



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery...

Welcome to our September newsletter

I can't quite believe that we are in September and are saying goodbye to all our school leavers. We are so proud of each and every one of them and would like to wish them all the best of luck in their new schools.

We have been very busy over the summer months. The Summer Fete was a great success and we would like to thank all of you that came along to support the Day Nursery. The Teddy Bears' picnic also went down very well: both events provided a great opportunity for parents to come along and join in the fun!

Lots of autumn activities have been on the agenda this month. Walks to find crunchy leaves and shiny conkers have been enjoyed by even our youngest age groups. You'll start to see all the lovely art work, photos and model hedgehogs popping up around the Nursery soon!

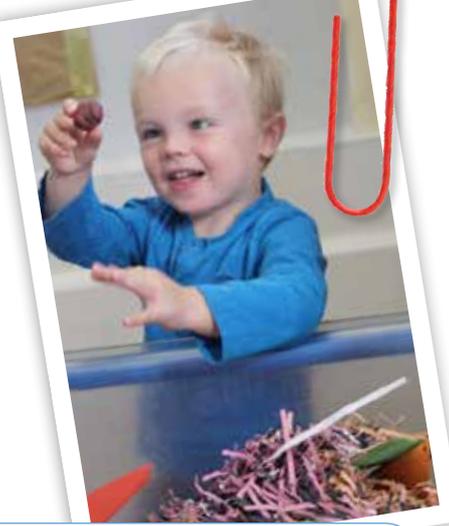
Oakhaven Harvest Festival

The Wise Bears have visited our local residential care home and sang beautifully for the residents. This is a lovely opportunity for the younger and older generations to be around one another. It's always a really special trip and so nice to see the joy on the residents' faces when they see the children and hear them sing. We have already planned our Christmas Carol visit, which will be Monday 3rd December.

The Curiosity Approach

The Curiosity Approach is a modern day Early Years method which blends together elements from Montessori, Reggio Steiner and Te Whariki pedagogies. It is all about instilling a sense of awe and wonder in children and we think this what childhood should be all about.

You may have noticed the changes in the rooms as we slowly move away from plastic toys in favour of real and natural resources. The idea behind using these types of resources, stems from children's natural curiosity and desire to explore objects and work out what they can do with them. A plastic garage can only be used in one way, but wooden blocks, planks and cardboard tubes can become so many different things. The only limitations with 'curious resources' are the children's imaginations themselves - possibilities are therefore endless! Using real and natural resources also teaches children about the value of objects and looking after things. A real china tea cup will break as opposed to a plastic one which children can mistreat as it's pretty indestructible. We have already noticed a positive difference in the children's level of engagement and learning since introducing elements of the Curiosity Approach; we are very excited to see where the journey takes us.



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Diary dates...

Parents' Evening

Will be held on **Tuesday 30th October from 6-8 pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to catch up with your child's key person or buddy to discuss your child's learning, development and next steps. Each room has their appointment sheets on the door. Appointments are in 10 minute slots and we would appreciate your prompt arrival so that the team can stay on schedule as best they can.

Grandparents' Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to invite our children's Grandparents in for a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer. Parents are also welcome to join in, and any other family members that may like to attend. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available in the dining room from **9.30-11 am on Friday 26th October**. Any children that attends that day will come and spend some time with their Grandparents, so please do let us know if you or a family member would like to attend.

Also if anyone would like to put their baking skills into practice and make some cakes for the event, we would so grateful!

Children in Need Week 12th-16th November

There will be lots of fun activities planned for this week, including the usual fancy dress in order to raise money for Children in Need. We will keep you posted.



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

Notes from the Day Nursery... *continued*

Berkhampstead Day Nursery App

We have exciting news! The Berkhampstead Day Nursery App is here and can provide you with diary dates, information and notifications of events tailored to your child's particular room. You can download this now from the Apple App Store or the Google/Android Play Store. You will need to self-register with Berkhampstead Day Nursery and then amend your settings (including notifications) to receive messages and informations from us. This will be a great way for us to communicate with you.

Star of the Month

A big congratulations to the baby team who have won 'Star of the Month' three months in a row. Congratulations to Shannon who was our July Star of the month and to Giovanna who was our August star of the month. The September star of the month goes to Louise.

The whole team have worked really hard to settle in all their new babies, under the guidance of Lucy who has returned from maternity leave. It's lovely that their dedication has been recognised. It's definitely not an easy job but they always have a smile on their faces and give the babies such a great start to Nursery life!

Lots of staff received nominations this month. All the comments and feedback are read by the staff so please do keep nominating as it's such a great way for the team to feel valued and appreciated for all their hard work.

Values Tree Awards

We are pleased to announce the Values Tree awards that were presented over the summer. Evelyn B from Teddy Bears and Leo A from Fuzzy Bears both received special awards for having such lovely manners and always being so polite. Jake M from Wise Bears also received a special award for making so much progress with us in such a short space of time. Jake has now gone on to big school so we would like to wish him all the best, we know he'll do very well.

Staffing Update

Sadly Martyna from Wise Bears will be leaving us this month to start a university course so we would like to wish her well with her future plans.

We would like to welcome Selina and Amy to the team. Selina and Amy will be joining us on a flexible basis so will therefore work across the age groups.

We are very pleased to announce that Georgia will be joining the team. Georgia is an enthusiastic, bubbly nursery practitioner and she is going to be training to complete her level 3 in childcare with us. Georgia already has nursery experience and is keen to learn and gain her qualification.

We are also very pleased to welcome Lucy back to the team. Lucy has returned after having her baby boy Nathan. Lucy has come back full of great ideas and can now fully empathise with parents leaving their babies in the care of others for the first time.



*Best Wishes
Smiley and the team...*



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

News from Berkhamstead School

OPEN DAY

Come and meet our Headmaster, Mr Richard Cross, 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 see evidence of our inspiring teaching and will learn just how we can encourage your child to shine with our wealth of opportunities.

Saturday 13th October 9.30-11.30





BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



News from the Rooms...



BEAR CUBS:

For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

This month the Bear Cubs have been focusing on sensory play. We have taken the children down to the sensory room to explore the lights, shapes and textures. We have also been focusing on circle time, encouraging each child to move to a familiar beat. We have furthered this by reading lots of stories and encouraging children to engage by pointing at the pictures.

Bear Cubs have been making the most of the autumn weather by going outside and collecting leaves and conkers to paint with.

We are also making a family book to look through during circle time. Please could you send us your family photos if you haven't done so already.

We would like to say goodbye to all the children moving up to the Cuddly Bear room this month.



CUDDLY BEARS:

For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

This month the Cuddly Bears have started to explore the autumn environment. They love collecting conkers in the garden and trying different activities with leaves such as gluing them to paper to create natural art, or using them as stamps with paint to create printing artwork.

The children have also enjoyed lots of sensory activities. One of their favourites is exploring the texture of water beads by squeezing them.

The Cuddly Bears have also been colouring with felt tips. This allows them to practice holding pens to make marks and they really enjoy discovering all the different colours.





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News from the Rooms ...



FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½

We have been inspired by the children's interests, and as a few of them have been to aquariums and to the beach over the summer, we have been focusing on lots of sand and water play. The children have enjoyed exploring small world beaches. We also explored the pond in the nature garden to find the fish in amongst the pond weed.

The Fuzzy Bears have loved exploring different types of play with marbles. Marble runs have been particularly fun.

We have enjoyed collecting conkers from the garden, and rolling them down slopes to see whose is the fastest, and dipping them in paint to create imaginative artwork.

We are creating a family display so please can you send in photos of family, pets and anyone/ anything that is special to your child, so they can show their friends.



TEDDY BEARS:

For happy bears 2½ - 3½

The Teddy Bears have been learning all about the autumn too. We have been on an autumn treasure hunt to find sticks, conkers and leaves and used these to create some lovely seasonal art work.

We have also been looking at transport as lots of the children have an interest in this at the moment. The children have been talking about different modes of transport they have been on, and we have created some wonderful role plays pretending to ride on a bus or train.





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News from the Rooms...



WISE BEARS:

For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

Following the children's interests and parents' contributions, we have been learning all about pirates, dinosaurs, construction work and rock pools.

We have made our very own pirate island, and created our own maps to find treasure in the garden.

The children really enjoyed making boats to sail on the water, and were interested to discover whether they sink or float and why.

We have also made a dinosaur nest with frozen dinosaur eggs - the children enjoyed rescuing the dinosaurs by breaking the ice!

We made rock pools inspired by the children's interest from their holidays, using stones and shells and real seaweed. The children loved exploring the pools to see what they could find and talking about the different textures of the seaweed.

Over the next few weeks we will be digging up dinosaur bones, going for a nature walk to fill our sensory tray, and vegetable painting. We will discuss the colour changes of the leaves in the autumn and how vegetables grow.

