



Little Feet Newsletter

August – October 2021

Nursery introduction and developments

As national lockdown begins to ease, hopefully for the last time, we are pleased to inform you that almost all the staff in nursery have now been vaccinated. There are two staff members who are still considering their options around the vaccine, along with medical reasons, and that is their choice to do so, but to put minds at rest, we are now provided with lateral flow tests which all staff administer twice weekly to ensure they are not COVID positive and are limiting any possible spread.

Our Summer Fayre is due to go ahead on August 7th, details are below on timings. We understand it is also Dronfest in Cliffe Park, so hopefully you can visit the nursery first then onto the festival!

Little Days Photography by Kerry was a huge success in nursery, and we would like to thank her for the incredible photographs she produced. It was so lovely to be able to offer this service once more.

Bellissimo hot lunches are still providing us an excellent service, some choices are more popular than others, but overall, parents and children now have a measure of their likes and dislikes. We will inform parents once we have the details of the change over of menus, but it is most likely to be end September, beginning October time.

If your child is eligible for 2, 3, or 4-year funded hours, please see within the funding section of the newsletter how to apply. Nursery will then provide you with an FE1 contract to apply to the local authority for that funding. Please remember, your child is eligible the term after their birthday. Funding codes must be refreshed termly to ensure you are still eligible for the extended funding.

Forthcoming Events at Nursery/Dates for your diary

MUGGLE WUMPS GRADUATION SATURDAY 31ST JULY 2021

Last year we held our graduation outdoors due to the virus restrictions, the weather was extremely kind, and the event went well. At that time, we were not able to offer refreshments, but we are repeating the outdoor event, but with a little extra for parents/carers and children. We will be starting the ceremony at 10:30, there will be an opportunity for you to photograph your child in their mortar board and receiving their certificate. We have over 60 children leaving Little Feet this year, so it will be a busy event!

SUMMER FAYRE SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST 2021

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We have planned to host our Summer Fayre on Saturday 7th August from 11am – 2pm. We have a jungle theme, and as normal lots of fun filled activities for the children to enjoy. We really hope to see you there.

There are many events each year where celebrations are undertaken, and we thought we would share with you the remainder of 2021. Most of these will be celebrated at nursery, how many will you be celebrating at home?

September

22nd National Fitness Day
25th Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning

October

1st – 31st Black History Month
1st World Smile Day
4th Grandparents Day
10th World Mental Health Day
31st Halloween

November

4th Diwali – Festival of Lights
10th World Science Day
11th Remembrance Day
13th Children in Need
15th – 19th Anti-Bullying Week
15th – 19th World Nursery Rhyme Week
22nd – 26th Road Safety week

December

1st Christingle
13th Christmas Jumper Day
25th Christmas Day

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.

Steph has welcomed Louie a beautiful 8lb 5oz baby boy into the world. We are so excited that mummy and baby are doing well and can't wait to meet him.

Nicole and Hannah have both passed their degrees, what an achievement! Both are so relieved, and pleased that the hard work, dedication, and effort has all paid off. Nicole is now about to

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undertake a PGCE year through Hallam University with QTS conversion at the end of the year. She will be missing from nursery for a block of time while she is on placement but will be coming back to nursery during holiday periods! We wish her so much luck, another year of hard work, but the result will all be worth it.

We will be welcoming another new member of staff from mid-September, Ruth Davis who will be joining our Muggle Wumps team. Ruth has been working for the last few years in Germany in the Early Years sector but delivering the English curriculum. We are looking forward to welcoming her to Little Feet and will share with you details once she is back in the country. She will be working alongside Chloe, Lauren, India, Nicole, and Sharna to complete the staffing requirements for the room.

Room feedback

GLOW WORMS

Throughout the last term the Glow worms have enjoyed taking part in lots of exciting activities. They have particularly enjoyed exploring a variety of messy and sensory trays which we will be continuing to carry out in the Glow worm's room.

As we approach August we are going to be continuing with our topic of 'Summer' where the children will explore the different things you see at the seaside. The children will be enjoying lots of sand and water play with a variety of different objects to support their learning and development. We will be continuing to add to our summer display where the children will be getting creative to make their own boat creations with a variety of different materials.

As we approach September, we are going to be starting a new topic which will be: 'All about me' where the children will be exploring a variety of activities. Including looking at the books and printed materials of different people. We would like to kindly ask if you could send in some family photos so we can create 'All about me' sensory bottles. This is where the children will decorate a sensory bottle with different sensory materials inside and then stick family pictures on the front. This is one of the development stages in the EYFS which enables the children to recognise photos of themselves and family members. These are also a great way for children to have comfort from them when they are at nursery. In September we will also be continuing to explore more sensory and messy activities.

In October we are going to continue the topic 'All about me' where we will create our new topic display. For this the children will be starting to create faces with different materials to stick onto paper plates. This encourages the children to recognise their eyes, nose, ears, mouth, and head.

Throughout October we will be exploring 'Autumn' where we will be carrying out different activities in relation to the season. Including looking at natural materials like the colourful leaves and natural objects from the environment for the children to create paintings and collages with.

Towards the end of October, we will be celebrating Halloween where the children will explore a variety of different activities. This will include some baking activities where the children will have the chance to decorate biscuits for Halloween for them to enjoy.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that we have our Glow Worms library where you are able to borrow books and resources to do at home. We do have our story bags where the children are able to explore the different objects that relate to the story. This is a great

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way to capture development milestones at home, we would love to see them so your child's key worker can link this into their development milestones they have achieved.

The Glow Worms team would like to thank you for your continued support. We are always here via tapestry and in person should you need anything, we are always happy to help.

GRASSHOPPERS

Grasshopper staff would like to thank all the parents for their lovely comments on the child stories that were published in June and if your child is approaching two, we will be writing up a 2-year progress check to support health visitor checks, some of these reports may be similar in their contents due to the recent completion of child reports.

The Grasshopper children love to go out to play and we would just like to kindly ask and remind parents if they could supply summer hats and cream if you have not already. If any items of clothing could be labelled this would really help the staff to ensure items are returned correctly due to the increasing numbers and transitions.

The children have started to embrace our new topic summer at the start of July and have enjoyed taking part in making items for our summer display which include boats and animals which we will send home in August as we change topics. We are promoting and encouraging children's health and self-care within the summer theme and support all children to put on their own sun hat and help to rub in their sun cream. We have also started to make frozen yoghurt lollies and ice pops with the children to enjoy which is very popular in the room.

In August we will be changing our topic to a jungle theme to match our summer fayre theme and we will be making jungle masks that the children can take home or bring to our summer fayre to wear with friends. We will be reading and singing jungle themed songs with puppets during group time sessions and talking to the children about animals in the jungle and the noises they make. The children are very much enjoying the fish in our fish tank, and all show a desire to help feed them which is lovely to see them care for others and animals through turn taking.

In September we will be changing to an autumn theme as we approach the end of the month, and we will be carrying out craft activities including apple painting and gathering natural resources by taking children on small local walks or hunting for items in our outdoor areas to use in junk modelling and creating artwork to display around the room.

In October we will be celebrating Halloween and will change our displays with children's artwork and continue autumn pictures. The children will have the opportunity to create their own lanterns and spooky pictures using luminous paint. Please feel free to share any photos from home of any Halloween celebrations and activities as we may be able to link these to EYFS points.

We will continue to send home our story box with lovely hand knitted characters, props, and book, "three little pigs" this is being rotated weekly and we aim to ensure all children have a turn. The items are cleaned before being passed along and we would love to see photos/videos of the children and parents reading the story and listing any words or phrases used. We are also updating our library which unfortunately cannot be seen due to our small cloak room however we will ensure a photo is uploaded to tapestry for all parents to see and if you would like to borrow any books or resources this can be arranged, and details listed within the library post.

Thank you to all our parents for the lovely feedback over the last few months and your continued support and please keep posting and sharing your photos and videos from home on tapestry for us to see.

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OOMPA LOOMPAS

Throughout August, the Oompa Loompa's will be learning about 'Weather'. As part of this topic, we will be using our senses to describe the different weathers and learning how they link to each season. Each day we will recap the weather for the day and decide what clothes we need to wear when going outside to play. During this month we would love that whilst out on walks or on holiday, that the Oompa Loompa's brought in some natural resources to discuss with their peers and teachers. We will also be focusing throughout August on matching the weather type to the clothing, using flash cards and images which the children can easily recognise.

During September, our topic will be 'Sports'. During this month the Oompa Loompa's will have plenty of opportunities for physical activity and fun games. We will be experimenting with different types of sports and allow the children to use various equipment in the classroom and outside in the playground. Throughout the month we be focusing each week on a particular sport, starting with a 'Sports week', where all the children will have the opportunity throughout the week to take part in various games with a special prize at the end!

The Oompa Loompa's are learning about 'The body' throughout October. We will be learning all about healthy and unhealthy foods and categorizing them based on what foods are good and bad for us. The Oompa Loompa's will also been learning about the different body parts and their functions by following the game 'Simon says'. Whilst outside, the children will have the opportunity to draw round each other using chalk ad identifying the different body parts whilst doing so. We will also be using mirrors to attempt self-portrait's, focusing on identifying the different features of the face. Towards the end of the month, we will be engaging in some Halloween activities, centered around a Halloween party which will be lots of fun!

At the start of November, the Oompa Loompa's will be learning all about Bonfire Night, creating pictures using a range of textures and materials. Throughout November, our topic in the Oompa Loompa room is 'Fairytales'. During this time, the children will have multiple chances to engage in adult led activities, acting out known stories as a class. By the end of the month, the children will be encouraged, if they wish, to act out their own story together, dressing up and using props that they have made in the mark making area. We will also have lots of different stories available for the children to have free choice of and ask for different stories from home which the children can share and discuss with their peers. Using flashcards, the children will be able to practice matching the character to the fairytale and can discuss the story with an adult or their friends.

The Oompa Loompa team would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we have our Oompa Loompa library available where the children are able to borrow books and resources to take home and bring back as they wish. We also would like to ask that you keep us up to date with what your child is doing at home via tapestry as we love to see, and it helps us build up their evidence for development milestones/

We would like to thank you for your continued support. We are always here via tapestry and in person should you need anything as we are always happy to help.

MUGGLE WUMPS

During August, the Muggle Wumps will be learning all about 'Fairytales'. As part of our topic, we will be looking at some of the children's most favourite fairytale stories and incorporating these into our classroom activities. Each week we will be looking at a different story discussing the characters, the storyline and talking about our favourite parts to develop the children's speaking and listening skills. The children will also learn each fairytale using a Pie Corbett approach. We will story map key elements of the book adding actions to each part to help the children remember the story structure.

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In September we will move onto our new topic 'All about me'. As part of this topic, we will be looking closely at 'uniqueness' and discussing similarities and differences between ourselves and others. We will be using the story Elmer as our focus book, helping the children to understand how it is positive to be different and how we should embrace this. The Muggle Wumps will also draw self-portraits using mirrors to closely identify their facial features. We will proudly be displaying our self-portraits throughout our classrooms to further learn about the importance of uniqueness.

The Muggle Wumps will be learning all about Autumn and Hibernation throughout October. The children will have the opportunity to take part in lots of fun activities inside our classrooms but also on our woodland walks, such as leaf printing, bark rubbings and nature hunts. We will be discussing the seasons and paying particular attention to how the environment changes around us in the Autumn months. We will also be talking about different woodland animals, looking at those that hibernate and why some animals do. During our topic we will also be enjoying our annual Halloween party!

Throughout November the Muggle Wumps will be focusing on 'Space' for our topic, touching on bonfire night too. We will be encouraging 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. We will also be linking this to different physical activities, focusing on how the fireworks sound and look in the sky. We will then closely link this to our 'Space' topic, looking at the different planets and depth and reading different fact and fiction books surrounding this.

Further into the month, we will be learning about Diwali and the importance of the celebration. We will celebrate and learn about the festival by creating Rangoli patterns in different ways. We will also be making our own diva lamps for the children to take home, which they will mould and decorate themselves.

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 of videos to tapestry, the staff are always interested in seeing what the children have been up to.

Tapestry

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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 requested by tapestry should you wish to see the activities the children participate in.

*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.

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.

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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.

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 cannot 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

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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

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-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

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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.

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

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DEC 25TH & 26TH

JAN 1ST

APRIL 2ND & 5TH

MAY 3RD

MAY 31ST

AUG 30TH

DEC 27TH & 28TH