



Little Feet Newsletter

September-December 2020

Welcome back to all our parents and children for a new academic year. Although it has been a different year to the one we all possibly anticipated, we trust you are all well.

Autumn and into Winter are always busy times at Nursery and this year is no different. We will be having fun at Halloween and Christmas with our children enjoying all the activities and festivities.

Our Christmas Carol concert will still be a musical masterpiece, but this year we will be videoing daily our performances and uploading them for all our parents to hear and see. These will begin from Monday 14th December and last the entire week. We hope you will still have the opportunity to sing along with the children whilst playing the video, but from the comfort of your own home.

Nursery developments

Our post lockdown changes are now all completed. Each room has its own entry and exit, and we have now completed the new entrance door and ramp into our Oompa Loompa room.

We are never still with our developments and our main playground is now amid a redesign with our preschool staff fully immersed in the process.

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

Staffing

We have staff information in the entrance area for each room, with all staff who work in that provision room. We also share with you a short bio from new starters to help you know who is in each room. Please say hello if you see a new face. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Room feedback

GLOW WORMS

In the upcoming months, Glow worms will be focusing on their families/home life with messy and creative play.

We are kindly asking for photographs of your children enjoying family days out and helping around the house too. This is to help us produce a photo album for our home corner. By creating this it will allow your child to recognise themselves whilst making and sharing new experiences with their peers.

Our creative and messy play will feature sand play, food activities and body painting. Please send your child with spare clothes, so they can fully immerse themselves into the activity and have clothes to change into afterwards!

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Halloween and Christmas will be celebrated in Glow worms with many craft activities textures.

All the Glow worms staff would like to say thank you for your continued support. We are always here to discuss anything with you even if that is virtually through our tapestry portal.

GRASSHOPPERS

In September we are going to be looking at different animals, where they live, what different colours they are, and what different sounds the animals can make. We will discuss the size of animals and talk about big and small and see if the children can identify these. We will also look at different insects and what kind we can see whilst we are playing outside. We will see which insects live in water against ones that live on land, and look at sinking and floating with stones, sticks feather etc. We will do this through plenty of messy and will use a different range of resources for the children to explore new textures.

In October we are going to be discussing and concentrating on Autumn. We will collect leaves, hear them crunch and scrunch to do some leave printing and to make these into autumn collages using brown, orange, and red paints.

Also, in October we are looking forward to Halloween! We will be doing lots of Halloween craft the last week in October and we will be exploring messy play such as jelly, cobwebs, pumpkins and witches' potions. We cannot wait to see your little ones dress up this week and see your lovely creations.

In November we are going to be looking at opposites. We are going to be looking at all different types such as hot/cold, fast/slow, up/down backwards/forwards and many more. We will incorporate many of the activities through Every Child A Mover (ECAM) with lots of physical play Also this month we will be looking at bonfire night. making our own creations using paints and tissue paper to make our own colourful fires, and will make our own chocolate apples too for the children to take home.

Finally in December we are going to be focusing on Christmas, we will be making Christmas cards, Christmas tree decorations and talking lots about Santa coming. We will be making some reindeer dust ready for Christmas Eve and what the reindeers and Santa might want to eat too. We will be using lots of flour and ice to represent snow and talking about how it is cold and wet outside and making some winter collages.

OOMPA LOOMPAS

This month the Oompa Loompas will be focusing on our new topic "Our bodies". We will be encouraging the children to look at their reflections and naming their body parts. At group time we will be encouraging the children to talk about what makes us like our friends and what makes us different for example, our eye colour, our height, our hair. In our mark marking area the children will have the chance to use their knowledge and apply this by making paper plate faces of themselves for our display. The children will be encouraged to speak in full sentences to explain the features of their face (for example, eye colour). The children will also explore their senses through different sensory experiences. The children will be using their "touch" to explore feely bags, their hearing when taking part in listening walks, their taste when we try new foods, their sense of smell indoors and outdoors and their sight.

In October, we will be moving onto our new topic Animals. At group times, the Oompa Loompas will have the opportunity to look at a wide range of animals, focusing particularly on Autumnal ones, such as hedgehogs and foxes. We will be comparing the features of different animals and

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discussing what they look like. The children will have the opportunity to join Muggle Wumps on their Woodland Walk to see if they can spot any of the Autumnal animals we have been learning about. We hope these opportunities help the children to remember what animals they may have seen on their adventures with you. In our outdoor area, the Oompa Loompas will be making new homes for the animals we have been learning about using the natural resources around us. We will be looking at where an animal likes to live and what it needs to be happy. We hope these sparks lots of conversation and creativity between the children.

Throughout November, we will be looking at "Fairytale". We will be spending lots of our time at group times discussing different popular fairytales. We will be looking at the characters in the story and starting to categorise our characters into "good and bad". When reading our stories, we will be encouraging the children to join in with repeated words and phrases, so that they are being encouraged to read along with us. We will support this by teaching the children actions to the story, to help children remember the important parts correctly. In our role play area, the children will have the chance to recreate some of the fairytales we have been looking at for example, The 3 little Pigs. We will also be providing lots of sensory materials such as cotton wool, straw, twigs, foam bricks to encourage the children to retell the story accurately.

In December, we will be looking at the topic "Christmas". We will be talking all about Father Christmas and what Christmas is. We will be looking at the story behind Christmas and discussing why Christmas is important to some people. The Oompa Loompas will have the opportunity to take part in some DT by making Christmas decorations from clay. We will be making lots decorations and singing lots of festive songs in the run up to the big day.

All children's work will be displayed inside the Oompa Loompa room for you to come and admire. Please come in and have a look at all their hard work

MUGGLE WUMPS

During September, the Muggle Wumps are looking at the topic 'All About Me'. We are focusing on how unique we all are, looking at similarities and differences between us. We will be looking closely at the story Elmer, helping the children to understand how it is positive to be different and how we should embrace this. We will be drawing self-portraits, using mirrors to closely look at each of our features. We will encourage the Muggle Wumps to notice colour, shape, and size of our features.

In October, we will be looking at the season Autumn, particularly at how the environment changes around us. We will be doing lots of fun activities outside and in the woods, such a leaf printing, wax rubbings, and threading. During our topic we will also be enjoying the different types of food that grows, especially pumpkins. We will also enjoy our annual pumpkin carving and Halloween party.

At the start of November, the Muggle Wumps will be looking at bonfire night. We will invite the children to talk about their own experiences and teach them the meaning behind the night. We will create bright and colourful pictures during art time using lots of different materials and resources and display them in the classroom. Further into the month, we will be learning about Diwali and the importance of the celebration. We will celebrate and learn about the festival and create Rangoli patterns in different ways using chalk on the playground and rice to recreate in the classroom. Every child will create their own diva lamp, which they will mould and decorate to take home and enjoy with their family.

In December, we will focus on Christmas the winter throughout the month. We are super excited to still be able to perform our carol concert this year, although they will be virtual through tapestry. It is great fun seeing and hearing the children celebrate Christmas through song and dressing up with their friends to perform for parents to enjoy. We have so much fun through December;

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decorating the Christmas tree and learning the Christmas story. We will host our annual party with lots of fun and laughter. The children will be taking part in some 'give back to others' activities, from Christmas hampers for the elderly to donating a small gift themselves. It is so important to give back and help others less fortunate than we are, and it is something we encourage and teach through Muggle Wumps.

Library and Chatterboxes

All our rooms now have their own library, but we still need more children to be accessing the provision and chatter boxes as this is a vital part of your child's development. You can join for a one-off payment of £3. Once a member, 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. 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.

Tapestry

To access your child's account online, you need to go to 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!

With some of our recent changes, Tapestry has now become even more important for parents to check and be involved with. We are no longer giving out paper copies of accidents, medication, or incidents, but these are now all logged on the portal. We need parents to ensure they acknowledge they have read and understood the information we have shared.

If your log in has expired, please let us know, we will happily reactivate for you.

Uniform

If you would like to order any uniform for your child just ask in your room or the office, we can either email you an order form, or you can complete your order with us directly. Please note

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payment by BACS is preferred, or we can add the amount onto your monthly invoice should that be preferable.

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.

Woodland Group

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. We will inform parents through tapestry when we will be taking the children and share the photos of our activities.

A copy of the planning can be located on the notice board in the main 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. We do still go into the woods if the weather is slightly inclement.

Forthcoming Events at Nursery/Dates for your diary

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Our spooky, ghostly, pumpkin creative activities will be in full flow during the week from 26th for our room parties on Friday 30th October. We will be carving pumpkins, having them out in our craft area, tasting, discussing textures, colours, and shapes along with some baking and art, and if that's not enough fun it will be topped off with room parties where games and dancing will complete the event! As normal we encourage our children, should they wish to dress for the day, there will be tricks and treats to enjoy...

MUGGLE WUMPS TRIP

We have already been in discussion with The Deep in Hull and Eureka in Halifax asking how they are managing, if at all, group bookings and sessions for our preschoolers to visit. Currently they aren't taking group bookings, but we will keep in touch to hopefully visit in the new year to one of these fantastic attractions.

PARENTS EVENING – JANUARY 2021

Our parent's evenings will be quite different from previous ones. They are not scheduled until January 2021 and will take place over a two-week period starting from Monday 18th-Friday 29th. All our meetings will be held virtually, either through Zoom or Teams. Parents will be allocated their normal 10-minute slot, but it will be from the comfort of your own home rather than coming into nursery. All the girls from your child's room will be available at these meetings, but your key worker will be there to feedback all your child's achievements and benchmarks.

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We are hoping this system will allow more parents who may not have been able to come into nursery due to older siblings or later work commitments, may now be able to access the appointment.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Due to restrictions, our photographer is still not able to visit nursery and capture the wonderful images of our children and their siblings, but we will keep you posted when this changes and we can welcome him back into nursery.

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

LITTLE FEET CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND FATHER CHRISTMAS

Even in these uncertain times Father Christmas will still be visiting nursery on Wednesday 16th December. Our parties will be in our rooms as normal and we will be encouraging our children to come dressed for the occasion! Party games and presents will be high on the agenda with lots of fun and laughter, and that is just the staff. We will be sharing with everyone all that is happening throughout the day.

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

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Nursery will close at 4pm on Christmas Eve, and will reopen on Monday 4th January 2021.

Phone numbers and Email addresses

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.

Fees

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

If your child is on a term time contract (38-weeks), please make sure you inform the office what hours they will be attending in the holidays.

General reminders

It is important 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.

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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 begin their activities until children have finished eating and we therefore lose out of important parts of their nursery day.

Footwear

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 more quickly so we have more time for outdoor play.

Toys

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

Lost Property

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 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.

Safeguarding

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 as soon as possible.

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.

Illness and Medication

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:

NEG funding

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.

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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?

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

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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 OLD 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-OLD 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

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.

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[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.

Thank you for your continued support, we hope you have a fantastic term, we are all excited about the remainder of the year.

Little Feet Nursery team

TERM TIME & GRANT TERMS 2020-2021

SEPT 1ST- OCT 23RD

NOV 2ND – DEC 18TH

JAN 4TH – FEB 12TH

FEB 22ND– APR 2ND

APR 19TH – MAY 28TH

JUN 7TH – JULY 22ND

BANK HOLIDAYS 2020-2021

DEC 25TH & 26TH

JAN 1ST

APRIL 2ND & 5TH

MAY 3RD

MAY 31ST

AUG 30TH

DEC 27TH & 28TH