



## BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

# Notes from the Day Nursery...

### Welcome to our November newsletter

Brace yourselves, it's already that time of year! There is an exciting buzz all around the Day Nursery as the children and staff get ready for the festive season. The children are very busy making lots of decorations and Christmas treats. I am also thrilled to inform you that the Wise Bears will be performing their first nativity, which as both a Manager and a Mum, I cannot wait to see! All the Christmas dates will feature in the Dates for the Diary section of this newsletter, so be sure to note them all down so you don't miss anything.

### Children in Need

Children in Need week was a great success. The children loved taking part in all the activities and we raised a grand total of £172.06! I would like to thank everyone who took part and donated. Children's charities are close to our heart so it's fantastic that we can do our bit to help.

### Pre-School Parents

If your child is due to start school in September 2019, you should by now have received your letter from the County Council regarding the school application process. If you have not received this you will need to contact the GCC. You can email them on [school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### Bear Cubs and Cuddly Bears

As a result of parent feedback, and having had two children make the transition myself, we know the move from the Bear Cubs' room to the Cuddly Bears' room feels like a big step. So Lucy, Maria and the rest of the team have come up with some great ideas to prepare children (and parents!) for the move. Often one of the concerns of parents is the move from sleeping in a cot to sleeping on the mats. To ease this transition, the children due to move up will now join Cuddly Bears for their nap before they move rooms. This will mean they will be used to sleeping on mats even before they make the move. The two rooms will also be working a lot more closely in terms of the teams swapping around and children going through to the next room for a play with their key person. We have also decided to change where the Cuddly Bears eat to give them more space and to also help ease the transition. The Cuddly Bears will eat in the large end of the Bear Cub room from now on. The other big change when children move up to the Cuddly Bears is the trip to twice daily outing to the main garden. The Bear Cub team are going to start taking the older babies outside with the Cuddly Bear team so they can interact with the older children and get used to the outdoor area.

### Star of the Month

We have had so many nominations for Star of the Month lately which is fantastic. I would like to congratulate Louise, Emily and Becky. All of which received some lovely feedback and have each won Star of the Month over the last three months.



### NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Diary dates...

**Pre-School Oakhaven  
Christmas Carol Singing  
3rd December 2.30 pm**

**Pre-School Nativity Monday  
17th December 9.30 am**

**Babel Babies Christmas  
Carols from around the  
World - Wednesday 19th  
December 4pm**

### Christmas Party Dates

- **Bear Cubs & Cuddly Bears  
Wednesday 12th December**
- **Fuzzy Bears  
Tuesday 11th December**
- **Teddy Bears  
Thursday 13th December**
- **Wise Bears  
Monday 10th December**





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## Notes from the Day Nursery... continued

*"I would like to nominate Emily from the Teddy Bear Room. She's always really friendly and enthusiastic and really captures what my son is interested in"*

*"Thank you Becky for all your help, you look after all the children so well and you really are a star!"*

*"Louise is so bubbly and enthusiastic, she always has a smile on her face in the morning"*

### **New Chapter**

As I am sure many of you now know, this will sadly be my last newsletter as Day Nursery Manager. To step down as Manager has been an extremely hard decision. I feel so passionately about Berkhamstead Day Nursery and have loved being part of its journey. I have seen the Nursery grow from the very first day when we opened with just six children, into the thriving and wonderful Day Nursery it is today. I am so pleased that I will still be part of the Day Nursery team but I just feel for the time being I need to dedicate more time to my young family. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and words of encouragement over the years. The families of Berkhamstead Day Nursery children play such a valued role at the Nursery. It has been lovely to get to know you all and see so many of you at the various events we have hosted. I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life, and working more closely with the children again. This is where my love of childcare started.

### **Staffing News**

Hannah from the office will be moving over to a role within the accounts department at the School. Hannah will be greatly missed at the Day Nursery but we are pleased she will remain part of the Berkhamstead community and wish her all the best in her new, exciting role.

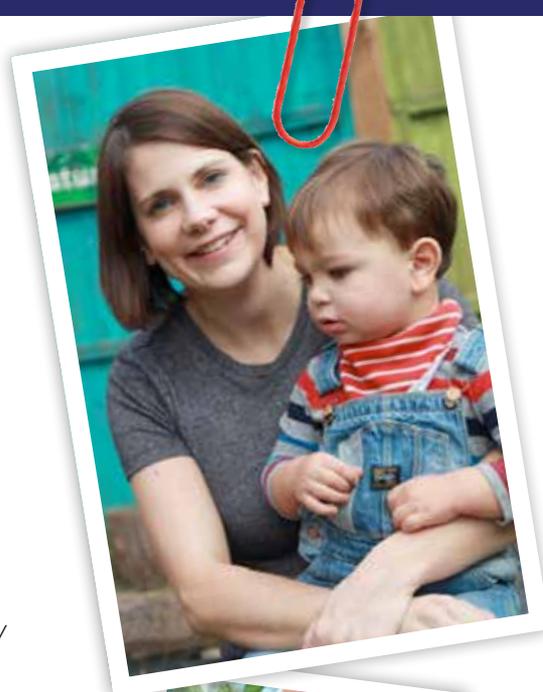
Molly from the Fuzzy Bears will sadly be leaving us at Christmas time and Louise from Bear Cubs is also moving on to another nursery where she will be taking on a supervisory role. I would like to wish them both well in their new positions.

Becky from Cuddly Bears will be moving to the Teddy Bear team in the New Year as the Room Lead. Congratulations to Becky on this well deserved promotion.

I would like to welcome our new apprentice, Shannon. Shannon is starting her career in childcare with us and will be spending time in each of the age groups to build up her experience and knowledge. She has already settled well into the Bear Cubs' room and is enjoying getting to know all the babies and their routines.

### **Christmas Closure**

Just a reminder that we will close for the Christmas break on Monday 24th December at 1pm. We will then not return until 2nd January 2019. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

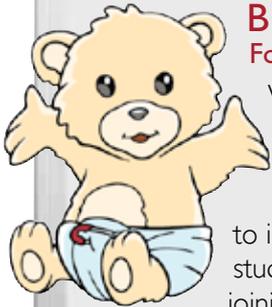


*Best Wishes  
Smily and the team...*



# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

## News from the Rooms...



### **BEAR CUBS:**

**For baby bears from 3 - 18 months**

We would like to say a huge welcome to all of the little ones who have recently joined the Bear Cub Room. We would also like to introduce Shannon, our wonderful student, who has settled in well since joining us at the start of November.

She has developed great bonds with the children already.

The Bears Cubs have been extremely interested in exploring the fantastic Sensory Room. They have also enjoyed sensory activities with shaving foam and baby lotion in our own room. We have created magical lighting in the classroom with fairy lights and disco balls - the babies have all enjoyed watching the lights and dancing underneath them! We have also been celebrating the festival of Diwali with bonfire paintings and lantern making.

We are currently planning lots of lovely Christmas activities for the babies over the next month.

We have already been working on our Goodie Bags, ready to hand out to parents at our Christmas Party. We hope to see you all there.



### **CUDDLY BEARS:**

**For toddler bears 18 - 24 months**

This month we have enjoyed making some wonderful firework pictures. The children explored lots of different painting techniques during the process of creating their masterpieces.

The children also enjoyed taking part in our Children in Need week. Activities included dressing up in pyjamas, baking and selling yummy cakes as well as a 'spotty day'. We also enjoyed having a Children in Need Party with singing, face painting & balloons- lots of fun was had by all! Christmas crafts are now keeping us all very busy!





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## News from the Rooms ...



### **FUZZY BEARS:**

**For growing bears 2 - 2½**

Lots of the Fuzzy Bear children are interested in *The Gruffalo* and so we have enjoyed reading the story and talking about the book together. They have also had lots of fun dressing up as builders and we went for a hunt around the Day Nursery looking for hammers, nails, screws and screwdrivers.

Recently, we have been doing a few cooking activities. The children have made some yummy jelly, decorated some biscuits, and made some Pepper Pig cupcakes to sell for Children in Need.

Inspired by our cooking activities, the children have enjoyed role play baking in their home corner. They have shown an increased vocabulary based on their experiences, talking about 'cooking cakes' and 'making dinner' while exploring Play-Doh.



### **TEDDY BEARS:**

**For happy bears 2½ - 3½**

The Teddy Bears have enjoyed learning about fireworks and have been creating activities based on their experiences. Examples of this included using cardboard tubes, straws and forks for creating beautiful firework effects.

The children loved our activities for Children in Need- they dressed up in pyjamas, had a 'Bake Off', and wore spotty clothes.

In the Teddy Bear Room we are introducing a range of different festivals. The children have explored Diwali and made some pictures to celebrate the 'Festival of Light'. They are currently learning about Thanksgiving and are starting to make some Christmas crafts, ready for next month.





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## News from the Rooms...



### WISE BEARS:

For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

This month the Wise Bears have been having pirate adventures! They have made maps, hunted for treasure, played with pirate ships and even walked the plank, "Ammmm!".

We have been discussing the importance of road safety and explored what the children already know about traffic lights, crossing roads and much more. They had fun making a big road with crossings, cars and little people.

The Wise Bears have been practising their mark making using different textures and materials, including glittery gloop, chalks and sand.

Having been so good all year, the children have been writing letters to Father Christmas. We have been making Christmas crafts- exploring mixed textures and colours in creative ways. We are looking forward to our Christmas party and, of course, our Pre-School Nativity!

