



## November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to the November edition of our nursery newsletter.

### Parent's messages:

Can we please remind all parents/carers to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children from nursery and continue to keep a social distance of 2 meters.

Due to current circumstances, we are still unable to allow children into nursery if they have been given calpol or ibuprofen at home, this is because they can mask any potential symptoms.

Can we also please remind all parents/carers that if you, or anyone within your household has any symptoms of COVID-19 that you notify us and **you do not attend the nursery.**

With the cold winter months coming, can we please remind all parents to ensure children have suitable clothing and footwear in nursery which are clearly labelled with your child's name to prevent anything going missing.

The week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> November we are going to be celebrating Children in Need throughout the week; taking part in different themed days each day, which are as follows:

- Monday - Messy Hair Day
- Tuesday - Fancy Dress Day
- Wednesday - Pyjama Day
- Thursday - Silly socks Day
- Friday - Children in Need/Yellow clothes Day

We would like to welcome a new member of staff to our team; Amy, who will be working in the baby room. Amy is a nursery apprentice who will be training and working with us towards her Level 3 in Childcare qualification.

We have recently enrolled on a journey to become an Eco-Nursery; this is an exciting new adventure for us all, children and parents included. The first step of our Eco-journey is to create an Eco-Committee, which will be made up of staff, children and parents (ideally one parent from each room within the nursery). If this is something you think would interest you and you would like to get involved with the Eco-Nursery programme by sharing your skills and ideas, then please let us know.

### **Christmas 2020**

Although Christmas is going to look a little different this year, we are still going to be using the whole of December to build up and get ready for Christmas; the children will have lots of opportunity to join in with different Christmas activities throughout the month.

We are lucky enough to still be holding our Christmas party and inviting Father Christmas into the nursery to see the children. Each room will have their own Christmas party day and their own visit for Father Christmas, although sadly we can't invite parents in to attend, we will make sure lots of pictures are taken of the party to share with you all.

Each room in the nursery will have their own party day and Father Christmas, these are as follows:

- Babies - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2-3pm
- Toddlers - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2-3pm
- Pre-School - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2-3pm

If your child does not normally attend nursery on their party day then you will be able to drop them off for the hour so they can join in with the party and see Father Christmas, but unfortunately parents will not be able to stay with them. If you would like your child to come in for the party then please let us know in advanced.

If you have any further questions about the Christmas Parties and how they are working please feel free to give us a call and speak to one of the management team.

As you know this year has been tough on everyone with the added worry for our family's safety during the coronavirus pandemic. During the pandemic, our teams have minimised their contacts outside of work and reduced time spent with family and friends significantly to enable the nursery to continue operating and provide a sense of normality for the children. Some of the team also continued to attend during the lockdown period, never considering the risk to themselves, just with the desire to help our key worker families and the NHS workers continue the fantastic work they do.

In light of this and how much our teams have missed out on in their personal lives this year, we have taken the decision that for this year only, both Daisy Chain Nurseries will be closing on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm and will re-open to the children on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

We understand this may cause inconvenience, but we hope you understand our reasoning for this decision. If restrictions are lifted this will enable our team to spend time with their families over Christmas without the worry of being in contact with the children in the coming days.

We will be happy to provide any letters that may be required for your individual work places to inform them of the closure and any children who are due to attend the nursery on 24<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December will not be charged for their sessions. If you have any questions please direct them directly to Jo (Area Manager) on [jbower@daisychaindaynurseries.co.uk](mailto:jbower@daisychaindaynurseries.co.uk)

We would like to thank you for your patience with all of the changes that have taken place this year and we hope that this may enable you to spend some time with your own families and have a relaxed end to a very stressful year.

## **Staffing**

**Little Blossoms:** Leanne (Room Leader), Hannah, Lyndsey, Amy and Amy

**Sunflowers:** Daniel (Room Leader), Beth and Lucy

**Bluebells:** Nicole working Monday + Tuesday, Jo working Wednesday, Thursday + Friday (Nicole and Jo will be joint Room Leader) and Giselle

**Lunch cover:** Jane

## **Here are some upcoming events for your diaries:**

Although we have had to cancel any events that would normally give us the opportunity to invite parents into the nursery, we will still be celebrating them throughout the month, with lots of pictures added to diaries for you all to see. So look out for different activities relating to each of the different events throughout the month!

- 5<sup>th</sup> November - Bonfire Night - Children will be talking about and taking part in some firework inspired activities throughout the day.
- 8<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Sunday - We will be talking about Remembrance Day and what it means, as well as making some lovely keep sakes for the day.
- 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need week - We will have a different theme every day (listed above) for the children to take part in, with different activities going on throughout the week.
- 10<sup>th</sup> November - World Science Day - The children will be able to take part in some exciting science experiments throughout the day.
- 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November - Diwali - Diwali is a Hindu Festival of light, the children will be able to talk and learn about, as well as explore some different activities based around Diwali.

## **What we have been doing?**

### **Little Blossoms**

The children in Little Blossoms have been pretending to make their own cakes with the sand, counting each scoop of sand. When they then had real ingredients, the children were able to again help count each scoop of ingredients added. The children have also been exploring a new natural puzzle; finding ways to move objects and get them out of a tricky puzzle. We have also been getting involved with lots of different Halloween activities; especially enjoying carving our very own pumpkins, using different tools to help each other cut the pumpkin and scoop the insides of the pumpkin, before having a feel of all the different textures.

### **Sunflowers**

The children in Sunflowers have been role playing in the home corner a lot recently, pretending to make themselves different foods and drinks. The children were able to explore real drinks, tea, coffee, water, sugar and milk, pretending to make their own drinks for one another and talking about what they have at their own homes. The children have also been getting involved with lots of different Halloween activities; pumpkin carving, spider hunts and different Halloween messy plays.

### **Bluebells**

The children in Bluebells have been exploring their newly styled home corner room; especially pretending to do one another's hair and make up! The children have also been talking about different shapes and introducing 3D shapes throughout their play. Halloween has been lots of fun in Pre-School with lots of spooky activities taking place.



## **Healthy recipe - Mini Shepherd's Pie**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 tbsp. rapeseed oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- 1 stick of celery, diced
- 1 yellow pepper, diced
- Pinch of cumin
- 250g lean lamb mince
- 1 courgette, diced
- 2 tbsp. tomato puree
- 400ml low salt beef stock
- 100g lentils, thoroughly rinsed
- 1.2kg Maris Piper potatoes
- 50g butter
- 75ml milk
- 60g grated cheddar

### **Method**

1. Heat the oil in a medium saucepan, add the onion and cook for around 5 minutes until softened. Stir in the garlic, carrots, celery, pepper and cumin. Cook for a further two mins, then add the lamb. Brown the meat, tipping off any excess fat. Add the courgette and tomato puree, then fry for a few more minutes. Pour in the stock, add the lentils and bring to a simmer. Cook for 40minutes, stirring from time to time.
2. Heat the oven to 180c/fan 160c/gas 4. Boil the potatoes for 10-15minutes until tender. Drain, then mash with the butter and milk.
3. Remove the lamb mixture from the heat and use a stick blender to puree. Stir as you puree, blending down the pieces of vegetables. Spoon into 8 largish individual ramekins. Top with the mash and grated cheese.
4. Bake for 30minutes until the top is golden and the mince is bubbling up at the sides

**Don't forget to upload your pictures to EY Log!**

5.

Thank you for taking the time to read our nursery newsletter.

Kind Regards  
Emily Johnson  
Deputy Manager