



# Little Feet Newsletter

June-August 2020

Welcome back to all whether you are virtual or in person. We are happy to be able to reopen the doors at the nursery, and if you are not already back, once you are ready, we will be happy to welcome you. If you could give us a week's notice, that will allow the planning of staff returning from furlough, along with other resources we need to prepare.

We appreciate during the next few weeks and months nursery life will be quieter, but we are hopeful to see more of our children return when parents are called back to work.

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## *Nursery developments*

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Before we closed the doors in March for the lockdown period, we had already commissioned a company to extend the baby playground. At the end of May we saw the work completed and a fantastic new space for our Glow Worms and Grasshoppers to play, have fun and enjoy. The staff from both rooms will be working over the next few weeks to put their finishing touches to the area, but all is ready to accept the children back.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page to for any of the latest information.

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## *Staffing*

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Gabby has had a period of self-isolating due to her pregnancy and will begin her maternity leave from the end of June. We are hoping once she has her baby, she will be able to visit us and introduce us to her little bundle!

We have a staff board in the reception area with any new staff, bank staff or students on placement with us. We also share with you a short bio from new starters to help you know who in the rooms is. Please say hello if you see a new face. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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## *Room feedback*

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### **GLOW WORMS**

Glow worms have had a great first week back and have got many more activities planned for all the children to access and be involved with.

We will be focusing on Father's Day, families, and messy play over the coming weeks. We are asking parents for family pictures this could include activities, general photographs, or outdoor excursions. This is to begin making family booklets to have in different areas of the room and for your child to explore and start noticing their own families.

We cannot wait to get exploring and investigating in the different messy play activities planned and for the children to have lots of FUN! Please could we ask for lots of spare clothes so the children can enjoy their time exploring and be changed into fresh clean clothes afterwards.

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We have been really enjoying our NEW outdoor area with the sun shining the children have been able to access all the different activities which has been great FUN.

There is still lots of plans for new areas and activities that we are working on and cannot wait to share with the children over the coming weeks.

Glow Worms would like to thank their parents for the continued support and are so happy to be welcoming you and your children back. We have had lots of fun so far, and the coming weeks will be filled with crafts, learning and lots of exciting activities.

## GRASSHOPPERS

It has been so lovely welcoming some children back to nursery after such a long break. We were cautious that they may not settle well and find it a challenge, but we needn't have worried, after a few anxious tears, they were all happy, settled, and pleased to see some of their friends, and we hope the staff too!

We are excited to be able to spend time in our new outdoor area. There will be lots of water play, sand, and other messy activities. We will be looking at, and listening to our environment; what can we see, what can we hear?

As we complete the resources for our outdoor area, look out for our creations of our own wind chimes and outdoor decorations. We will take lots of photographs for you all to see and enjoy.

In June we will be making Father's Day cards. Our children always love to create something to take home for parents/carers, so please check your child's craft pouches so you do not miss taking them home in time.

During June we will also have activities based around the beach. These will be incorporated into our small world and role play areas. The lovely weather will make it even better when we splash in the water, think about ice creams and making sandcastles. This will lead well into our August activity.

Later in the month, we will be focussing on transport and will be creating a new display themed on 'Row, Row, Row your boat'. The children will create their own pictures using wheels, shapes, and paint. We will look at the differing modes of transport and see how many the children recognise. Let's see how many the children identify and have been in.

During August, we will be looking 'under the sea'. This will include exploring different creatures and animals we might find in the sea and using water and messy play to recreate. We will look at submarines, choose and discuss different textures, what we feel a submarine may look, feel, sound like. There will be opportunities to learn through a variety of activities such as mark making, role play and many other areas of the EYFS.

## OOMPA LOOMPAS

This month the Oompa Loompas will be focusing on our new topic Transport. We will discuss the different types of transport and encourage the children to talk about their favourite type at group times. In our mark marking area the children will have the chance to draw their favourite type of transport. The children will be encouraged to speak in full sentences to explain what they have drawn and, through questioning we hope to develop their understanding of why/where questions. The children can construct the different transport types through junk modelling. Different materials such as bottles, boxes, pipe cleaners, tubes will be provided to spark their imagination.

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In July, we will be moving onto our new topic Holidays. At group times, the Oompa Loompas will have the opportunity to discuss where they have been on holiday and how they got there. We will also introduce the children to a globe and talk about the world being made up of different countries. Through tapestry, we will invite parents to send holiday snaps of their child so we can show these at group times. We hope this will inspire the children to recreate their holiday experiences in our outdoor sand/water area, where we will provide buckets and spades for them to build their own sandcastles. In our role play area we will recreate different holiday scenarios such as an airport, an aeroplane, a beach, and a camping holiday. We hope this generates lots of conversation between the children.

Throughout August we will be looking at the weather. We will be spending lots of our time outside at group times discussing what the weather is like today. We will be looking at whether it is sunny, rainy, windy, or cloudy and if it's hot or cold. Using our teddies at nursery, the children will have the opportunity to dress their teddy in appropriate clothing ready for an outdoor teddy bears picnic. During this, we will talk about what we need to wear when it is sunny or rainy. In our mark making area, the children will have the chance to make their own 'wind chimes' to hang from our tree outside. We will also be providing lots of sensory materials such as cotton wool, tin foil, blue sponges, tissue, and pipe cleaners to encourage the children to make their own weather pictures. In our messy area we will recreate an 'it's raining station' where the children can pretend to be a rain cloud, raining down on the world below.

All children's work will be displayed inside the Oompa Loompa room for you to come and admire. Please come and have a look at all their hard work! We will also be posting on tapestry and Facebook to share with you.

## MUGGLE WUMPS

We are extremely excited to be back at nursery and in the classroom once more. We understand this may be an unsettling time for your child, so we are doing everything we can to make the transition as smooth as possible on their return.

It has been lovely to see how much the children have grown, and for many, enjoying their last few months before transitioning to school in September.

This month in preschool, we will be focusing on 'Animals and Habitats' for our topic of the month. We will be discussing the different environments that animals live in and why and will be specifically looking at tadpoles and frogs. We hope to be out in the woods quite frequently exploring and making the most of the lovely weather and fantastic space it offers us. Throughout this topic there will be plenty of opportunities for song, craft, mathematics, and literacy activities too.

We will also be doing Father's Day crafts in preparation for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June and the big event, so please check your child's drawer as we would not want you missing taking them home!

In July we will be moving onto our transport topic. Here we will discuss various modes of transport and ways to travel. The children will be encouraged to talk about their favourite way to travel and we will incorporate song and craft throughout the topic. We will create our own modes of transport using recycled materials.

We will have news soon on our graduation ceremony, so please watch out by email or on Facebook for more details as we would not want any of our leavers to miss out on this fantastic experience. We have looked at ways how we can make sure all the children participate in the ceremony, but also how to allow parents to enjoy it too!

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## *NEG funding*

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Applying for NEG funding can be confusing with uncertainty as to whether you are eligible. We have put below some information that will help you. If you require any further information, please ask at nursery, or contact the numbers below for Derbyshire County Council.

### **2 YEAR FREE CHILDCARE EXPLAINED**

Families on a low income or on certain benefits can now get up to 15 hours of free childcare a week for their 2-year-olds, see below for the information on eligibility and applying.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Working families with a household income of less than £16,190 a year and receiving Working Tax Credits or Child Tax Credits.

Families in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based job seeker's allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI

### **WHAT WILL MY CHILD GET?**

Your child is entitled to up to 15 hours of free childcare per week during term time (38 weeks). We will allow you to take fewer hours a week but stretched across the year. You can choose either option if your early years education provider can meet your needs.

### **WHEN IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?**

Your child will be entitled to the free place from the term following their second birthday:

- if your child was born between 1 January and 31 March you are entitled to a free place from the start of the summer term - which starts after Easter
- if your child was born between 1 April and 31 August you are entitled to the place from the start of the autumn term in September
- if your child was born between 1 September and 31 December you are entitled to a free place from the start of the spring term in January

### **WHERE CAN MY CHILD ATTEND?**

We have signed an agreement with Derbyshire County Council to deliver early years education for two-year-olds.

### **HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE FUNDING?**

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You can apply by completing the [online form](#) or call us tel: 01629 539316 or 01629 539317 or 01629 539319 and we'll let you know if you qualify.

We will need the following information:

- National Insurance Number
- child's name
- child's date of birth

If you qualify you will receive a funding approval letter which you can bring to Little Feet and we will work with you to accommodate your hours.

## **FIFTEEN HOURS OF FREE CHILDCARE FOR 2, 3- AND 4-YEAR OLDS EXPLAINED**

In Derbyshire, all families are entitled to up to 570 hours of free early education from the term following a child's third birthday. Free early education funding only applies until a child either starts school reception after the child's fourth birthday or reaches compulsory school age (the term following the child's fifth birthday). Where a parent chooses to defer their child's school place and their child is of compulsory school age, the free early education funding will not continue at the parents chosen provider. Some families are also entitled to up to 15 hours' free childcare a week for their 2-year-old if they are on low incomes or certain benefits.

Little Feet will 'stretch' the funding over 52 weeks. This lowers the number of hours but offers yearlong attendance.

## **WHEN CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE NURSERY EDUCATION**

If your child's birthday is 1 January to 31 March - first term eligible is Easter (term 5).

If your child's birthday is 1 April to 31 August - first term eligible is September (term 1).

If your child's birthday is 1 September to 31 December - first term eligible is January (term 3).

## **APPLYING FOR FREE NURSERY EDUCATION**

Once you know what there is in your area, contact providers to find out what they offer. When you have chosen a provider, they will ask you to complete any necessary forms and then notify us so that we can process the payments. Remember to contact us well before your child becomes eligible, so your application is completed, and you have received notification you will be receiving the funding.

## **30 FREE HOURS 3 AND 4-YEAR-OLDS EXPLAINED**

Since September 2017 many working families have been able to get up to 30 hours of funded childcare a week. This extra free childcare, which is worth around £2,280 per year, aims to help working families by reducing the cost of childcare and will support more parents into work or to work more hours if they want to.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR 30 HOURS FUNDED CHILDCARE**

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To be eligible families must meet the following criteria:

- both parents must be working (or the sole parent in a single parent family)
- each parent must have a weekly income equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum or living wage
- neither parent has an income of more than £100,000 per year

Parents do not necessarily need to work 16 hours a week, but earnings must be equal to 16 hours of work per week at the national minimum wage. This includes parents on zero hours contracts who meet the criteria.

## [View the current minimum wage rates.](#)

Families where one parent does not work (or neither parent works) will not usually be eligible. In some circumstances a family may be eligible where both parents are employed but one (or both parents) is temporarily away from the workplace on maternity or paternity leave, adoption leave or statutory sick pay or where one parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities or is disabled or incapacitated. These are both based on receipt of specific benefits. Eligibility will be assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

If you meet the eligibility criteria you should be able to take up a place if:

- you have a valid eligibility code from HMRC
- it is the term after your child's third birthday, or later until the child reaches compulsory school age
- you received your code from HMRC prior to the term in which you would like your child to start their 30 hours place

Do not forget even if you are not entitled to the 30 hours extended entitlement your child will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of free early education. If eligible your child will qualify for the funded early years education until they are in a reception class or reach compulsory school age.

## **LIBRARY AND CHATTERBOXES**

We still need more children to be accessing the small library and chatter boxes at Little Feet as this is a vital part of your child's development. You can join for a one-off payment of £3. If your child is in the library, you can change your child's book with them each week. We also have 'Chatter box library' which has boxes of activities in for you to take home and do with your child. This is also located on the corridor up towards the dining area. Once you have paid your £3 joining fee, you can access both libraries. We are also advising that you spend at least 5 minutes a day looking at a story with your child. We now have some handmade story sacks, courtesy of Steph, that you can take home with your child. There is 'Dear Zoo', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Jack and the beanstalk' and many more to come. These are excellent for extending your child's imagination and memory skills as they can retell the story their own way using the knitted toys as props. We would love to see some of these being signed out and used with the children and don't hesitate to upload any pictures of videos to tapestry, the staff are always interested in seeing what the children have been up to.

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*Tapestry*

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To access your child's account online, you need to go to [tapestryjournal.com](http://tapestryjournal.com). If you use tapestry through an app on your phone, you will also need to make sure you have the updated version. Please remember, to access your child learning journey in full, you need to visit tapestry online. The reports that are done **do not** show up on your app. Any problems, please ask a member of staff. **We still need to see more contributions from parents** with photos and observations from home. These can be of anything you want e.g. if your child achieves something new, days out, family occasions etc. We can then use them to feed into the planning and activities to deliver at nursery. After reading your child's observations or reports, could you please add some feedback/comments. There is a box at the bottom for parent comments and a like button too!

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## *Uniform*

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If you would like to order any uniform for your child, you can find the order forms in the reception area. Please note payment is required at time of order. BACS is preferred, but cash is also accepted. The uniform comes in sizes 1-2 yrs, 3-4 yrs and 5-6 yrs. Orders are placed every term. The order forms need to be in by the last day of term and will be here in time for the new term. We would like to encourage all the pre-school to wear the uniform as it will help them to take another steppingstone in preparing them for their transition to school.

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## *Woodland Group*

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We normally run two Woodland groups each week, splitting our numbers to make sure all the children get out into the woods and enjoy the outdoor learning. As we are just reopening, we will be going to the woods more often whilst our numbers are smaller. We will inform parents through tapestry when we will be taking the children and share the photos of our activities. Once we have more children back, we will inform you what day each week it will be and how the numbers will be split.

A copy of the planning can be located on the notice board in the corridor above the pegs.

\*Please remember to send suitable clothing and footwear for your child or it may not be suitable or safe for them to participate.

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## *Forthcoming Events at Nursery/Dates for your diary*

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### **MUGGLE WUMPS TRIP**

The Muggle Wumps trip has been cancelled due to the lockdown and uncertainty of whether the Yorkshire Wildlife Park would reopen before the end of the summer term. We can only apologise for this, we know how much the children (and staff) enjoy these visits, but it was out of our control. We have emailed all parents who paid their £20 deposit and have refunded or credited the account of most parents, but we still have a few we have not yet heard from. Please let us know what your preference is, and we will happily sort for you.

### **PARENTS EVENING**

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We will be scheduling parents evening to a later date as we will only just have reopened when they were due to take place but appreciate the importance of these evenings and sharing information. We had originally planned June 9th for Glow worms, Grasshopper and Oompa Loompas, with June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16th for Muggle Wumps. Once we have settled in with the children, we will be in touch with the new dates.

We allocate time slots of ten minutes per child. Once the dates are confirmed, please see your key worker to book as they keep the register of children in their room. If you feel you need more than ten minutes, please ask and we will endeavour to accommodate.

## PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer was due to be in nursery on Friday 26th June. Currently, we cannot foresee being able to get him in before the summer leavers, as we still need to contain the numbers of adults in the building. We are hoping though, that as things relax further, we may be able to arrange something late summer, but at this stage, we cannot commit to a date.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page to for any of the latest information.

## LITTLE FEET SUMMER FAYRE

The Summer fayre will not take place this year on Saturday 27th June 11am-2pm. We are hoping to replace it with a Winter fayre but will take advice and guidance over the next weeks and months with regards to events such as that.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page to for any of the latest information.

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### *Phone numbers and Email addresses*

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Could you inform nursery of any change in your contact details, this is for both emails and phone numbers please in case we need to contact you or for any nursery correspondence.

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### *Fees*

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Invoices are issued on the week prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month. Please may we remind you that fees need to be paid by **10<sup>th</sup>** of each month to avoid late charges.

Whilst we are in the reopening phase, we have had to change our process for invoicing. We will be submitting weekly invoices over the next few weeks, as so many parents have changed, decreased or in some cases increased their requirements. Once we have more stability, the invoicing will return to being send the last week of the month for the following month's sessions. We appreciate this is not the normal way we charge, but we feel this is the best way to be able to be flexible enough for parents with alternate requirements and sessions.

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## *General reminders*

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**Please can you ensure that your child has a spare set of clothes for nursery and that all clothes are labeled with their names to avoid things being lost or misplaced.**

Can we also remind parents/carer that we need adequate notice to be able to book children in for extra hours or session as it affects the ratios of staff to children and we can not always accommodate them, but will always try our best to do so. We require **48 hours-notice** to cancel any extra session booked or you will still be charged, along with 4 weeks-notice to make any changes to your child's contract.

**Please can you make sure that your child is not dropped off earlier or picked up later than their booked session as this has an impact on the staff ratios. Any child collected late or dropped off early will be issued with a late/early payment charge.**

As the weather is very unpredictable, can you please make sure you send suitable clothing for your child, especially for outdoors and that **all** items are clothing and shoes/wellies are clearly labeled with your child's name.

If your child is booked in for breakfast, can you please make sure your child is at nursery **no later than 8.20am** as we are finding a lot of children are coming in at 8.30-9.00am and still requiring breakfast. This has a huge impact on the start of the day as the rooms cannot split off until the children have finished breakfast therefore lose out of important parts of their nursery day.

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## *Footwear*

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Where possible, can you send your child to nursery with shoes that either slip on or fasten with Velcro. This helps the children become more independent by putting their own shoes on and makes getting ready to go outside quicker so we have more time for outdoor play.

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## *Toys*

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We are finding that a lot of children are now bringing toys to nursery. This is starting to cause problems between the children and toys are getting lost or broken. If your child comes to nursery, we are asking for them to be left in their bags to hopefully eliminate this problem.

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## *Lost Property*

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We amass a huge amount of lost property in nursery, some of which is labelled, and we can direct it to its rightful owner, whilst other items do not appear to have a home. We store these items for a set time, generally over the term and at times have them in the reception area for parents to look through and hopefully find something they have misplaced. At the end of each

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term we will take articles to the charity shop, or, in some cases dispose of them altogether, so please ask if you have missing items.

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## *Safeguarding*

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Due to safeguarding guidelines we must adhere to can I ask all parents to refrain from using their mobile phone within nursery at any time. If you need to answer your phone, please can you leave the nursery rooms and take any calls in the porch area.

**Can we also remind you to please make sure that the front door is closed properly behind you and that you do not let anybody into the nursery? If you could ask anyone behind you who may be waiting to ring the bell, and a member of staff will answer the door.**

Can you inform nursery if your child will be absent for sickness and/or holidays? If your child does not attend their usual session and we do not receive a phone call or email to let us know why then we have a duty of care to ring you and ascertain their whereabouts and safety.

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## *Illness and Medication*

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Please can you make sure that if your child has been sick or had diarrhea that they do not return to nursery **until 48 hours after** the last bout of sickness/diarrhea. Any child returning before this time will be not be allowed to stay.

If your child is prescribed antibiotics, they need to have been administered for **48 hours before** they can return to nursery.

- Children taking prescribed medication must be well enough to attend the setting.
- Only medication prescribed by a doctor (or other medically qualified person) is administered. It must be in-date and prescribed for the current condition (medicines containing aspirin will only be given if prescribed by a doctor).
- NB Children's paracetamol (un-prescribed) is administered only for children with the verbal consent of the parents in the case of a high temperature. This is to prevent febrile convulsion and where a parent or named person is on their way to collect the child.
- Children's prescribed medicines are stored in their original containers, are clearly labelled and are inaccessible to the children.
- Parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The staff receiving the medication must ask the parent to sign a consent form stating the following information. No medication may be given without these details being provided:

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If your child is on a term time contract, please make sure you inform the office what hours they will be attending in the holidays.

Thank you for your continued support,

Little Feet Nursery team

## **TERM TIME & GRANT TERMS 2020**

**JAN 6TH-FEB 14TH  
FEB 24TH-4TH APRIL  
20TH APRIL-22ND MAY  
1ST JUNE-21ST JULY**

## **BANK HOLIDAYS 2020**

**10TH AND 13TH APRIL  
8TH AND 25TH MAY  
31ST AUGUST**