28th August 2020

Welcome to our September/October newsletter!

I hope that all our families managed to enjoy the summer, unusual as it has been this year!

New children

We would like to welcome the following children and their families to our nursery: Aidan, Alfred, Arthur, Cara, Charlotte, Daniel, Eloise, Finlay, Hannah, Isla, Margaux, Mateo, Osten, and Rupert (All Baby Room).

After several years at our nursery, we are also saying goodbye to several of our children who are moving to 'big school'. We wish all our leavers and their families all the best for the future.

Staff news

Debolina Chakraborty joined us as a Nursery Assistant in July. Debolina previously worked as a Nursery Assistant for Monkey Puzzle Uxbridge.

Frederica Rich joins us this week as a Nursery Practitioner. Frederica has a Level 3 Early Years qualification, and is currently studying towards a BA degree in Early Years Education.

Welcome, Debolina and Frederica!

After 6 years at our nursery, we are sad to inform you that Kiera will be leaving us in mid-September. We knew that this time would come, as Kiera had always intended to pursue her studies full-time with the Open University. Kiera has been a great support to our team and will be missed.

Liana will also be leaving us to pursue new challenges in mid-September after 4 years at our nursery. Liana has headed up the Baby Room and has provided valuable support.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing Kiera and Liana well for the future!

While we are in the process of recruiting a new Room Leader for our Baby Room, our Deputy Manager, Tenysha, will be leading the room, supported by our wonderful Baby Room staff.

Babies and Teenies activities

The Babies and Teenies have been talking about different jobs, our planet, and developing their language and hand-eye co-ordination. The children have been looking at pictures of our planet, rivers, lakes, and mountains, and they have been trying to pronounce names and colours.

Why not continue this activity at home by look at pictures of your recent holiday or visits to the park, lakes or other locations. Look at, and pronounce the colours that you can see, and what can be seen in the pictures. This will be particularly interesting this year, especially as I have been hearing about unusual trips!

The older babies have been learning to feed themselves. We even have our youngest babies wanting to use spoon, which is fantastic!

We have had several new babies settling-in at the nursery over the past few weeks, and we are pleased with how the settling has progressed! Thank you to all our Baby Room staff for their extra hard work in settling the new babies. Settling new babies can be an anxious time for both the little ones and parents, especially as some of the babies are not use to being together with a larger group of children because of COVID restrictions. I would like to say a big thank you to all our new Baby Room parents for working closely with us and sharing details of their child's development, which helps us to improve the settling-in process.

It is delightful to see that most of our older babies are walking! Several of our babies are also learning to crawl, stand with support and attempting to walk too!

Toddler and Preschool activities
The Toddlers (2-3 year-olds) and Pre-school (3-5 year-olds) children have been talking about places to visit, our planet, 'stranger danger', and the world of dinosaurs (this has been a consistent favourite topic!).

Our Toddlers and Preschool children have been working on potty training/using the toilet, sharing, taking turns, and putting our shoes on and taking them off. The Toddlers produced some lovely art, and have been learning about parts of the body. The children have also been learning how to count, and to recognise the first letter in their names.

The Preschool children have been talking about our planet, different jobs, holidays and 'big school'. The Preschool children have been learning to write their names and their friends' names, and we are pleased with their development. The children also used different equipment for letter formation, such as stones, blocks, and beads.

We talked about healthy eating and looked at some farm vegetables. Why not take your child to a farm to pick your own vegetables? It is a fun day out, and great for children's learning. Feel free to take photos of your visit and send them to us for sharing with your child's nursery friends.

Medication policy
Please be reminded that, in light of COVID-19, please note that our medication policy has changed slightly. If a child's temperature reaches 37.8 degrees, we will ask parents to pick up their child.

If your child is sent home with a temperature, please call your GP for advice as recommended by the NHS as calls to 111 have been extremely busy.

As we head towards the colder months, I would urge 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.

Travelling in and out of the UK
Please let me know if you or your family intend to travel outside of the UK. We need to comply with quarantine regulations where applicable. Also, please let me know if you have visitors from different countries in your home.

Word of the month
'Patience' is our word of the month for September. We will be talking about 'friendship' as our word of the month for October.

Language of the month
Our languages of the months of September and October are French and Greek, respectively.

Forthcoming special days/celebrations
18th September - Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
1st October – Start of Black History Month
31st October - Reformation Day (Protestant Christian)
31st October - Halloween (Pagan)

"Saving our planet" - MP Ealing project update

Our "Save our Planet" project has been gathering momentum, along with our children's interest!

Over the past few months, we have been growing plants from fruit seeds. The children have enjoyed seeing the seeds develop shoots, then becoming small plants. We have been growing lemon, orange and kiwi plants, amongst others!

As well as observing the plant growth, children have been counting the leaves and measuring the growth of the shoots. We have also been talking to the children about why plants need soil, water, light and air, and why the leaves are green.

As many of our plants reach a few centimetres tall, the children have been taking these away to care for at home. All of our Preschool children will each take a plant home. The children have been talking about their lemon/orange/kiwi plants, how they are watering the plants, and how they have kept them in a sunny area at home. Please feel free to send us photos of how your plant is growing at home!

Once the plants are more established, they need to be transferred to bigger pots and kept inside for a year before they can be planted in the garden. Hopefully, you will have fruit to sample in a few years!

The children have enjoyed the responsibility of looking after the plants in the nursery, and I hope at home to!

If you have any unwanted, small plant pots at home, we would be grateful if you could donate these to our planting project.

Did you know.....
The nursery provides organic milk for the children. Research has shown that organic milk has more antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, conjugated linoleic acid, and vitamins than non-organic milk. Organic cows are pasture grazed, resulting in better milk quality than non-organic cows.

‘Flu vaccinations for 2- and 3-year olds this winter

This winter, ‘flu and COVID-19 will likely both be circulating. Each winter on average 5-20% of adults will be infected with ‘flu, compared with 30-50% of children. Children also spread the infection for up to 7 days, which is longer than in adults. This winter, 2- and 3-year olds are entitled to free ‘flu vaccinations on the NHS. Vaccinating children reduces the risk of influenza for family members, childcare staff and other children. The vaccination will be provided by your GP practice. .

Menus

Please be reminded that all our menus are on our website. From the week commencing 31st August, we will be following Menu 3.

Nursery closure for INSET day

Our next INSET day this year will be on Friday 27th November 2020. The nursery will be closed on this day for essential staff training. Please arrange alternative childcare for this day.

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

Picking-up and dropping-off children

The guidance that we have in place from 1st June 2020 will remain until further notice. May I kindly remind all parents to be considerate to other parents when picking up their child, to avoid other parents in the queue having a long wait. Only a quick feedback will be given, especially when picking up from the garden.

If you require more detailed feedback, please email me, or telephone me by 4 pm to speak with your child’s key teacher. Please note that, because of time constraints and the number of children in our care, I am unable to email individual feedback to parents.

For parents who are picking up children from the Baby Room and the Over 2s, please pick up from the Baby Room first then collect your older child on the way out. Please leave as quickly as possible, as we have parents waiting.

Adhering to social distancing guidelines

Thank you to all parents for adhering to our safety and social distancing guidelines to keep our staff and children safe.

Once you have picked up your child, please leave our premises promptly to adhere to our social distancing and safety guidelines. It has been brought to my attention that several parents have been standing and chatting at our entrance pathway after they have collected their children. This blocks the path for parents leaving the nursery and does not allow for social distancing. Please follow the arrows in and out from the nursery, and leave the pathway area immediately to maintain social distancing. Also, please do not park pushchairs next to the garden wall to allow other parents and children to leave the nursery safely. Please be mindful to move off the premises completely.

If we all follow the guidance for social distancing and hand washing, we all have a better chance of staying healthy – particularly over the next few months.

Spare clothes and nappies

I would like to remind all parents to ensure that your child has enough spare clothes at nursery, especially for children who are potty training.

Please ensure that your child has enough nappies at the nursery, and to bring these in promptly when requested by staff.

Please bring in disposable nappies and not cloth nappies. Following our COVID guidance, we are minimizing movement of items between home and nursery to prevent the likelihood of transfer of infection.

There will inevitably be accidents in the nursery when children start potty training especially as the nursery environment is different to home. Children often forget to tell us that they need the toilet, or they do not want to stop play. If a child has several accidents in the nursery, we will need to put nappies back onto the child, as we cannot allow any child to wee all over the nursery on health and safety grounds.

Staff and parents will work together when potty training commences. Please remember that this is an emotional part of a child's development, as nappies have acted as a form of security for a child since birth. Children will be reminded more often to go to the toilet when they start potty training, and our staff will do everything to support this.

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 staff enough time to disinfect and clean the nursery ready for the next nursery day.

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.

Thank you to all parents for storing pushchairs folded and upright in the buggy storage area. Your continued co-operation is much appreciated and will ensure that all parents can access their pushchairs with ease, keeping the emergency exit doors clear. Please do not leave pushchairs at the nursery overnight.

Scooters and bicycles
Scooters and bicycles are strictly prohibited in the buggy storage area, as we do not have space to store these.

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.

Absences
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.

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