindness and positive energy is invaluable".*

A huge well done to you all, and please, parents, keep the nominations coming!

### 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 in a feedback slip.

Each room has a "Parent Contribution Board" outside their room. Please feel free to add any notes to this if you would like to share any of your child's interests or achievements, as we would love to help celebrate them.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 15th May** - "Peppa Pig Muddy Puddle Walk" to raise money for Save the Children. Please bring Wellies and a rainsuit! Wise Bears and Teddy Bears will be taking part in this but feel free to make a donation.

**Thursday 13th June** - Bacon Butties for Father's Day.

### Polite reminder...

We are sorry, but we currently do not have the space to store pushchairs or car seats. It is, however, a service we are hoping to offer in the future, but for now, please take your pushchairs with you.

*Best Wishes  
Mollie and the team...*



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

JOIN  
US FOR  
**COFFEE  
CAKE &  
A CHAT**



## THE BERKY EXPERIENCE

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 9-11 AM

BRING YOUR CHILD  
TO SAMPLE OUR INSPIRING  
KINDERGARDEN & RECEPTION

Come and get a taste of the Berky Early Years department. It's your chance to meet our Head Richard Cross, teachers and pupils, and have an informal insight into Berky life. Join us for a coffee and a chat, and see for yourself what our Kindergarten and Reception can offer your child.

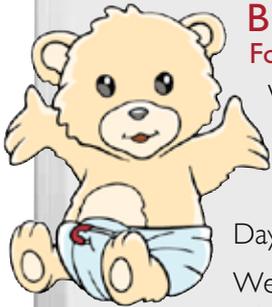




# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



## News from the Rooms...



### BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

We would like to welcome all the new little ones. We are excited about watching you grow, learn and develop here at Berkhamstead Day Nursery.

We have recently enjoyed Easter crafts and exploring a variety of materials such as feathers and other natural resources. The children have been exploring our new treasure baskets with items such as sponges, wooden spoons and mirrors.

During the wonderful weather, the babies used the Under 2's garden to explore their outdoor environment. Inspired by this, we have brought the outside in, and used flowers to paint with and in our sensory trays.

Over the next couple of months we will be looking forward to the Queen's Birthday and Father's Day!



### CUDDLY BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

In the Cuddly Bear room we have been focusing on exploring our senses. The children looked at, and explored various fruit and vegetables and felt the different textures. They were all keen to taste new fruits and vegetables, also creating lovely paintings with them. Messy play has been great fun - jelly play and scented teabags in water is brilliant!. Playing with porridge oats has also been fun for the little ones, and they have gained new experiences, and their language skills have been encouraged.

We have also introduced a more natural way to paint and create marks, by using natural resources around us such as flowers and sticks.

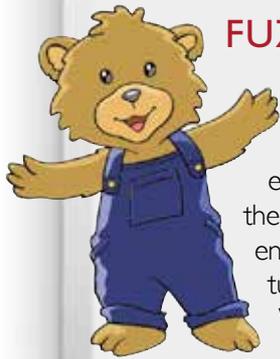




# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



## News from the Rooms ...



### **FUZZY BEARS:**

**For growing bears 2 - 2½**

We have recently changed the Fuzzy Bear room around. They especially love the construction den at the moment. The children have especially enjoyed creating their own car track using tubes, and pushing the cars down them.

We have noticed that the children have learnt to focus for longer periods and create more freely.

The home corner has also been a great success and the children have used real life objects such as utensils, pasta and rice to make Sian, Jazz and Ceilidh 'dinner.' We have observed lots of brilliant language skills in the kitchen and will continue to encourage this throughout their play.

We have also loved creating marks and beautiful pictures using paint. They are encouraged to choose their own colours and mark making tool, which promotes independence and choice. This has worked well and the children have made lovely pictures for you to take home.



### **TEDDY BEARS:**

**For happy bears 2½ - 3½**

The children in the Teddy Bear room have been fascinated by using "loose parts" hidden in playdough. Loose parts have included rings, corks, shells and bottle tops. The children are able to make marks in a variety of ways with these items, which encourages choice, independence and creative thinking.

The children have also enjoyed making marks with paint. We provide a wide range of materials and resources for the children to explore, including cotton wool, flowers, stones, twigs and shapes. The natural resources are popular as the children recognise them from the outside world.

Another interest has been our new dinosaur exploration area. The children have been fascinated with the natural materials and the dinosaurs, and imaginations have been stretched.





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## News from the Rooms...



### **WISE BEARS:** For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

The children have enjoyed learning about and celebrating Easter. We have made Easter nests, cards with a variety of materials and we especially enjoyed finding clues in the Easter Egg hunt!

One of the interests of the Wise Bears children is animals. The children have been fascinated with the frogs, fish and bugs in our Nature Garden. They have also enjoyed the construction area in the garden, allowing them freedom to explore and create with natural materials.

We have created a "family board" to display family photos and show links and differences between our families, and this has opened up lots of conversations between the children, extending their experiences and language skills.

One of our focuses is patterns, so the children will be exploring patterns and sequences and creating their own.

Parent involvement, as always, is very important to us. An idea to extend this further is to have 'curiosity packs' this will be an activity you can take home to explore with your little one. These will be simple activities such as threading, matching, exploring nature with magnified glasses and exploring magnets.

