

Newsletter - January 2023

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year break. The children have come back ready to play and explore and telling us lots about their Christmas celebrations.

We are learning in Butterflies ...

This term our theme is all about people who help us. We will be exploring what vets, firefighters, doctors, and other professions do to help us.

The children will explore this theme through different role-play areas and through stories and craft activities.

Along side this there will be sensory play and using our gross motor skills, especially in the garden.



Important Dates

- Parent and Key Person evenings – 22nd, 23rd, 27th Feb and 1st and 2nd March (more info below)
- Friday 7th – 16th April – Easter break, nursery closed.
- Monday 1st May – bank holiday, nursery closed.
- Monday 8th May – national bank holiday – nursery closed
- Monday 29th May – bank holiday, nursery closed.

We are learning in Bumble Bees

This term we are looking at Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. We will focus on a different story each week. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year. 2023 is the year of the rabbit.

- Billy Goats Gruff Week- 16th January
- Chinese New Year- 23rd January
- Goldilocks and the 3 bears Week – 30th January
- 3 Little Pigs Week – 6th February
- Gingerbread Man Week – 13th February
- Number Nursery Rhymes Week – 20th February

We will be doing lots of activities based around these stories to help the children develop in all areas, but especially literacy and communication and language.



Lunch Boxes

Please can we remind all parents that we encourage healthy lunch boxes for all children. The Change4life campaign has some great ideas on their website at [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

We would also like to remind parents that we are a nut-free setting and do not encourage any nut-products in children's lunch boxes, including peanut butter.

We would also ask that you do not put humous in lunch boxes as we have a child with an allergy to this and sesame seeds in general.

Please could you also chop grapes, tomatoes, and anything round into **quarters**. We have to follow very strict guidance on choking hazards and would appreciate your support on this.

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Please can you make sure your child is collected on time, either 12:45pm, 3:45pm or 5:30pm. If you are going to be late, please can you ring to let us know.

We can charge a late fee for anyone who is continually late, as set out in our policies.

Thank you

College Student

We currently have a student, who is studying childcare at college, doing her placement with us.

Her name is Faith and she will mainly be in the Bumble Bees room on a Thursday and Friday. The children have already enjoyed getting to know her.

Tax Free Childcare

Some families may be entitled to Tax-free Childcare. This is for those:

- working families, including the self-employed, in the UK
- Earning under £100k and at least £152 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each
- Who aren't receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers
- With children aged 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled)

For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year. This can be used to pay your childcare fees at nursery.

More information on this and other funding can be found at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Childcare
Choices

Parent and Key Person Evening

We will be holding a parent and key person evening on Wednesday 22nd February, Thursday 23rd February, Monday 27th February, Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March.

This will be a short informal catch-up and a chance for you to talk about your child's progress and interests.

We will be holding these after 4:45pm. There will be sign-up sheets on the top of the garden library from next week. Each key person will have a selection of times and dates for you to choose from. If you could write your name next to the time you would like.

We will try to do our best to accommodate as many parents as possible. If you are not able to attend at any of these times, please speak to your key person and we can find a more appropriate time.

We would appreciate it if just parents could attend as several meetings will be happening at once and we would like to limit the number of children in the room so parents can talk freely.

Phonics at Nursery

Some children in Bumble Bees room are becoming interested in letters and the sounds they make. We follow children's lead on their interests in letters and encourage this with games and writing activities. We expect children to become interested at around the age of 3.5 – 4 years old.

At nursery, and then later in school, we focus on the sounds the letters make or the phonics. Using the sounds then helps children in their reading of words as they can blend the sounds letters make.

Here is a link to a short video about phonics and the sounds each letter makes. This will help your child later if they can begin to use the sounds now.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svUaQLcsyTc>