



# Newsletter

August– December 2023

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## Nursery Updates

Welcome to the Little Feet Newsletter! We are at the end of a wonderful year of fun, mischief and beautiful events to be celebrated. We have achieved so much, with so much more yet to come next year.

### Stay and Play sessions!

We have had our fantastic stay and play sessions beginning with Little Explorers which was a roaring success, followed by Divers, Rangers and Climbers all on the same morning. From messy play in babies, to eye spy in Rangers, we hope you all enjoyed the sessions– we certainly did!

### Nursery Practitioner Appreciation day

Our Nursery Practitioner Appreciation day saw many of you give some lovely feedback, which really does make it all the more worthwhile for the team. So a big thank you to everyone who contributed to this. We celebrated our wonderful team by taking them out for dinner and read

through all of the lovely comments you had made– there were many tears shed!

### Reviews

Following on from that, we would love for some of the general public to see your comments and feedback. So if you have a little bit of time (although we realise this is probably rarely the case!), we would really appreciate you taking the time to leave us either a Facebook or Google review over the festive period.

### Nursery Improvements!

We have a new floor in Little Climbers and it looks amazing. The team helped take the room apart and put it back together and it looks excellent! If you've had the pleasure of seeing our baby room for yourself we're sure you'll agree it looks fabulous.

You may already have noticed, but we have undergone a schedule of works to update our heating system throughout the nursery– now all of the rooms are climate controlled– with both hot and cold settings.

### Christmas!

Santa visited us this festive period and the children loved meeting him! He gave us all our nursery Christmas presents– what a treat!

We enjoyed a lovely festive lunch made by our wonderful Patricia! We had sausages, sprouts, roast potatoes and more!

We had wonderful Christmas festive activities in Little Climbers, Divers and of course, the much anticipated Rangers Christmas Concert! Thank you to all the parents who attended these events and a huge thank you to all the staff who worked tirelessly to get the events ready!

We were also happy to see our wonderful, handmade Christmas tree in the church for the Christmas tree festival. We know we are biased, but we think ours was the best!

We hoped you enjoyed seeing the Christmas pictures as much as we did– the children all did so well, smiling for the camera (in the most part)!

### Thank you

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our gorgeous children, but particularly you as parents for your consistent understanding and support of Little Feet. We are continuously trying to improve the nursery and make things better for everyone. Support and engagement with parent's meetings, stay and play sessions and parent partnership in general is at an all time high and we hope to continue with this in the new year.

**P.S Thank you for all our lovely Christmas presents!**





## Dates for the diary

**Children's Mental Health week– w/c 11th Feb** We will be using this week to talk all things PSED, by encouraging the children to listen to their body. **Chinese New Year–** 10th Feb As a nursery, we love to celebrate different cultures and will be celebrating Chinese New Year– the year of the Dragon! **Pancake day!–** 13th Feb– YUM YUM! **Valentines day—** a reminder that it is valentines day on the 14th February– keep your eye out for some lovely cards and hand-made treasures.

### New Funding!

We have had numerous enquiries regarding the new funded childcare that has been announced for working parents of children aged 2 plus from April (15 hours) and apologise for not being more forthcoming with information. Whilst we really hope to be able to offer the new funding, we have not yet been informed by the local authority what the hourly rates will be, thus making it very difficult to be able to budget, let alone confirm funded places. We would highly

recommend those who are eligible, to apply anyway (you can do so from January), so we are ready to go when we are better informed.

Our understanding is that the eligibility criteria is similar to that of 3 and 4 year old funding. Please remember that funding begins the **term after** the child is 2 (terms start in September, January and April). To give you an example, a child who turned 2 in March would be eligible for funding from April, but a child who turned 2 in April would be eligible from September.

## 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

You may remember Sophie House going on maternity leave towards the end of September. Well we can confirm Sophie has given birth to a beautiful and healthy little boy, Noah. We're sure you will join us saying a huge congratulations to Sophie and wish her all the best. We look forward to welcoming Sophie and Noah into our baby room next year!

Amy Harkness has stepped up into the role of room leader in Little Climbers and is doing a fantastic job– Amy is so experienced that she has taken to the role like a duck to water!

### Little Explorers and Little Divers

We are going to be sad to say goodbye to a couple of well-known faces in the new year; Elysia and Liv Walker. Elysia is continuing her journey as a nursery practitioner in

a nursery much closer to home (she travels up to 40 minutes currently!), and Liv W is starting work as a primary school teacher. We are so excited for her, as we know that this is a long-standing aim of hers and have no doubts that she will make an excellent reception class teacher!

In other exciting news, Liv S passed her Level 2 apprenticeship with a DISTINCTION!! What an achievement– we are all so proud and can honestly say that she deserves it as she is a wonderful practitioner!

### Little Rangers

Whilst she now seems like she is part of the furniture, in September we welcomed another brilliant new member of staff to the Little Feet team. Emma Ingleby has taken on the big responsibility of the room leader role in Little Rangers. Emma is consistently amazing with the children and staff alike. Emma really shines in this role and we are so happy Emma is a part of the Little Feet family.

We have also welcomed our new apprentice, Emma Martin, who is amazing– a real asset to the team!



### Management

Rachel is now Manager of Little Feet Nursery! She is such a wonderful, hardworking team-member, we are happy to be able to call her Manager!

We have some more interviews for Deputy Manager in the New Year and hope to recruit some wonderful practitioners into the role.

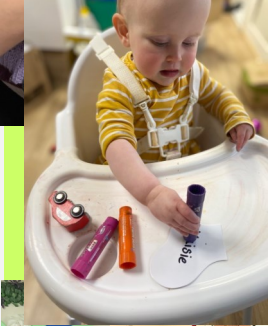
Many of you eagle-eyed parents have spotted that Vicky is pregnant! She is due April 2024, hoping to be back at Little Feet with Baby France in tow late







# Little Climbers



In Little Climbers have really enjoyed some big messy activities all in the spirit of Halloween. We used a bath bomb to create a potion which the children really enjoyed splashing in. The children loved when we hid some pretend spiders in a big box of shredded the paper. The children enjoyed feeling the paper and eventually crawling through. A firm favorite topic that stayed out was our five little ducks

theme. The children were fascinated by our pond tough tray. We sang the five little ducks song while moving pretend ducks through the tray and the children absolutely loved this.

We have also been working on our family tree board, exploring pictures of family, and reading books that showcase different family structures.

Our Christmas stay and play was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who came to sing along with us and enjoy our festive activities.

We have been working hard on our Christmas craft and hope you have enjoyed our creations!

Our Mince pies with Mrs Clause afternoon was so much fun! We played parachute games, sang Christmas songs and enjoyed talking all things Christmas!

# Little Explorers

In Little Explorers we have been having an amazing time exploring some lovely themes. One of our favourites was Halloween theme which we also explored during our play and stay session. We had our tough tray filled with different ingredients to make a witches option. We mixed up conkers flour and all sorts of different messy ingredients to create some spectacular concoctions. The dress up throughout Halloween has been brilliant and it was so cute seeing the children all dressed up.

Some of our other topics have included bringing the outdoors indoors with our woodland week. This saw us collecting many resources from outside to look at and to make lots of different and exciting craft.

We also looked at people who help us for a few weeks covering police, fire-fighters, doctors and dentists. Our Explorers had a lot of fun dressing up as little police officers and doctors so much so the

doctors equipment is a pretty much constant feature of our role play.

Throughout Christmas we made lots of Christmas decorations– calendars, baubles, cards and much more! Ebony made some delicious fudge for us and most of us even smiled for our Christmas photo!

We loved our visit from Santa (only one of us didn't like him very much) and he even gave us a present to take home!

# Little Divers

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

One of our biggest topics was space. Our children were massively fascinated learning about rockets and the stars and we absolutely loved singing Zoom Zoom Zoom.

We had a great time exploring different occupations and learning about what lots of mummies and daddies do at work.

One of our amazing parents even brought in some items used at her dental practice which the children thought was amazing.

Going into autumn we had a big focus on how the animals and environment changed during this season. The Little Divers have been busy collecting leaves outside to see how they have changed.

For Christmas we loved having the parents in for a Mince Pie Christmas sing-along. Hopefully it was lovely for you all to see the children within nursery having a lovely time and a little snippet of our much-loved singing time. We have also loved getting in the festive spirit, with lots of Christmas stories, dancing and nativity tuff trays!

# Little Rangers



We have been having an amazing time in Little Rangers, especially outdoors. We have been working hard to really establish our forest school sessions.

Once a week we head out to Firth Woods (even in the snow!) and engage in activities you can only find in the great outdoors. We have been river paddling which was great fun. We collect leaves and sticks to bring back to nursery.



We explore the woods and see what we can find. We also have been building some dens out in the woods so if you are out for a walk you may see one of them!

We have had some big themes in Little Rangers that the children have really engaged with. One of the big favourites was our all about me week where we encouraged children to bring in a box from home celebrating all things about me.

The children so proud and excited to show off their boxes.

We also had a great time celebrating different cultures with our around the world theme. We dressed up in loads of different outfits from around the world and we got to try loads of different foods. The children really enjoyed embracing these new things and it was really great to see.

For Christmas we have been doing lots of practising of our Christmas songs, as many of you have probably heard them over and over at home!

We want to thank Heather as producer, choreographer, musician and lead singer for all her hard work and dedication to making it a night to remember! Heather spent a huge amount of time sourcing costumes for the big night— what a star!



We have also had a visit from Jasper the cheeky elf during December, he did lots of funny things whilst he was at nursery, including eating our chocolates, decorating the classroom with toilet paper and even making snowmen!

We also took a couple of trips to the care-home, which both the children and residents got a lot out of.



## General

### Spare Clothes

With the days now cold and often wet, please ensure your child comes to nursery in an appropriate coat for outside play. Please don't forget that all children require a spare set of clothes in their bags. 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. It may be the case that we cannot guarantee additional days until nearer the time.

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 please. 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 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.

