

# Little Burrows Newsletter: February 2021

## February 2021

We hope you had a lovely half term. With the latest Government announcements the situation in the country seems to be a lot more positive and we are excited for a bit more normality going into the Summer.

Spring has well and truly sprung at nursery this week. The children have loved playing and digging in the garden and getting some sun. All the children have been busy painting the fences with water to strengthen their shoulder muscles. We have also been working on our fine motor skills with lots of threading, tweezers and twisting. We are going to be super writers when we start school!

Lightwater children have been busy in the woods on litter picks this week. We have been shocked at the amount of rubbish in the country park and it has led to lots of interesting conversations about keeping our environment clean and tidy and the importance of recycling. It's sad that our 2, 3 and 4 year olds have a better understanding of how to look after our planet than some of the adults that use the country park! We've seen loads of wildlife on our walks and have even seen a deer race across the field. This has sparked even more discussion around why we need to leave the country park as we find it.

Staines children have been using their imagination and discovering new and exciting places. The children have used some fantastic descriptive language to talk about where they are exploring. They have been pretending to get into their special machine that can take the anywhere they want. We have been to the deep, dark jungle, into dark, black space, under the sea and flown through the fluffy clouds. We have also practised drawing our adventures.

## Staff Training- Maths

All the staff at both our Lightwater and Staines settings have recently undertaken some really interesting maths training. They have been busy implementing all they have learnt at nursery.

The main theme of the training has been around subitising which is a really important aspect of the new development matters document that we will be following for our planning from September 2021.

Subitising is a term that was introduced by the Swiss psychologist Piaget. It's the ability to look at a small number of objects and instantly recognise how many objects there are without needing to count.

There are two types of subitising: perceptual and conceptual. Our brains can only easily subitise numbers up to five – this is perceptual subitising. Anything above five is conceptual subitising. This is because the numbers then start to relate to a larger quantity of things and identifying 'how many' without counting becomes more difficult. For example, to subitise six, we would need to subitise three and three; four and two; or five and one. Only then could we combine the number pairs together to arrive at an answer of six. This is something we as adults do automatically and a skill children need to learn. It takes time as children need to practise their subitising skills and also start to learn their number bonds.

The children are working hard on this already at nursery. We are showing the children items and asking the children 'what do you see and how do you see it?' and looking for answers like, 'I can see a 3, 2 and 1.' This is taking a bit of practice as the children are so used to counting all the items but once they realise they already know what 3 is and they don't need to count them it will be so much easier for them. This does not mean that we will not be counting at all as this is still an important skill all children need to learn and practise.

## Labelling

Please, please, please ensure that you label **ALL** your child's clothes for nursery. Lots of our parents have a nursery 'uniform' that they send their child in everyday, this seems to help ensure all the items are labelled. We have also noticed that lots of coats are unlabelled which makes going outside a longer process. We would really appreciate if these could all be labelled before your child next comes into nursery. Can parents at Lightwater also double check that your child's wellies are at nursery as we are outside so much and it is very muddy in the garden/country park.

## Contact us:

Lightwater Leisure Centre: 01276 472662

Lightwater Mobile: 07464 262024

Claire: 07730220804

Staines Landline: 01784 557348

Staines Mobile: 07543 695357

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## 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.

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 2 Dates: **22<sup>nd</sup> February-31<sup>st</sup> 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.

The website contains lots of important information regarding fees, funding etc. Please ensure you check this if you have any questions. Of course you are more than welcome to check with us if you can't find what you need.

## World Book Week

We will be celebrating World Book Week the week beginning **8<sup>th</sup> March**. The children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character. The teachers will be dressing up on Thursday of that week but if your child is not in on a Thursday then they are welcome to dress up another day. We ask that the costume is suitable for the outdoors and that the children are able to use the toilet independently. Please also ensure that the costume is related to a book and not from a Disney film as the focus is on developing a love of reading. There is no expectation to dress up!

Over that week the children will be taking part in lots of book related activities and will be spending a lot of time reading. It would be great if they could also see their parents/carers reading lots at home that week. That could be books, magazines, newspapers etc. We are sure the children will be loving books even more by the end of the week! As World Book Day is officially the week before we will hand out the book token then so they do not expire before you get a chance to use it.