



Newsletter

January—April 2023



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Nursery Updates

Welcome to the Little Feet Newsletter! We cannot believe that we're already a third of the way through 2023—what a great start to the year we've had. At the beginning of 2023, we had the pleasure of sharing our fantastic Ofsted report with you. We were thrilled that the inspector could see the amazing practice that goes on daily at Little Feet.

She highlighted that, 'Children show that they are happy and content at the nursery. They are confident and demonstrate a sense of belonging.' We couldn't agree with this more and love that the inspector also picked up on how happy, confident and included all of our children are. The inspector also stated, 'Staff provide activities to promote children's communication and language skills from an early age.' Communication and language is

imperative to all learning hence us having such a strong focus on this with all of our children at Little Feet.

All in all, Ofsted was such a positive experience for us and we want to take this opportunity again to thank all of our phenomenal members of staff. Additionally we want to thank you as parents for all of the support you offered us. A special thank you to all the parents who sent in emails for us to share with the inspector. Once the inspector had left, we sat and reread them all again and were overwhelmed with the feedback we'd been sent—a heartfelt thank you to you all!

Now then... enough on Ofsted!

Over the last few weeks and months, we have experienced some adverse weather conditions, with some of our little ones experiencing snow for the first time! We thoroughly enjoyed making snow angels, snowmen and doing some sensory play with snow.

Whilst the snow made Dronfield look like a Winter Wonderland, it did provide us with some travel difficulties and we thank you for your understanding over the 2 days where we had to make adjustments to the normal nursery day.

Following the snow days, we have been enjoying the brighter and lighter Spring days but welcome Summer with open arms. During the fleeting glimpses of Summer that we've experienced so far, we have enjoyed planting in the garden, running around without coats on and going on Woodland Walks.

Nursery Cook

We are thrilled to share with you that we have successfully recruited an in-house cook. Patricia, is grandmother to one of our Little Climbers and mother to staff member Elysia (Little Explorers)!

Patricia has experience cooking in both primary schools and high schools and can't wait for her next challenge with us here at Little Feet.

Until the end of April, we will still be ordering from Bellissimo (our current lunch providers) but on some days children in different rooms will get to try some of Patricia's cooking. So far, the staff and children who have tried Patricia's cooking have given great feedback! Patricia is using the next few weeks to really get to know what our children like and how she can create healthy balanced meals to keep them full of energy throughout the day.

Patricia is also keen to ensure that our children know exactly what they're eating. So far she's enjoyed explaining dishes to our Little Rangers.

Patricia will of course be catering to all dietary requirements too. As always, please ensure you keep us up to date with all dietary requirements for your children.

Welcome to the team Patricia!



Dates for the diary

Summer Photos— Following the positive feedback of Summer photos last year, we have organised a Summer photoshoot again for your little one/s this year. Kerry from Little Days Photography will be taking photos which can be bought by parents. The photoshoot will be on **Thursday 22nd June**. Follow, Little Days Photography on Instagram to see some of her previous work.

If you wish to have your child's photo taken but they do not ordinarily attend on a Thursday, then nearer to the time, we will arrange a drop in slot for your child's photo to be taken. Please look out for the post on Tapestry.

Parents' Meetings—You will be invited to meet with your child's

key worker for a 10 minute meeting towards the end of the Summer term. Please keep an eye out for a post on Tapestry for this.

Summer Fayre—This year's Summer Fayre will take place on **Saturday 29th July 11am-1pm**. This year, the proceeds from the Summer Fayre will be raising money for charity again. We will be giving staff and pre-school children a vote each for who we choose to raise money for this year.

Please ensure that you bring small change for the Summer Fayre (20ps, 50ps, £1s) as it is unlikely that we'll have change for notes.

What to expect?

Face painting, bottle stalls, tombola, raffle, games, drinks and ice pops and generally lots of fun.

The Summer Fayre will take place in the Little Divers/Rangers playground.

Graduation—For all of our children due to leave Little Feet to start school in September 2023, we will be holding a Graduation ceremony for them on **Thursday 13th July**. More information to follow on Tapestry.

Summer Stay and Play—

We would love to welcome parents and children to our next Stay and Play sessions in September. Date to follow on Tapestry nearer the time.

During the sessions, you will have the opportunity to take part in activities with your child and chat to staff members too.

Please be reminded that due to space restrictions, only the child who is in a particular room can attend—please make alternative arrangements for siblings.

Staff News

A very warm welcome to some new members of the Little Feet team.

Nursery Apprentices

Welcome to Jessica and Ebony who have started their apprenticeships with us. Throughout their apprenticeship, each practitioner is based within a room but will also get to experience working within our other rooms too. Alongside on the job learning, all apprentices have 'time-out' weekly to complete training and coursework to support their understanding of early childhood development and edu-

cation.

At the moment, Jessica is based in Little Climbers and Ebony is based in Little Explorers. Both of our new apprentices have made a wonderful start on their journey as educational practitioners and we believe that they have bright futures with us at Little Feet.

Little Rangers

Inbal, Heather and Hayley have been working with us since just before Christmas. All three predominantly work in Little Rangers and have formed wonderful bonds with our gorgeous children. You may see more of

Heather and Hayley as they have recently increased their days and hours with us. Heather, Hayley and Inbal predominately work in Little Rangers 2.

Other Staff News

Congratulations to Sophie House, room leader of Little Climbers, as she is expecting her second baby late 2023.

little feet

Little Climbers

In Little Climbers, we have been up to so many fun and exciting activities. We have been focusing on our senses and have set out lots of messy play activities in our tuff tray!

We have had the added bonus of some natural resources to play with too such as the recent snow that we've had. The babies have definitely developed some likes and dislikes when it comes to texture and temperature.

The babies have loved craft activities too recently, especially

making and creating cards for Mother's Day and Easter. We enjoyed seeing all of the entries for the Easter bonnet competition too—thank you to those who took part!

As you may know, we use Makaton (sign language) as a form of communication for our babies. Before children find their voices, it's important to encourage them to interact and communicate with others in differing ways. As such as have introduced a 'Sign of

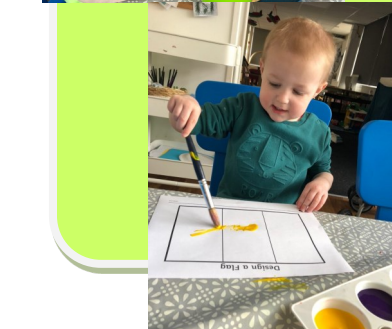
the Month'. We will create a video which we will share on Tapestry so that you too know the signs we're focusing on within the given month.

Look out for April's video which will be signing, Please and Thank You.

We hope to see lots of you at this Summer's Stay and Play session. We always enjoy these sessions and the babies love to show you what they get up to whilst at nursery.

As always, if there's anything we can do at nursery to help to support your child further, please do let us know.

The Little Climbers Team



Little Explorers

In Little Explorers, over the last few months, we have focused on our topics of Mother's Day, Easter and Spring! Children have thoroughly enjoyed all the craft opportunities within each topic, particularly making cards for loved ones.

As always, messy play has also been lots of fun recently as we've enjoyed playing in our tuff trays with playdough, sand, soil and even snow!

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Easter bonnet competition, we had lots of fantastic

entries.

As the weather is getting warmer, we are enjoying spending even more time outdoors and soon we'll begin to operate our 'free-flow' classroom where children get to choose to play either inside or outside for most of the day. Due to this, please can you continue to ensure that children are dressed appropriately for the weather as sometimes we're still getting rain followed by sunshine.

We have got two weeks left of our topic, Spring. Little Rangers children have been looking after some

chick eggs and so we're hoping that when they hatch, we can go and see them too!

Next month, our topic is 'Transport'. During the month we will be learning lots of new songs to help increase our vocabulary. We'll also be exploring sounds with our mouths too "brrrrrrum", "zooooooooommmmm". Making sounds is such a fun and important part of communication.

If you ever have any questions about your child's development or targets whilst at nursery, please do let us know.

Little Divers

In the Little Divers room we have been welcoming lots of new children from Little Explorers—we look forward to their adventure here with us in Little Divers.

Over the last few weeks and months we have loved making lots of craft for special occasions. For Valentine's Day we made footprint cards, Mother's Day we enjoyed creating flower cards for our mummies and for Easter we did lots of different types of Easter cards.

Easter was such a fantastic time in Little Divers. We made Easter baskets before then exploring both our classroom and outside area for eggs that the Easter Bunny left FOR US!

Following our Easter topic, we have been enjoying our 'All Around the World' topic. So far we have learnt all about the UK and France. During our France week, we did food tasting—most of us loved croissants but we weren't too sure about brie!

Next week we're focusing on Spain! We'll be making Spanish flags and doing some Spanish dancing too.

To finish off, in the final week of April we'll be learning all about China.

We'd love to know how your Sunflower seeds/plants are getting on. Some of them are growing so tall already—well done Little Divers.

We've had a superb first third of the year and we look forward to lots more fun to come.

Little Rangers



Wow, what a fun start to 2023 we've had. Already this year we have thoroughly enjoyed the topics of 'Nursery Rhymes', 'Chinese New Year', 'People Who Help Us' and 'Transport'.

Over February, for our topic 'People Who Help Us', we had a number of exciting visitors who taught the children all about their jobs and how they help people. Thank you to Doctor Jonny, Midwife Alison, Dentist Susan and to Dronfield Fire Service for their very exciting visit! These experiences really help bring learning to life and the children are still talking about these visitors now.

This month we started off with two weeks of 'Easter!' and now we're moving onto the topic of Growing. As you may well have seen on Tapestry and Instagram, we are caring for some chick eggs in our incubator. We have been told that due to our

excellent care, the chicks should be due to hatch this week!! We're so excited for this and will of course document it for you to see at home too.

Additionally, over the next few weeks we'll be planting more in our nursery garden and reading the following books. 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Jasper's Beanstalk' among others.

Nursery Leavers

It saddens me to say, but many of our Little Rangers have now entered their last term with us at Little Feet before they move on to big school this September. For those leaving us this year, we begin to focus a little more on 'school readiness' - this doesn't necessarily mean ensuring that they can write their name and count to 10 (although we aim for this too), but more on their independence skills and their emotional readiness for this next big step. For example, we encourage the children to be able to independently find their own peg and remove each item

from it, putting items on appropriately, as opposed to gathering a bundle of clothing and bringing it to an adult to sort. Another thing we will encourage is dressing themselves e.g. removing their own jumper, putting on their own shoes and socks etc. as these are the tasks that when at primary school (e.g. getting ready for a PE lesson) can seem daunting for the children. Additionally we begin to discuss feelings in more detail so that they can recognise and learn how to cope in new and unfamiliar situations when at school.

However, do not fear, we still have 4 full months before they'll be leaving us for school. Within this time we hope to see you all a lot as we have a number of occasions to look forward to including: Stay Summer Fayre, parents evening and of course Graduation!

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.

General

Spare Clothes

All children require a spare set of clothes in their bags. Even if your child is out of nappies, they may get wet in water play or muddy in the mud kitchen so please ensure you have spares in their bags for them.

Please also label all items of clothing, to ensure that we can find any misplaced items and reunite you with them.

Registered Days

We are very happy to say that in most rooms, we are working at capacity. We would like to remind you that whatever days and sessions

your child is currently signed up for, is guaranteed for you throughout their nursery time. However, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to add additional hours later down the line e.g. when your funding begins for your child. Therefore it's imperative that this is considered well in advance.

Additional Days

If you require any extra days to your child's registered days, please let us know well in advance so that we can assess our registers and see if we can accommodate your request.

Please be advised that we cannot accommodate swaps due to most

rooms being at capacity, unless otherwise authorised by Directors in extenuating circumstances.

Social Media

We would love for you to follow our daily updates on social media, both on Facebook www.facebook.com/littlefeetnursery and Instagram [@littlefeetnurserydronfield](https://www.instagram.com/littlefeetnurserydronfield) We post updates of all the rooms and their activities day to day.

Please do interact with us on social media and tag us in your posts, so we can share what you have been up to at home! If you would like to update your social media preferences, please let any member of staff know.



General availability

We are extremely fortunate and happy to say that Little Feet nursery now only has limited places in Nursery across all of our rooms. Please let us know if you'd like to put any new siblings on our waiting lists as we are already almost at capacity for January 2024 in our Little Climbers room. Additionally, if you have any friends or family who are interested in putting their child into Little Feet, please encourage them to get in contact as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment.

Invoices

Automatic reminders will be sent out 2 days before invoices are due and again when invoices are overdue. If you receive a reminder but have already paid, please disregard the email. Our accounting software can take up to about 48 hours to pull through bank transactions.

Our reasoning for implementing automatic reminders, is that unpaid invoices result in us spending considerable amounts of time contacting parents, which means we spend less time in the classroom supporting your children. In order to reduce the amount of late payments, we will be enforcing late payment charges of £15 if payments are overdue.

Uniform

If you would like to order any uniform for your child, just ask in your room or email Vicky and Sophie. We can either email you an order form, or you can complete your order with us directly. 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. Please note payment by BACS is preferred, or we can add the amount onto your monthly invoice should that be preferable.



Prices:

Polo shirt £7.50

Sweatshirt (3 years plus only) £8.00

Hooded Sweatshirt £11.00

NEG funding

If your child turns 3 between 1st April 2023 and 31st August 2023 then funding will commence in September 2023. Ahead of this time, your child will be sent home with a funding form for you to complete and return to us. Please be advised that when funding commences for your child, a £6 consumables fee is chargeable per funded day they attend nursery. If you require any more information regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to speak to either Vicky or Sophie and we will be glad to help.

Early drop off and late pick up

Following the recent reminders that we have sent out, we have had only very few cases of children being dropped off before their registered start time and/or being picked up after their registered finish time. We thank you for this as it ensures that we are being compliant in terms of governmental ratios. Please be advised that if your child is registered to start their session at 8am, and you try to drop them off at 7.50, you will be asked to wait outside until 8am—this may be due to additional staff members starting their shift at 8am for example. We have introduced a fee of £1 per minute for picking children up late/dropping them off early.

If due to unforeseen circumstances, you find yourself running late, please do let us know so that we can make suitable arrangements.

Thanks again.

