

The Mulberry Bush Nursery

April 2019 Newsletter

Dear All

Welcome to our April 2019 newsletter. Please find detailed below lots of information about what we have been doing at Nursery recently and any upcoming events for your diaries.

Medication - If your child needs medication during the day please ensure these are given to your keyperson or a member staff within the room your child attends, along with filling in a permission form please. Also ensure each is labelled with your child's name. If any medication contains Aspirin, we can only administer this if it is prescribed by a doctor.

Photographer - Teri Brice will be visiting the nursery again this year on Tuesday 7th May for the day. Last year Teri captured some wonderful photographs of the children. We will arrange for all children who attend Nursery on a Tuesday to have their photograph taken but if your child does not normally attend nursery on a Tuesday and you would like to book an appointment with Teri please contact the office as soon as possible. Please feel free to bring in any special clothes you would like your children to wear for the photographs.

Packed lunches - Some children in nursery have packed lunches, please can we ask that you ensure there are no nuts in any of the items within these. Please check the ingredients including any chocolate items as we are a **NO NUTS** establishment along with having a child with a severe nut allergy.

Also, if you include grapes please supply them already cut into 4 pieces due to the choking hazard of whole grapes for children or they will not be served.

Drop off and collection times - We would like to remind parents that it is crucial to our smooth running of the nursery that children are dropped off and collected at their booked times. Staffing rotas and ratios are carefully calculated to ensure appropriate levels are met throughout the day therefore please do keep to your times. Please can we also remind parents not to hold the main entrance door open for other people including parents to access the nursery. The entrance system that we have in place is to ensure the safety of all of the children on site and it is crucial that anyone who does not have a swipe card/key fob is met by a member of staff before they access the nursery. Please can we also ask that you sign your child in and out of the nursery in the books provided in the main cloakroom. It is important that we have a written record of the children who are in the nursery, who brought them in and who is due to collect them.

Children's Holidays

Please can we ask if you are planning a holiday to let the office know in advance so we can amend registers accordingly.

Mother's weeks - We would like to say a big thank you to all the Mummy's and female relatives who kindly came into nursery over the last 2 weeks to share some special time with their child/ren and all their friend's. We hope you all had fun participating in our daily activities. The children loved having you.

Father's Day Weeks - A message in advance, we will be holding father's weeks and would like to invite all male carers into the nursery during the weeks commencing 10th June and 17th June. You will have the opportunity of spending an hour with your child enjoying a snippet of their life at nursery! If you have a special hobby or talent you would like to share with your child and the rest of the children in their room please do advise us. Please speak to your child's key person to book in a convenient time nearer the time.

Staff news - We would like to introduce Kirsty Mepham who has joined the Berries team on a Thursday and Friday and Julie Everitt who will be joined the team as bank staff, she will be covering within all rooms as required to cover staff holidays. As you may be aware Beckie is expecting her second baby soon and will be leaving to commencing her maternity leave on Thursday 18th April, we wish her the best and hope everything goes well.

Tapestry - We hope you enjoy looking at your children's learning journeys and all the fun activities they are doing as they learn here at nursery. Please feel free to add your own comments, photos, achievements and wow moments at home, on holiday. To create a full diary of their child's early years journey to keep and look back on. The staff would love to see what they get up to and discuss them with the children when they return to nursery. Our Spring term reports for each individual child will be ready shortly to view on your tapestry accounts.

Story Sacs - Please can we ask that all story sacs are returned to nursery by 26th April as we would like to update them and create new ones.

Room news

Baby buds - Baby buds have had a variety of many activities to explore this term, we started the term off with Chinese new year, in this topic we found the babies really enjoyed trying new foods, and they really enjoyed the Chinese food tasting, of Chinese rice, spring rolls and prawn crackers. We explored painting with chopsticks to make their own Chinese inspired material painting, we had the Chinese roll play out a lot too, looking at different dishes from china, incorporating this in to our role play kitchen. We have explored topics that were well liked in previous years such as construction, and dinosaurs, in construction we explored building with cannelloni tubes and cream, they enjoyed filling the tubes with cream, and trying to place lasagne sheets on top of the tubes, the babies explored this for a while, and loved knocking over the adults buildings. We explored lots of painting with toy hammers, and Duplo bricks. As well as a lot of construction cereal messy play. We explored dinosaurs, this is another topic loved by the babies, they enjoyed a lot of small

world play both messy with mush peas, as well as exploring the dinosaurs with the small world figures in the play room, making caves out of material. One of the babies favourite activity was the dinosaurs in cloud dough, we buried them and tried to dig them out like fossils, they spent lots of time exploring this messy play.

We have also enjoyed looking at two very different books this term, with lots of activities to go with them, the first book we looked at was rainbow fish, the babies loves exploring our rainbow trays, we did many different types, from ones in our play room to messy coloured pasta play in our art room, they loved scooping the coloured shells with their nets, and transferring them to one pot to another, they also really enjoyed lots of water play, with bubbles, and balls. They enjoyed making marks using bubble wrap to represent scales, from this we made our big rainbow fish for our display, they all loved painting together in a big group. They really liked looking through the book during the day, and noticed the shiny parts on each page. The other book we looked at was Daisy and the doughnut fairy. From this we enjoyed mark making in jelly crystals to represent fairy dust, we also turned our tuff tray into a fairy land, they enjoyed building with our sparkly Duplo blocks making towers for the fairies. we also enjoyed a lot of messy play with jelly, making a mermaid fairy scene, and we used Pak Choi, to paint with, they looked a lot like mermaid tails, this they really enjoyed. within the story the fairies made pancakes, which worked well with pancake day, we did try some pancakes, but some of the babies weren't as keen on these for snack however they loved to play with the messy pancake mix we created from flour and water.

Following on from the story of daisy and the doughnut fairy where their was pirates in the book, we then began our pirate week, in which we made play boats to explore in, using tubes to create telescopes finding things around the room, we also did lots of sand and water play with week, burying things and trying to find our 'treasure' and speaking of treasure they loved our Irish week to celebrate St. Patrick's day, we painted with peppers, to look like lucky clovers, and made lots of rainbow painting, we even tried Irish soda bread! And listened to Irish music, we had lots of fun dancing around the room.

In the last week of term we did lots of crafts and activities for our mummies, creating lovely cards and gifts, which we hope you enjoyed. As well as that we loved having our mummies in, to come and play with us. We also looked at lots of our mummy and baby books, which are also touchy feely. Next term we will be looking at lots of Easter and spring activity's, as well as many more topics, we hope you have a lovely Easter.

Buds Two - This term in Buds we have been busy with Valentine's day, Mother's Day and lots of topics the children have all really enjoyed taking part in.

For Valentines the children made heart shaped biscuits which they enjoyed decorating and making pictures with different size pieces of paper and hearts to create pictures with the saying 'I Love You To Pieces' as well as pink and red playdough and painting with red and pink

paint, our topic beside Valentines Day was Goldilocks and The Three Bears where the children had porridge and jam for snack, we got messy in porridge play with the tea set as well as sorting big and small objects and painting pictures of bears.

We have been looking at our shapes, exploring our environment looking for everyday objects such as circle tables, square windows etc. The children all joined in with shape yoga and made shape rocket pictures, shape houses and using different shape cutters in paint. We next came on to the topic Arctic Animals and painted pictures of walrus', painted our hands white to make polar bears and had lots of ice play with sea creatures and arctic animals.

The next week was World Book Day, it was lovely to see the children all dressed up as their favourite characters, we read lots of the children favourite stories this week and gave the children lots of opportunities to choose all their own craft activities and messy play.

We have also looked at Space and Aliens, they all really enjoyed this topic and loved having their hands and feet painted to make alien pictures, puffy paint moon pictures, painting with black paint and sticking on silver paper for moons and stars and also making galaxy playdough, reading space and alien themed books too. We then moved on to Colours, each day we had a different colour for the children to explore and learn, we had painting with a different colour each day, colour sorting, powder paint and shaving foam for messy play, as well as chalking on the pavement on the green too.

The following week was Mothers Week! The children had a lovely time making gifts and chocolate for their mummies, we hope you loved them as much as the children loved making them.

Lastly we have Spring, some of our children made chocolate nest cakes! They have also enjoyed farm walks to see the sheep, the sheep came very close to the fence to say hello. We have been painting tulip pictures using forks and pastel coloured paints, we made green playdough and added coloured sticks and feathers to see what the children could make. The children have been using their fine motor skills to poke artificial flowers through the holes on colanders, we have also had a go at planting our own cress seeds which we will watch over the next couple of weeks to see if they grow.

Our next few topics are another week of Spring, Easter, Construction & Transport, The Hungry Caterpillar turns 50!, At The Farm, Elmer turns 30!, World Ocean Week, The Queens Official Birthday, Fathers Week and Mini Beasts.

Berries - This term seems to have flown by , I can't believe we are in April already !

We have been very busy exploring some more books , including 'goldilocks ' , 'Jack and the beanstalk' and ' the three little pigs' , where the children did lots of activities e.g making houses made of different materials , porridge tasting , making golden eggs, huff and puff number games and talking about 'big' and 'small' . We also celebrated world book day by asking the children to bring in their favourite books to read and dressing up, the children looked excellent in their costumes. The following week was Red Nose Day, where we took part in different activities throughout the week to help raise money, including Makaton signing , decorating 'Red Nose Day' pictures for our art gallery and we dressed in red . In preparation for Mother's Day the children made cards, and decorated picture frames with pretty flowers and glitter.

Next we will be looking at spring and growing where we hope to grow some vegetables in the garden, and some sunflowers to see how tall they grow. We will be doing Easter crafts and

looking at a new festival called 'Cocuk bayrami which is Turkish children's day. Other topics include the human body, my family, pets, environment week, royal week, to celebrate the Queen and Prince Philip's birthday and then Father's Day crafts, so we be extremely busy.

After school club - The children have made the most of the dry weather we have been having and enjoyed making up chasing and hide and seek games outside to play together. It's been nice to see all the different ages play together, With the older ones explaining the rules so the younger ones can understand. On the damper evenings we have been enjoying different board games and playing on the computer.

We are looking forward to the Easter holidays which includes a trip to Eastern farm Park to meet the animals!

In the coming weeks the children will be involved in some gardening activities, if we could please ask you to bring in some spare clothes to leave at nursery so the children can get changed out of their uniform.

Term Time Only Children - Term Time only children will finish for Half Term on Friday 24th May and will return to nursery on Monday 3rd June 2019

Term Time only children will then finish for the Summer Holidays on Friday 26th July 2019 and return for the Autumn term on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Dates for your Diary (also available on the website)

Event	Date
Friday 5th April 2019	Last day for TTO children
Monday 8th April to Thursday 18 th April 2019	Holiday Club
Friday 19 th April 2019	Good Friday - Nursery Closed
Monday 22nd April 2019	Easter Monday - Nursery Closed
Tuesday 23rd April 2019	TTO children return to school
Monday 6th May 2019	Bank Holiday - Nursery Closed
Monday 27 th May 2019	Bank Holiday - Nursery Closed
Wednesday 10th July	Sports Day (school leavers only)
Thursday 17th July	Graduation Day (school leavers only)
Friday 26 th July	Last day for term time only children
Monday 29th July to Tuesday 3rd September	Holiday Club

Monday 26th August	Summer Time Bank Holiday - Nursery Closed
Wednesday 4 th September	TTO Children Return to Nursery
Tuesday 18 th December	Last Day for Term Time Only Children before Christmas
Monday 23rd December 6pm	Nursery closes for Christmas Holidays