



Friday 29<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.

### Message from Nursery Principle

As you will know, on Wednesday the government announced that schools will not return to full face-to-face education after the February half-term and that the current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 8th March at the earliest. I appreciate how incredibly challenging this must be for families with older siblings. We hope that by keeping the nurseries open in full, we have made things a little easier as you try to juggle working from home and online learning with your older children.

Of course, remaining open is only possible because of our committed nursery teams, and I am immensely proud and thankful to all my staff who continue to come to work and welcome our families every day, despite the increased associated risks. The children have, and always will be, their first priority and because of this our nurseries continue to be a joyful place for your little ones. Throughout the pandemic we have been constantly assessing risk and ensuring high standards of cleanliness and infection control in our nurseries. In January we introduced additional measures including smaller bubbles for the children, temperature checks on arrival and weekly Lateral Flow testing for staff members. We can see the positive impact this has had and, to date, we have had no positive cases this year and no bubbles have closed. We are committed to playing our part in the lengthy battle against Covid-19 and I ask for your continued support. If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid-19 please stay at home and advise your Nursery Manager that you are booking a test. This action and communication enables us to take swift measures to help keep everyone in our nurseries as safe as possible.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of nursery life in lockdown please don't hesitate to contact me or your Nursery Manager. With continued thanks for your support and understanding, please keep safe.

My warmest regards  
Jess Elliott



Jessica.elliott@genesistrust.net





### 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>

### What you can do at home

In recent week we have had lots of support from lots of our nursery families and well wishes to our staff team. We have found that lots of our parents have been asking if they can help in any way to help keep our staff and children safe during this lockdown.

We must ask where possible, unless you belong to a childcare bubble, you prevent your child mixing with other households or families whilst out and about at places such as parks. By keeping minimal contact between yourselves and others it help us to prevent viruses contaminating bubbles.

You can also get a lateral flow test for your child/household over the weekends so we know your child tests negative and is safe to be at nursery. You can easily go for one of these walk in center test that are for people who do not have symptoms. The walk in center is based at

**One Hoe Street, Walthamstow E17 4SD** Open every day in January 10am to 7pm

All these steps are simply suggestions and actions you can take to help keep Little Learners as Covid safe as possible but the main thing we can all do is follow to Government Guidance throughout this lockdown. Again, thank you for your continued support and understanding in these troubled times.

### Half Term

During half term, if your child is away from nursery or will be coming in and picking up early or late please inform a member of staff in your child's room. This is to ensure we have the correct staffing for our ratios.

Also, if an alternate carer will be dropping or collecting your child please ensure to notify a member of staff, supply a photo and share the password with them so we can identify them upon arrival.

### 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 under gone 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

This week we have been exploring construction play. The children have been building with different sized, textures and weighted blocks such as wooden, foam and even the large soft play. We have also been exploring our numbers and counting by incorporating our number and size key words into our building activities.

We had fun talking about construction in the real world and role playing this in our small world play. We have used our imagination with diggers in the garden with rice to scoop and transport.

### Toddlers

This week we have been exploring different sensory play. The children have been painting using string and creating colour bending paintings. We have been exploring our senses such as smell with scented water using lemon and orange slices and the children have been practicing their tipping and pour in the water.

Out in the nature school the children have been practicing hammering with nails in the wood and exploring their motor skills with support from the staff. The children have used their hand eye coordination whilst in the outdoor space.

### Toddler +

In toddler plus we have been reading 'Handa's Surprise' the children have been looking at and tasting fruits from the story. We used our writing skills to write key words about our favourite fruit and animals from the story. As our focus activities this week, the children had fun cutting up different fruits for their time snack.

Outside the toddler+ children have been helping to take care of the alpacas by feeding them carrots and apple slices.

### Pre-school 4

The pre-school children have been reading 'Handa's Surprise' this week. Fruit tasting, cutting and sticking to make a story map writing in salt, cutting out to make masks. Built structures with different blocks.

### Little Learners in Nature

In the nature school the children have been using wood pieces to build bridges and talking about the stability of their bridges and the different sizes. The children have also been using wood to widdle and creating different shapes from their wood.

In the class from the children have been reading 'Handa's Surprise' and talking about the story plot. In our writing area the children have been practicing writing key words from the story.