

Little Burrows Newsletter: January 2021

Spring 1

Happy (belated) New Year! What a crazy start to the year but with the positive news of the vaccine roll out we are hopeful for a bit more normality by the end of the year. We have already started talking about plans for sports day so fingers crossed!

The children have been busy in nursery this half term. We have been focussing on communication and language through our role play activities. Lightwater children have had a doctors surgery and shop set up and Staines have had a café and shop. The children have enjoyed rein acting roles and experiences which we have noted is more important than ever at the moment as due to the current climate the children will not have had the chance to visit these places.

As always the children have the opportunity to visit all areas of the nursery. The teachers think very carefully about what activities are set up. Each child has their individual next steps which all the teachers are aware of and staff take their learning objectives into their play. For example, if a child's next step is to count to 5 we will work with your child on that objective whilst they are playing with the blocks, animals or in the garden. We try not to pull the children away to complete 'focused tasks' as most learning can be carried out through their play.

We also follow the children's interest fully. Therefore, although we sometimes start the week with a theme in mind this very rarely continues to the end of the week as the children will take it in a different direction. Children learn best when they are interested, happy and secure so this will always be our main priority.

We are aware that it is challenging for parents at the moment not being able to come into the nursery or have long chats with the staff but please be aware we are always happy to give feedback or talk through your child's development. If you would like to have an update or talk through how your child's development please arrange with the nursery managers.

Reminders: *Please ensure*

All items (including clothes) are clearly labelled.

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 are 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. Lightwater children may need waterproof trousers when in the woods.

If you are using the 30 hours funding please ensure you are aware of the deadline for the application. For more info please visit: <https://www.littleburrows.com/30-hours-funding>. This link contains all the information parents need regarding fees and funding for the nursery.

Spring 1 Dates: **4th January-12th February 2021**

Spring 2 Dates: **22nd February-31st March 2021**

Please find all dates here: <https://www.littleburrows.com/term-dates>

Please ensure children are collected promptly at the end of each session.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Thank you to all our parents who are wearing their masks at pick up and drop off times. We are aware that some of our parents are exempt and we absolutely understand and support you in this. However please can we be extra cautious when handing over the children. It is really important that we keep the 2 metres distance at all times. If your child needs extra support entering the nursery please make sure that you are 2 meters away when the staff approach your child.

We also ask that parents stay in a line at drop off time. We are aware that drop off now takes longer and some parents have to get off to work. It can be frustrating for parents who have arrived early to try and make sure their child can get in quickly if other children go ahead of theirs in the morning. All children have different personalities and whilst some are happy to bound in others may take their time so please encourage your child to wait their turn. Staff do try their best but it is challenging to know who has been waiting the longest in the morning.

Staff News

We are very sad to be saying goodbye two members of staff this half term. Katie who works at our Staines setting is moving to Dorset in a few weeks. Her and her husband have decided to sell up and start a new life with the aim of opening an Air B&B. Katie has been a real asset to our nursery and a fantastic part of the team. We will miss you very much Katie but we are all looking forward to visiting you and excited for you in your new venture.

Becca at our Lightwater nursery has also decided to take some time to focus on her family right now. We all love working with Becca and wish her the very best. We look forward to Becca popping in and seeing us. We can't get rid of her that easily! ;) She is a fantastic member of our team and everyone loves her lots.

We have appointed a lovely new teacher at our Staines setting. We will introduce you properly when she starts with us.

Sandy will be upping her days at Lightwater to cover Becca's days. Please do speak to us if you have any questions.

OUR TEACHERS

We are so grateful to work with such a fantastic team of girls. The news recently has been worrying and stressful for everyone but our teachers have come into work everyday with a smile on their faces ready to make the day as exciting and fun for the children as possible. No matter what worries they have they have made sure that the children are feeling safe and secure in nursery and for this we are thankful.

Although it has been frustrating to feel Early Years teachers have been forgotten by the Government during this time we are appreciative of all the kind messages of support from our parents and local community. We have found it exasperating that Early Years staff are not being given priority on the vaccine list but hoping that this will change soon. We have made our thoughts clear to our local LA team.

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.