

Little Burrows Newsletter: October 2021

Autumn Term 1

What a fantastic start to the year. Our new starters have settled well and are now fully involved in nursery life. Considering all they have had to contend with over the past couple of years we have been so proud of them! Our returning children have also come back with a spring in their step ready for the fun of nursery.

The children at our Staines setting have particularly enjoyed being in the garden and enjoying the beautiful weather. They have loved making mud pies and making buildings in the block room. We have been practising taking turns and sharing our toys. Also lots of work on getting to know our new friends and learning how we use the Montessori specific resources.

Our children in Lightwater loved being outside too. We've been spending a lot of time in the woods and the park, especially in the afternoons. As the weather starts to change please could parents send in waterproof coats so we can continue to enjoy our forest school activities. Please ensure these are easy for the children to get on and off independently. We can and do help but getting all the children ready can be tricky if they ALL need help.

Please see below for more about our curriculum and planning. If you ever have any questions about what your child is learning in nursery please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

Reminders: *Please ensure*

All items (including clothes) are clearly labelled. As the weather is warm children are taking their jumpers off and if these are not named it is tricky to return to the correct child.

Water bottles should only contain water. Please no juice or squash. Children have the choice of milk and water at lunch time.

Please could we have any donations of tissues and baby wipes. As you can imagine going into cold season we will be using these a lot.

As the weather starts to change we will still aim to be outside as much as possible. Therefore please can you ensure your child has a named coat, hat and gloves when necessary.

Grant Forms

Please ensure grant forms are returned to nursery asap at the start of each term. If we do not have a signed form then your child is unable to access the 15hr/30hr funding and therefore full fees will be payable by parents.

Please ensure your 30hrs code is correct and applicable for this term. This is not something nursery staff have any control over and is parent's responsibility. All information is on the website as well as a link to the .gov website. The deadline for applying is on the Government website and parents should ensure you are aware of this date as it will need to be reapplied for throughout the year. Again this is not the nurseries responsibility.

Please speak to Claire if you have any questions.

Tapestry

We are now starting to add observations to your child's tapestry journal. Please ensure you are able to access your child's account. If you are having trouble, please speak to one of the teachers who can support you. We will be using Tapestry as our main form of communication with parents. If you have a smart phone we suggest that you add the Tapestry app and turn on your notifications, this way you will ensure you receive urgent messages as soon as possible.

It is also important that you regularly check the desktop version of the app as this is where documents and your child's reports will be added throughout the year. Again please check your settings to ensure you are receiving email notifications.

Tapestry's primary purpose is as an assessment tool. We will be adding observations of your child that provide us with evidence of their progress through the Early Years profile. Therefore please do not expect photos and updates every time your child is in. We will only be recording the WOW moments.

It is also helpful if you as parents add photos and updates of what your child is doing at home. Have they done something that made you particularly proud? Have they achieved something for the first time? We can also use these observations to give us evidence of how your child is progressing. Please save these observations for their WOW moments.

Any questions please speak to one of the teachers.

Natasha at Lightwater

We are very excited to welcome Natasha to our team at Lightwater. Natasha is a qualified Montessori teacher and will be focussing on ensuring the Montessori ethos is fully embedded in all aspects of our teaching and nursery. Natasha is ensuring that the children are confident using the Montessori specific resources. Please feel free to chat to Natasha further if you would like to ask any questions about the benefits of the ethos and practise. You are welcome to come in to the Lightwater nursery every morning and have a look at what your child will be working on and practising. Natasha will be managing the Lightwater setting with Leanne.

Planning

In September 2021 the new Development Matters document was introduced by the DfE. This has given us a fantastic opportunity to update all our curriculum planning and progression documents accordingly. We view the changes made by the DfE as very positive and child focused. We are excited about the impact this will have on our children's progress.

One of the biggest indicators of future success is a wide and varied vocabulary. Therefore we have decided focus our curriculum around a different book each week/fortnight. This book will be read each day and the children will have access to activities related to the text. We have carefully planned our progression document to ensure all areas of the development matters document are covered fully. We will continue to have a big focus on the phase 1 aspect of letters and sounds so children can all orally blend and segment confidently as well as following the White Rose maths curriculum so that children are ready to fly on entering school.

Contact us:

Lightwater Leisure Centre: 01276 472662

Staines Landline: 01784 557348

Lightwater Mobile: 07464 262024

Staines Mobile: 07543 695357

Claire: 07730220804

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Please ensure all absences are reported by 9.30am via phone call to the nursery landline/mobile or via text to the nursery mobile. As emails are not always checked in the morning please do not email us to report an absence.