



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Welcome to our March/April newsletter. I hope that all our families are looking forward to the warmer, Spring weather, and the imminent easing of lockdown!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for your support in adhering to our COVID guidance, and also for our staff for working diligently within the guidance. Let's all hope that we reach the light at the end of the tunnel, and that we will return to some kind of normality in the summer!

### **New children**

We would like to welcome the following children and their families to our nursery: Morgan (Baby Room).

### **Staff news**

I am delighted to welcome Eliona Koseni to our nursery. Eliona joined us as a Nursery Assistant in mid-February. Many of the children are familiar with Eliona, as she has been working with our nursery as supply staff for over a year.

### **Babies and Teenies activities**

The Babies and Teenies have been learning to feed themselves, holding bottles and learning to share and tidy up. The children have been learning new words, through reading and activities with picture cards. Most of our babies are now walking, and this excitement was shared between staff and parents!



The older babies have been learning to count to three, and to pronounce and recognise the main colours. The children have also been learning new words according to the different activities scheduled in our nursery planning. These activities included talking about our family members, textures, and the human body. The children enjoyed playing with our sensory toys, where they have been

learning about the touch and hearing senses.

I hope that all our families enjoyed the flurry of snow a few weeks ago! It seemed that the snow had cheered us all up in lockdown! The snow was fun for our babies, as for many this was a first-time experience. Some of the babies, however, were not excited about the snow at all! While our Toddlers made a snowman in the garden, our babies were more interested in pulling off his nose and other bits out of curiosity!



### **Toddler and Preschool activities**

The Toddlers (2-3 year-olds) and Pre-school (3-5 year-olds) children have been talking about the human body and hospitals. The Toddlers concentrated on learning to count to five, and recognising their names on their placemats at lunch and tea times. Each child's individual placement includes their name and photo.

The children were also learning about different ingredients following our Pancake Day activity. All children in the nursery were given a small pancake. As you know, we are a healthy-eating nursery and discourage children from eating excess sugar and sweets, except on special occasions. For the pancakes, we used low-sugar organic orange jam.



Several of our Toddlers are currently potty training. Staff and parents have been working together on this, and I am sure that we will achieve our goal shortly.

Thank you to all parents who helped us with our fun Pyjama Day by bringing the children into nursery in their favourite pyjamas. Our staff were also very enthusiastic!



The Preschool children have been talking about space, the human body, different textures, and stories and fairies. The children have been learning the letters of the alphabet: this week, we focused on the letter 'H', and how to write and pronounce the letter, as well as looking at words beginning with 'H'. The children were also learning about quantities: less, more, and 'take away' and 'add up'. The Preschool children talked about gravity, which they found exciting. Most of the children told us that they would like to visit the moon! The children made their own special astronaut and decorated the astronaut's suit in white for our display.



### **Purim celebration**

We celebrated Purim, a Jewish holiday that commemorates the survival of the Jewish people living in Persia, who were saved from death by a courageous young Jewish woman called Esther.

It was lovely to see the children dressed up in their favourite costumes and our staff wearing elegant eye masks! The children were told the Purim story and ate home-made hamantaschen, a traditional cookie eaten at Purim, made by our cook, Lisa, and myself.



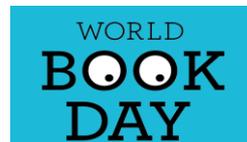
I would like to thank Liya's mum for her ideas for Purim, and for supporting this celebration!

Our Preschooler children made lovely daffodils to celebrate St David's Day, and we talked about their significance.



### **World Book Day**

We will celebrate World Book Day at the nursery on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Please dress up your child in their favourite character costume, or any costume of their choice. The children had enjoyed dressing up previously, especially as they do not have many opportunities to do this because of lockdown.



I will be reading two books to all age groups during the day.

### **Word of the month**

'Love' is our word of the month for March. We will be talking about 'humour' as our word of the month for April.

### **Language of the month**

Our languages of the months of March and April are French and Italian, respectively.

### **Forthcoming special days/celebrations**

- 1<sup>st</sup> March – St David's Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> March – International Women's Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> March – Maha Shivratri (Hindu)
- 11<sup>th</sup> March – Isra and Mi'raj (Muslim)
- 14<sup>th</sup> March – Mother's Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Holi (Hindu)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Last Day of Passover (Jewish)
- 4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday
- 13<sup>th</sup> April – Start of Ramadan (Muslim)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April – St George's Day

## **“Saving our planet” - MP Ealing project update**



Our “Save our Planet” project gathers pace! Finally we can report that our “Saving the Planet” book has been finalised and completed! We are extremely proud of our children’s understanding of this topic, and their wonderful thoughts and artwork around the subject. Once restrictions are lifted, we will be delighted to show you the book.

The children shared some interesting thoughts, such as:

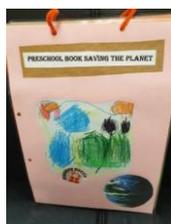
“Our planet is a circle and space is far away”

“There are lots of plastic bags in rivers and oceans, and the fishes cannot breath”

“Fires will make the trees fall down”

“Oil in the sea doesn’t make the fish breath, it makes sharks noses not to breath.”

But there was optimism as the children said “our planet will be fine”. The children all agreed that “children should be walking to the nursery and everywhere.”



Next, we will be concentrating on our gardening project, and hope that our very own nursery garden will yield some flowers and vegetables!

Thank you to Gabriella’s and Rafael’s mum for sending in pictures of their lemon trees that were germinated at the nursery for the children to take home. It is wonderful for children to watch the plants growing.



## **Children’s progress reports**

If you have not already done so, and would like to book a telephone meeting with your child’s Key Teacher to discuss your child’s development, please contact me. Meetings can be booked between 10 am and noon, and 2 pm and 4 pm. Similar to our Parents’ meetings, these meetings will take a maximum of 20 minutes, as our staff are required in the daily nursery routine.

## **Fun activities for Early Years children**

Hungry Little Minds

(<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk>) is a government initiative to provide inspiration for activities that parents can do with their children at home. The activities are broken down into the different Early Years age groups. The website also provides links to some useful educational resources.

## **Nursery closure for Easter**

The nursery will be closed for the Easter holiday on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April. We will re-open from 8 am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Nursery closure for INSET day**

Our INSET days this year will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The nursery will be closed on these days for essential staff training. Please arrange alternative childcare for these days.

Please note that monthly fees take INSET days into consideration so that you are not charged.

## **Sickness policy**

I would like to remind all parents to please keep their children at home if they are feeling unwell for any reason. This will protect our staff and children, and allow the nursery to remain open.

If your child becomes unwell at the nursery, I, or a member of staff, will ask you to pick up your child. Please co-operate with us, as this decision would have been made in the best interest of your child, as well as the children and staff at our nursery.

I would urge all parents to continue to adhere to the coronavirus government guidelines. If you, or someone in your household, has been asked to self-isolate, please let us know and please do not send

your child into nursery for 10 days. This also applies if you have another child at school who has been sent home to self-isolate. Please keep your nursery child at home for 10 days.

If we send your child home with a high temperature, or persistent cough, you will not be allowed to bring your child back to nursery for 10 days, unless your child tests negative for coronavirus.

I appreciate the frustration of working parents, and that our decision may not be popular, but we must adhere to the guidelines to keep our nursery community and the wider community safe – this must be our priority. We need to ensure that our nursery can remain open for all other children and staff, and we cannot afford to take any risks.

Please let me know on the same day, by email or by phone, if your child will not be attending nursery that day. This is especially important because of our current COVID guidance. I need to know the reason why your child is not at nursery (even if it is not COVID-related). Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

#### **Nursery opening/closing time**

I would like to remind all parents that the nursery opens at **8:00 am**. Please do not come any earlier and do not enter the Nursery before 8:00 am as our staff will be conducting risk assessments and preparing the nursery for breakfast before 8:00 am. **Please DO NOT ring the bell before 8:00 am** to avoid delays in our preparation of the nursery for opening.

Please pick up your child by 5:30 pm when possible to allow our staff enough time to disinfect and clean the nursery ready for the next nursery day.

#### **Booking emergency days**

Please contact me in advance if you wish to book an emergency day for your child. As you are aware, the nursery is very busy and offering extra days is becoming difficult following our staff to children ratios. We currently have certain days where we are unable to offer emergency sessions in any of our rooms.

#### **Pushchairs**

Thank you to those parents who have been leaving their pushchairs at home, thus helping to minimize movements in the nursery at this critical time.

If you must leave your pushchairs at the nursery, please ensure that it is folded up and placed against the wall in the storage area, away from the fire exit route.

#### **Emergency mobile telephone number**

If you need to call the nursery, please phone our nursery landline on 020 8840 1116. If for any reason the landline is down, please call the emergency nursery mobile on **07745219888** (please do not leave voicemail or text messages on the nursery mobile. Messages may, however, be left by email). If in doubt, you can contact Head Office on 01442 878887.

If your child is unwell or intends to be away from the nursery for any reason (eg, holidays or sickness), please could you let us know as soon as possible. This helps us to plan our activities and staff rotas. If your child is unwell, please let us know why as soon as possible, to prevent the spread of infection.

Please note that nursery fees are payable when your child is off sick or away on holiday, as specified in our Terms and Conditions. In addition, registered attendance days cannot be changed or swapped.

#### **Contacting the nursery**

If you need to contact the nursery, please telephone us on our landline. You may also email me at [manager@monkeypuzzlealing.co.uk](mailto:manager@monkeypuzzlealing.co.uk), but please be aware that I am not always at my desk to pick up emails throughout the day. Please phone me for anything urgent, or for anything that needs my same-day attention.

Please do not hesitate to call whenever you need to check on your child's day at the nursery, or for any other reason, as we **MUST** minimise face-to-face feedback under the current situation.

If you have any concerns, queries or suggestions, please feel free to speak to me at any time.

**Biljana Dokmanovic**  
Manager, Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery  
Ealing  
020 8840 1116