



Little Feet Newsletter

January – March 2021

The New Year seems a long time ago now and nursery life has not slowed at all. We have welcomed some new children across most rooms, and all have settled in well.

The weather has only been inclement on one day where we had to close nursery early, and hopefully we will continue to see the sunshine across February.

If you have a term-time (38-week) contract, could you please let the staff know if you require any sessions during February half-term.

Nursery developments

National lockdown is still upon us, but Nursery has been given the green light to remain open for all our children. If anything changes, we will obviously keep you informed as soon as we hear.

Our new Muggle Wumps room is now open with Amy and Sharna enjoying developing the room over time with lots of help and ideas from the children.

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, and they are posted on tapestry too 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

We would like to thank you for all your continued support and for a fantastic parents evening. Although the evening was different to previous ones, the conversations we had with parents via telephone were great, and we managed to speak to all our parents without you having to leave home!

In February we will be finishing our winter topic. During February we are going to be celebrating pancake day by making and decorating them, followed of course, by eating them. We will do this throughout the week to ensure the children who are not in on the actual day will still take part. We are also going to be doing some Valentine's Day artwork to send home.

We will be moving onto our next topic 'Spring' as we approach March. Where we are going to be doing lots of sensory activities. This will include looking at and exploring the twigs/leaves and painting with them. We are going to be introducing insects, growing and lots of colourful activities.

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This will include painting, exploring with different craft materials and bright tissue paper to make their own creations. In March we are going to be making Mother's Day cards to celebrate Mother's Day on 14th March. We will be getting creative and let the children explore the resources to create something wonderful to take home.

We are currently gathering our last few bits together for the story bags we are going to be sending home to enhance communication as this underpins every aspect when developing all areas. The items in the bag can be washed and cleaned before it is sent home with the next person. All we ask is for you to read the story in the bag and play with the teddies in the bag that match the focus on speaking and listening. If you could capture any pictures and videos to post onto tapestry for your child's key worker this will meet milestones and enjoy seeing your child engaged.

We thank you and we are always here via tapestry and in person should you need anything, we are always happy to help.

GRASSHOPPERS

All staff in the grasshopper room would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who participated in our parents evening, we received lots of lovely comments regarding how much your children enjoy coming to nursery and gained further knowledge about your child.

As we come to the end of January and head into February, we will be finishing out winter topic and we will be sending some beautiful craft creations home that your children have made. February will be a busy month for the Grasshopper children as we make Valentine's Day cards and craft. The children will also be involved in the celebration of pancake day which is the 16th of February however to ensure every child has an equal opportunity we will celebrate this throughout the whole week. The children will help to make pancake batter and prepare toppings to decorate their own pancakes before eating them alongside their friends.

In March we will change from our winter topic to spring and introduce colours, bugs, and insects as our chosen theme for the next few months. Mother's Day is on the 14th of March and we will be making something special with the children as well as a lovely card to take home. We will be encouraging the children to experiment with various craft materials and resources with to support their ability to express their own preferences and interests.

We are also gathering our last few resources to put together our story bag to send home to enhance communication aspects as speech and language skills are extremely important when developing in other areas. The items can all be washed and cleaned before each new person receives it and all we ask parents to do with the story bag is read the short story and play with the teddies inside that match with a focus on speaking and listening. If you could please capture any videos or photos and post them on tapestry your keyworker will tag milestones and enjoy seeing your child engaged.

We have made changes to our menus and changed some less popular food choices based on our knowledge of your children and have recently uploaded photos of the new menus onto tapestry. Please let us know if you have any additional ideas for now or in the future as we welcome new suggestions. The new menu changes will start from 1st February and we will review them over the month to see if they are more popular with the children.

Thank you very much for your support and we are always available via tapestry or in person should you need anything,

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OOMPA LOOMPAS

This month the Oompa Loompas have been learning all about “Families”. The children have enjoyed looking at family pictures and discussing who is in their family. This has helped the children to compare their family with others and understand that not every family is the same. Using their family pictures, the children have made lots of beautiful creations! In our craft area, we used playdoh to make our loved ones. The children were encouraged to roll, squeeze, and twist the playdoh to further develop their fine motor skills. In our construction area, the Oompa Loompas were challenged to build their house out of junk modelling materials. The children used their imagination and creativity to turn boxes, tubes, and bottles into 3D structures. After making their houses, the children enjoyed acting out their home experiences using our play people and were encouraged to begin to add narrative to their play.

In February, we will be moving onto our new topic “People Who Help Us”. At group time, the Oompa Loompa’s will learn about different occupations and how these help us in our everyday lives. The children will have the opportunity to act out these occupations in our role play and small world area, where their play will be enhanced with costumes, vehicles, sand, and water. The children will have the opportunity to learn more about their favourite occupations from a variety of books displayed in the Oompa Loompa room. The children will be encouraged to develop their understanding of action words through questioning, for example “who’s running, jumping, climbing?” We will be paying particular focus to the occupation “Dentistry”. The staff will help to show the children how to brush their teeth correctly in our “clean teeth sessions”. This will help the Oompa Loompas further develop their level of independence.

Throughout March we will be learning all about “The World”. The Oompa Loompas will look at globes, maps, and books to help them understand what “The World” is. We will also look at different countries and what foods are associated with them. The children will have the opportunity to taste a selection of these different foods during our group times and snack times. To end our topic, we will focus on our local area and where we live. The children will participate in lots of walks where we will explore our surrounding area.

In April, we will move onto our new topic; “Animals”. The Oompa Loompas will be learning all about farm animals, wild animals, woodland animals, and animals we have as pets. We will begin to look at habitats and identify animals that live in hot climates and cold climates. In our math’s area the children will have the opportunity to take part in a “popular pet” research project. The Oompa Loompas will ask their friends and the staff members which pets they have and find out from there what is the most popular. For our craft activities, the children will make their favourite animal out of playdoh and use a variety of textured materials to add features to their animals. The children will also have the opportunity to make bird feeders to add to our tree in the playground.

MUGGLE WUMPS

This month in the Muggle Wump we have been looking at healthy lifestyles. We have enjoyed discussing the importance of healthy living including teeth brushing, hand and body washing, eating, and exercise. We have explored these concepts through physical activities and experiments which the children have loved.

We have also been looking closely at wildlife and how we can care for them. We looked on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Birds (RSPB) website at different types of birds we may find near us. The children created ‘fat balls’ from cheese, lard, and bird seed and we have hung them on the bush outside nursery for the birds to enjoy through these cold months.

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During February we will be looking closely at the topic 'People Who Help Us'. We will hopefully be able to welcome visitors into the nursery to speak to the children about how they help others in society and take a closer look at their job and what it involves. The children have chosen firefighters, police officers, vets, and doctors.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day throughout the month. For Chinese New Year we will create our own paper lanterns, decorating them with gold patterns and animals from the story. The children will act out from the story as a group and will learn the animal for 2021 is the Ox.

Our focus for Valentine's Day this year will be to discuss what we love about ourselves. We will explore what makes us different and promote how positive this is. The children will bake some special Valentine's creation to share with you all at home.

During March and April our focus will be growing and farmyard animals. We will explore the animals we may find at a farm, discuss their growth, and the changes we may see over time. We are looking forward to reading our new story books on farmyard animals.

Easter will be a busy time for the children. They will be baking, having their Easter egg hunt and our annual Easter bonnet competition will take place as normal. For our Easter craft, we will practice our threading skills, decorating our very own eggs with colourful wool which the children will weave in and out to create lovely patterns.

World Book day will be a spectacular week this year beginning on 1st March 2021 where we will discuss, explore the characters, who we like and why, read, listen to our favourite books in class. During group times we will create and write our own story led by the children suggesting the language, events, characters, the plot, storyline, and outcome.

We will continue our self-portrait work using mirrors to identify features, noticing colours, shape and size. Part of this activity is to identify what makes us unique, but what similarities and differences we have with others.

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 do not hesitate to upload any pictures or 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 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.

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Forthcoming Events at Nursery/Dates for your diary

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The children will enjoy learning about Chinese New Year and making some wonderful creations. This year it falls on Friday 12th February this year and is the year of the Ox.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Art's and crafts will be the theme to celebrate Valentine's Day with goodies to send home for parents to enjoy all the effort that goes into making them.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Some of our rooms will have fun making pancakes on Tuesday 16th February 2021 using many skills throughout the activity and enjoying the finished product!

WORLD BOOK DAY

We will celebrate world book day once more this year on Thursday 4th March 2021. See the link below for the website where you can read more about this fantastic opportunity. We will share more details nearer the time.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/schoolsandnurseries/>

EASTER

Good Friday falls on Friday 2nd April, and Easter Monday on the 5th April. Nursery will be closed these two days for the Bank Holidays as normal, but open for the remainder of the Easter holiday. For parent's on a term-time contract (38-weeks), please confirm the days you require during the holiday with staff as soon as possible.

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

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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.

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. 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

Can you please 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 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

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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?

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:

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- 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-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

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- 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.

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

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MAY 31ST
AUG 30TH
DEC 27TH & 28TH