



30th April 2021

Welcome to our May/June newsletter. I hope that all our families are looking forward to a glorious summer!

New children

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

Staff news

I am delighted to welcome Kaya Latif-Shaikh, who joined our Monkey Puzzle Ealing team in March as a Nursery Assistant (Bank Staff).

Babies and Teenies activities

The Babies and Teenies have been learning to share and to take turns. They have also been learning how to look after toys, and how to separate the toys into different containers. Our younger babies have been learning to walk, and to feed themselves, with supervision.

The older babies have been talking about different celebrations (as we have had several celebrations recently) through looking at books and flash cards, and learning new words. The children also talked about the different senses while enjoying our sensory equipment.

Following the celebrations, the babies dressed up for National Book Day in interesting and lovely costumes! Thank you to all parents who made a special effort - the babies certainly enjoyed looking at each other, and pointing and talking about this!

The children produced some beautiful art and cards for Easter, Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day and St David's Day.

Toddler and Preschool activities

The Toddlers (2-3 year-olds) and Preschool (3-5 year-olds) children have been talking about the different celebrations, spring, nature, the senses, and gardening.

The Toddlers have been learning to put their shoes on, to go to the toilet, to recognise their names, and to share and take turns. The children were engaged in lots of lovely activities while talking about numbers, train tracks and motorways.



Our Toddlers enjoyed their first gardening activity of the year! The children grew cress in small pots and took these home. The children were curious to see how the cress was growing each day!



The Preschool children have been learning to recognise and write their names, to count, and to add two or more objects to a group. The children also talked about different countries and about gardening.

The theme of Space has been of particular interest to our Preschool children. We bought some Space food for the children to try, and explained that this type of food is eaten by astronauts in Space. The children were amused by this, and some of the children asked for more space food! We had fruit and ice-cream Space food, which the Toddlers also tried.



The children talked enthusiastically about nature and gardening, with lots of fun activities around the subjects.



Our different celebrations have provided a better knowledge and understanding of equalities. Our staff have been sharing this with the children. Our staff are enthusiastic

about this and have produced their own drawings regarding each celebration. I am sure that you would have seen these in our display box at the front of the nursery! Our children find this interesting, and are more curious to listen to what each celebration is about.



Our Nursery Cook, Lisa, made some delicious Easter cakes. The children were excited to see and eat these.



Word of the month

'Humanity' is our word of the month for May. We will be talking about 'trust' as our word of the month for June.

Language of the month

Our languages of the months of May and June are Makaton and Arabic, respectively.

Forthcoming special days/celebrations

2nd May – Paskha - Orthodox Easter
 6th May - Sports Day
 12th to 13th May - Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan) - Muslim
 23rd May – Pentecost - Christian
 26th May - Visakha Puja - Buddha Day
 30th May - Trinity Sunday - Christian
 10th June - Savitri Brata - Hindu
 12th June- Queen's Official Birthday
 20th June - Father's Day
 24th June - Preschool Graduation Day (for children leaving us for School Reception Year)

Pyjama Day

Several parents have asked me about Pyjama Day, as their children had been talking about, and enjoyed, our last Pyjama Day in January. I have, therefore, decided to include an extra Pyjama Day

this year to fulfil our children's wishes, particularly as our children have been unable to have sleepovers with friends and family during the COVID restrictions.

Our next Pyjama Day will be on 20th May.

"Saving our planet" - MP Ealing project update



Our "Save our Planet" project has, for the time being, come to an end. The finale resulted in a beautiful book containing the children's thoughts and artwork that we have had printed. The book will be given to the Preschool children that had participated in the making of the book. We will also be giving a copy to those Preschool children who were in the Preschool Room while the book was being put together. The books will be presented to the children on our Graduation Day. We would like this to be a nice surprise for the children, and would be grateful if you could refrain from telling them!

We are extremely proud of our Preschool children, as the book represents our children's understanding of our project. I am also proud of our staff who have shown enthusiasm within the different activities of the 'Saving our Planet' project.

A sneak preview of our book!



We are pausing the project for now, as we will have many more younger children joining the Preschool Room. We will continue when our younger children's understanding develops. For the time being, our new project is 'Our Garden'. We are hopeful for a glorious summer, to encourage a colourful garden with flowers, and vegetables from the seeds that we have sown recently!

Sports Day

The children's Sports Day will be held at Blondin Park on **Friday 7th May, 10:00-11:30**, for all children over 2 years-old. The children will be competing within their own bubble groups for COVID safety.

Parents are welcome to watch while adhering to our COVID safety guidance. Unfortunately, parents cannot participate this year.

Children who do not usually attend nursery on a Friday are welcome to come along, provided that their parents remain with their child. Should rain be forecast nearer the time, I will let you know the re-scheduled date and time.

Our Babies will be having sports activities in our garden, but, unfortunately, we cannot accommodate parents in a COVID-safe way in our garden space.

Please let me know if you do not wish your child to participate in these activities.

Reading in the garden

When the warmer weather arrives, I would like to invite parents and siblings of our children to come into our garden to read to our older children, while adhering to our COVID safety guidance. This is a great way to encourage our children to enjoy reading and promote a love of books.

If you or one of your children would be interested in reading to our nursery children in the garden, please let me know so that I can organise this.

You can choose your child's favourite book (or even two books). I am sure that the children will enjoyed this.



Preschool Graduation Day

Our Preschool Graduation Day will be held on Thursday 24th June. The graduation is to celebrate children who will be leaving us to join the Reception Year at 'Big School'.



All our Preschool children will be welcome to join in the fun on the day alongside our graduates!

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate parents this year because of COVID restrictions, but I will try my best to take a photo of your child and send it to you by email.

Activities at home

It has been a challenging time for all families, especially for parents having to work from home, sharing 'home space' with 'work space'.

As the country gradually emerges out of lockdown, I would like to encourage all our families to make the most of family time together outdoors, especially at weekends. We would like the children to talk about their weekend outdoor family activities at the nursery with their friends, and to share experiences.

International Women's Day

To mark International Women's Day on 8th March, each of our staff members received a rose to mark the day, and to thank them for just being themselves - women!!

I hope that you liked the cards made by your child in celebration of the day!



Toothbrushes and toothpaste

For parents of Toddlers and Preschool Children only, please ensure that your child has a toothbrush, toothbrush cover, and toothpaste at the nursery. This is a good time for children to develop good habits to promote oral hygiene.

Indoor shoes and summer hats

Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes at the nursery (for children in all rooms) to allow us to keep the nursery carpets clean.

As the warmer weather approaches, please also ensure that your child has a sun hat, labelled with their name inside, in their rucksacks. Thank you!

Face masks

It has come to my attention that some parents are entering the nursery building without a face mask, and allowing other parents to enter the building on their way out.

Please wear a face mask when you enter the building, and also outside whilst on nursery premises. Please wait until a member of staff lets you in, as we need to monitor the numbers of parents in the building at any one time. We cannot have several people in a small space, following COVID distancing guidelines.

Wall surrounding the nursery premises

Please do not allow your children to walk on the wall surrounding the nursery premises. I realise that children may enjoy walking on the wall, but this is dangerous. Once children see others walking on the wall, they will also want to walk on it, including children from the schools opposite us. Please set a good example to the children and tell them that the wall is not designed for walking on.

Nursery door bell

I would like to remind all parents not to allow your child to ring the nursery door bell. Staff are busy getting the nursery ready for opening during the morning, and conducting risk assessments during this time. Allowing your child to ring the door bell causes extra pressure on our staff, and causes unnecessary delays in completing our duties before opening.

Children leaving us in September

If your Preschool child will be leaving us to start school in September, please can you email me your child's nursery leaving date and the name of the school that your child will be attending. Thank you to those parents who have already informed me.

Summer holidays

Please let me know your plans for the summer, as it may be possible for some international travel. Please let me know the dates when you will be away from nursery, and the destination of your holiday. This will also help me to organise our staff's annual leave. Thank you.



Kumon in Northfields

The Kumon Northfields Study Centre at Kingsdown Methodist Church, W13, offers individualised maths and English study programmes for children of all ages, including Early Years. There is a Saturday class available. Further information, can be found on the website:

<https://www.kumon.co.uk/northfields/>

Nursery closure for INSET day

Our INSET days this year will be on Friday 16th July and Friday 5th 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, have 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.

Medication form

If for any reason your child needs to be given medicine at the nursery, please fill in the attached medication form before your child comes into nursery. Just to remind you that only medicine prescribed by your doctor can be given to your child, unless agreed with me otherwise. Antibiotics must be taken at home for 24 hours before your child returns to the nursery. Medication must be in its original container, and not decanted, and the name of your child, medication name, and dosage must be clearly visible on the medication label.

Nurofen or Calpol can be given to your child, if you request this, if your child has developed a temperature of 37.8 degrees. Your child must then be collected and should self-isolate until a negative COVID test is confirmed.

Baby bottles and beakers

Please ensure that baby bottles and beakers are cleaned and disinfected at home before bringing to the nursery.

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. This is very much appreciated!

If, however, 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.

Please do not enter the nursery with your pushchair if you are not planning to leave your pushchair at the nursery. Please leave your pushchair outside when bringing your child into the nursery. Same applies to picking up your child at home time. This will speed up the drop off and pick up process and allow social distancing, as our staff will be at the front door giving feedback to the older children.

The same applies if you are picking up your child from the garden. Only one parent is permitted at any one time.

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@monkeypuzzleealing.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