



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful week at nursery and the children have continued to settling in well and enjoy learning alongside their friends and nursery teachers.

### **Welcome our new staff**

This week we said goodbye to Davina who has left for her maternity leave. We wish Davina all the luck in the world for the arrival of her baby girl and cannot wait to meet her little one.

Although we were sad to say goodbye, we are pleased to welcome our new members of staff Harriet and Cristina to our Little Learners team. Both have had a great first week with us and are already showing to be very popular with the children and great additions to our nursery team. Next week we are also pleased to welcome back Aida and Shahida who are returning from Christmas break.

### **Covid-19 testing**

As many of you know we have been taking extra measures to ensure the nursery is as covid safe as possible. We have done this by requiring adults to wear masks, regular cleaning checks throughout the day and temperature check upon arrival. On top of these measures we are now also asking that our staff receive a lateral flow test weekly to prevent the spread of the virus at nursery.

These regular tests help us to keep our staff, children and families safe during this pandemic.

### **Outdoor clothing**

At the moment the outdoor environment is heavily used to give us the fresh air to prevent the spread of germs amongst staff or children. We must insist that when bringing your child to nursery that you bring adequate coats and shoes for the weather.

As a nursery we go outside into our gardens in all weathers so ask that parents ensure children have warm, comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes to enable children to enjoy their time outside fully.





### Holidays & Quarantine

If you are going on holiday or will be away, please be sure to let a member of staff in your child's room know or email Dawn. This is so we can ensure that we log it onto our system and do not disturb your holiday by phoning to query absence.

Please note the government is updating this list regularly, please do check regularly and inform the nursery if this affects you.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

### School Applications

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017 they are due to start in reception class at a primary school in September 2021.

The closing date for on-time applications is 15 January 2021, so please ensure you apply in good time or their school allocation will be delayed

[https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/applying-primary-school-place?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/applying-primary-school-place?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term)

### What to do if you have symptoms...

We must remind everyone that if you or any member of your house hold exhibits Covid-19 symptoms you must **not** bring your child to nursery until the person or household have undergone a covid test and received a negative result.

If you have children in multiple rooms/school they must also be kept at home until a negative test is received for the person/people who has symptoms.

If the covid test result is positive you must all isolate for ten days and not leave your house. In the event of a positive case you must also notify the nursery senior team who will make a note of your positive result.

We thank you all for your cooperation in these difficult times.

### Drop off and collection

When dropping off or collecting children from the nursery gate you **MUST** wear a mask unless medically exempt. This is to ensure the safety of other parents, families and our staff team.



## What we have been up to this week...

This week at nursery, all of our bubbles have been very busy playing and learning. Here are some of our favourite activities.

### Bunnies

In the baby room bubbles we have had lots of fun going on walks to visit the chickens and alpacas. During our circle times the children enjoyed reading stories about animals and talking about where the animals in our stories live. To extend this learning, in our small world tuff spots children have looked at different animal homes such as the jungle, the ocean in the water tray and a cereal sensory farm small world.

### Toddlers

This week the toddler room bubbles we have been using paint to mark make different shapes and talking about the names of the shapes we see. We have also enjoyed reading 'the very hungry caterpillar' and using the fruits from the story to cut up and make our own fruit snack bowls. In the toddlers we have been matching colours using blocks where children placed the coloured blocks onto the coloured paper.

### Toddler +

In toddler plus we have been reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' this week and the children have been creating mazes using the elements from the story and different types of sensory play. We also enjoyed making masks of characters from the story to wear when we role played the story. In toddler plus we had a go at writing our names and recognizing letters.

### Pre-school 4

The pre-school children have been reading 'The Three Little Pigs' story this week and using cardboard boxes to build houses then painting the boxes with red paint to represent the bricks. We enjoyed cutting out and decorating masks from the characters in the story for our role play area. One of our favourite activities this week was using the polydron magnetic shapes to build structures in our quiet corner, the children were all very engaged and focused whilst working out how to build the biggest and strongest structures.

### Little Learners in Nature

This week the LLIN children have been making stick structures as part of their 'Three Little Pigs' topic. Using the sticks and branches they found outside they built their houses to be very strong. We also had fun planting trees and talking about plant life cycles and what they need to grow big and tall. In the classroom the children have been drawing and recognising shapes, learning different names of shapes and naming everyday items that match our shape of the day.