

# Little Burrows Newsletter: September 2020

## Welcome Back!

What a fantastic start to the year. Our new starters have settled really well and we've only had a few tears. Considering all they have had to contend with this year 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 digging and riding the bikes. 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. The children also have developed an interest in jungle animals so we have been talking about the different sounds the animals make and the environments they live in.

Our children in Lightwater have developed a particular interest in space. We have been creating space artwork, making space scenes using flour, playing with the spaceships and talking about what we know about space. The children have enjoyed listening to stories about space and finding out information in our non-fiction books. We've also been spending a lot of time in the woods. As the weather starts to change please could parents send in waterproofs 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.

## 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.

## Covid-19

The children have adapted well to their new 'normal' in nursery and have made us so proud. We have been washing our hands regularly and talking a lot about how to keep healthy.

Please ensure you keep an eye on the Covid-19 section on our website. This is where we have posted all the relevant information. We have also posted a helpful flowchart to help parents understand whether your child should come to nursery.

If we have a confirmed case all parents will be first informed via Tapestry.

## Parent Ambassadors

We would like a couple of parents from each nursery to volunteer to be our parent ambassadors for the year. This role would include organising social events (when allowed as per COVID regulations) and ensuring all parents feel part of our Little Burrows community. As this role is new it is up to the parent ambassadors to do as much or as little as they like. This could include setting up a parents whatsapp group if it is deemed helpful. The nursery will not be able to give out numbers so this would be up to parents to ensure the parent ambassador has their number if they wish to be included. This will be a nice way to ensure everyone feels welcomed and included in the Little Burrows family. All questions and queries etc should still be directed to the teachers.

There will be guidelines that parent ambassadors should follow which will be given to the volunteers. If you wish to be a parent ambassador please let either Leanne (Lightwater) or Trupti and Tripti (Staines) know by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## 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.*