



# Newsletter

June-August 2023

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## Nursery Updates

Welcome to the Little Feet Newsletter! We are moving quickly through the year and we have had incredibly fun filled months. Throughout May, June and July there have been lots of brilliant activities, many children moving up through the rooms and there have been some new staff members joining us on our journey.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for their consistent support. We are always looking for ways in which we can develop our setting and provision for the children—parent opinions are always welcome!

We have our parents evenings fast approaching, some of which have already taken place, and we are looking forward to speaking together about how children are getting on at Little Feet. All the chil-

dren have been up to some truly brilliant learning. Together we have created beautiful artwork, conquered new challenges and progressed in all areas of development. We are excited to share it all with you and look forward to what the future brings.

The Summer Fayre was a huge success. Staff, children and parents alike had a brilliant time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the success of the fair which raised £640.15 for charity!

The children, and Sophie, were having the best time on the bouncy castle and they all looked wonderful with their faces painted.

Lots of prizes were won on the day and we enjoyed the singing session led by Ashley too.

We hope to put on more events like this in the future—we love this community and it is very inspiring to receive such support.

We hope to see you all at the next one!



## Deputy Managers

We are incredibly pleased to welcome Ashley and Rachel as our new deputy managers. Ashley will be working with the younger half of the building in Little Climbers and Little Explorers. Rachel will be working with Little Divers and Little Rangers. Many of you will have seen Ashley and Rachel around the building already as they started with us in June.

Ashley has over 8 years experience in childcare and over 3 years working with under 2's. Ashley specialises in music interaction and music and emotional development. You may have seen that Ashley plays the guitar for the children. We will be sharing Ashley among all rooms so everyone can experience the music interaction sessions.

Rachel has worked in nursery settings for over 25 years and has worked her way up to deputy manager after starting out as a nursery cook. Rachel has a wealth of experience working with pre-school and is already having a positive impact on the room.

Please help us give a massive warm welcome to both Ashley and Rachel!



## Dates for the diary

**Parent's Evening** - We are so proud of all the children at Little Feet and we know our staff can't wait to share with you their development and how everyone is doing.

All parents evenings will be completed by the end of September so if you haven't yet received confirmation of this, you'll be getting a message on Tapestry soon.

This is the perfect opportunity for parents to see what kind of goals we are working towards at nursery. Parents evenings are also a super opportunity to find out whether we can further support with anything at home whether this be emotional regulation, toilet training or getting rid of the dummies etc.

Once again with parent participa-

tion, our nursery thrives and we thank you all for taking time to come and chat with us and help us provide the best possible care for your children.

**Macmillian Support**—we are supporting Macmillan cancer research in August. We are encouraging staff and children to 'Wear it Green' on Monday 21st of August.

Then on Tuesday 29th of August we will be hosting a coffee morning for the whole Nursery. Parents from every room are invited to come into nursery 9-11. We will be having cakes, refreshments, fun games and activities.

This is all in aid of a really important charity and we hope you can help us make it a special morning.

If you would like to support the coffee morning by doing some baking, that would be super too!

**Stay and Play Sessions**—We are pleased to announce we will be hosting some play and stay sessions in late September/early October. We will keep you all up to date when we settle on some dates.

The stay and play sessions are such a fantastic way of letting all our parents see what goes on in nursery life. You can see all of our fantastic activities and provision and also how your child interacts with others.

It is also lovely to see parents getting involved and playing at nursery too so we hope you can join us!



## Staff News

A very warm welcome to some new members of the Little Feet Team and also a very emotional goodbye for now to some of our lovely team.

### Little Climbers

Our room leader Sophie House is going on maternity leave in September. Sophie will be with us until the 15th of September. I'm sure we speak for everyone when we wish Sophie all the best. Whilst Sophie H is on maternity leave, Amy H will be taking over the position as room leader.

### Little Explorers

Ashley is in going to be in both Little Explorers and Climbers. Ashley has predominately been in Little Explorers and has already made brilliant bonds with the children.

### Little Divers

Our brilliant apprentice Olivia S will be qualified very soon. Congratulations to Liv who has put in a lot of hard work over the past couple of years. In her most recent observation from Chesterfield College, her supervisor was blown away with Liv's fantastic interaction skills with the children and with how her confidence in the role has continued to grow.

### Little Rangers

As you know, Kate is following her dreams of teaching abroad again and is moving to Spain in September—we wish you all the best Kate!

As such, we have recently welcomed Emma as our new room leader in Little Rangers. Emma has a wealth of experience working in childcare and is getting to know all the children well already.

By now, you will all also know Libby who is an apprentice predominantly based in Little Rangers. Libby has made a fantastic start to her apprenticeship and is a wonderful member of the team.

## Little Climbers



In Little Climbers, we have been exploring the room and exploring some big topics. Our last topic was about vehicles - we made lots of planes to hang around the room and loved watching them soaring through the sky. Whilst looking at 'vehicles', we have been reading stories and enjoyed copying lots of different vehicle sounds!

We have been engaging in lots of messy play and making some beautiful art pieces. We love getting messy and we are always exploring different textures. We have been updating our big displays making the room look lovely.

We have been looking at animals with themes like 'a day at the zoo' and we did some fantastic activities with this.

We made a giant game of hungry hippos which helped develop lots of key skills and was a tremendous amount of fun.

Recently we've updated our eating area with a new floor which looks really nice.

Over the next couple of months we will be heading to the sea and exploring themes of water and sea animals in the hopefully sunny months to come.



## Little Explorers

In Little Explorers we have been having a brilliant time. We have been spending a lot of time in our outdoor area where we have been developing many key physical skills.

We have been focusing on providing lots of sensory experiences such as exploring the water and the sand. We created a waterfall using tubes and we have been digging and building sand castles in our sandpit. These wetter days have been bringing out lots of mini beasts for us to look at as well.

Our main topics have included Fairyland, The Gingerbread Man, Dear Zoo and much more. We really enjoyed dressing up as fairies together. We have done lots of building in our constructions area. We have been building lots of different habitats too—our favorite was the mini beast den.

We have made some brilliant pictures over the past months and we have been updating some of our big

displays in the room. We created a huge elephant for the Dear Zoo topic and also a giant gingerbread man.

Our next topics will include transport and vehicle themes. We look forward to creating many fantastic activities and learning around this theme.



## Little Divers

In the world of Little Divers, we have been having a lovely time exploring many fascinating topics.

Our big topics have included Fairyland and Summer. We had lots of fun coming up with interesting ways to explore these topics. We made some beautiful Fairy pictures to show on our topic of the month board.

We looked at airports and holidays when learning about summer. We love the outdoors and so we took a lot of our activities outside.

We have been developing many key skills engaging in group times. We have been singing with Ashley and it has been really lovely to see how children's attention and enthusiasm for learning is improving

and growing.

Over the next couple of months our big theme will be animals. We're going to be looking at farm animals, under the sea animals, jungle animals and lastly dinosaurs!

# Little Rangers



Well we have had a very emotional and busy few weeks. The graduation was such a beautiful success. It was so amazing to see everyone coming together for the special day. It was wonderful to hear all the songs the children had been practicing too. All the staff worked so hard to make the event run smoothly and to make sure everyone had a great time.

Over the last few months, we have been learning lots about countries around the world focusing on India, Australia, Spain and Italy.

We have been exploring the culture of India and learning about Henna and Diwali.

More recently, we have been focusing on Sealife and the ocean. Children have enjoyed discussing their own experiences of going to the beach as well as learning about different sea creatures. For the final week learning about the ocean, we are learning about pollution in the sea and about how we can limit this.

To encourage independence, we have been using cups more to help us develop our gross motor skills. This is going really well with children enjoying being responsible at meal times, trying hard not to spill their drinks.

Our next topic, starting in September is 'All About Me'. During this topic, we will discuss our different families, our own appearance, our interests and our pets too!



It cannot be understated just how much we will miss all of those who are leaving us in only a few weeks—some of which have already had their last day. We have loved teaching you and it's been a pleasure to watch you all grow in a number of different ways! Our aim is to support the children to be as best prepared for school as possible but it's still hard for us to say goodbye.



## 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. (This includes pants and socks please).

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 ca-

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 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.

We would like to remind parents that if they require additional days or have any other important requests, please do not use tapestry to let us know. You need to email us with your request so we can see it. Tapestry has so many updates added regularly that is very easy to miss a message from a parent. Hopefully by emailing directly it will make things easier for us all. Thank you.

### Social Media

We would love for you to follow our daily updates on social media, both on Facebook [www.facebook.com/littlefeetnursery](http://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 from April 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 September 2023 and 31st December 2023 then funding will commence in January 2024. 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.

