

# FAMILY NEWS

November 2021



Thank you to all our parents that came to our open day – it was lovely to catch up with you and give you a tour of the nursery.

On Saturday the 4th December we are hosting our annual Christmas Fayre, full of exciting activities, Christmas crafts, Christmas carols and much more. The fayre will be between 10am and 2pm. If you would like to attend, please contact the office, and let us know.

Our interior renovation is fully under way. So far, we have knocked down the wall between the utility room and staff room creating one large room. This means the team have a much larger and more comfortable area to relax in at break times. In the Baby Snug we have made a new opening into the cot room, so there is a clear opening for staff to enter. The decorations in the Baby Snug and Toddler Den have also started and we now have lovely natural timber frames around our notice boards.

Unfortunately, Katie will sadly be leaving us on Wednesday 8th December, to embark on her new and exciting adventure. We would like to thank Katie for all she has done over the last couple of years. We wish Katie all the best for the future.

Please don't forget the school admission deadline is Saturday 15th January 2022. If you do require any further support, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

As you are all aware, we have had problems with our internet and phone lines. However, this issue has been resolved and we are back up and running. Please look out on eyLog for daily diary updates, observations, and assessments for your child/children.

Please be aware that whilst at nursery your child/children's clothes may become messy. We advise that you provide clothes that you do not mind getting dirty. We will use and provide protective aprons where necessary.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Hannah who is due to have a baby in March. Hannah will be with us till the end of February, when she will leave to go on maternity. She will be greatly missed by all – but we can't wait to meet baby.

We are delighted to let you know that Amy Douglas will be re-joining our team after working abroad. Amy will be based in the Baby Snug and Toddler Den. Amy has a wealth of knowledge and experience, working with a range of different ages. Amy loves to get messy and create new exciting opportunities for the children – we can't wait to welcome her back.

On Saturday 20th November we will be going to London to celebrate being finalists at the NMT awards. We will of course keep you updated – please wish us luck!

#### **We've been shortlisted for...**

- **Team of the Year** – Lower Beeding
- **Outdoor Learning Environment** – Lower Beeding
- **Personality of the Year** – Catherine Luxford at Lancing





### The Baby Snug

Following on from the open day, the children in the Baby Snug have loved all things music! They have enjoyed reading new stories such as 'Farmyard Jamboree'. From this, we have created invitations for learning based on the story such as a farmyard sensory tray. In this tray the babies were able to explore different textures such as weetabix, shredded wheat, and flour. As well as this they enjoyed playing with different farm animals and learning about the sounds they make. Using a range of musical instruments, they all enjoyed singing 'Old MacDonald had a farm' we also used Makaton to support this.

The babies have shown a particular interest in the sand pit in the garden. As the sand pit is low, it enables the children to climb and sit in it. They love using the sand toys to create many different structures and shapes. The sandpit allows the children to play alongside their friends, supporting their personal, social, and emotional development.

### The Toddler Den

Toddlers have enjoyed a range of different autumnal activities. We have explored conkers, their texture and used them to paint with. Toddlers have been curious about the environment around them. We have looked at the change in the trees and discussed why the leaves have fallen and changed colour. From this we have read a range of different books to support their learning. We loved reading "leaf man".

Many of our toddlers have been busy over the weekend picking pumpkins with their families. At nursery we have been discussing their different colours and shapes with the children and incorporated them into our role play area for the children to explore. The children enjoyed digging the middle of the pumpkins using a range of different handheld tools supporting their physical development.

The Toddler Den have welcomed new friends from the Baby Snug. We have made them feel very welcome and supported them with the routine. We have also been learning some words in Spanish to support one of our friends.

### The Pre-School Study

October has been another great 'learning as we play' month with a variety of child led activities. Several children have recently been on a Gruffalo hunt which led to us to setting up a special invitation for learning tray. The activity encouraged language development as well as more complex story telling using the available aids set out. Another exciting book bag that the pre-school study enjoyed was 'Handa's Surprise'. The children were encouraged to remember the sequence of events as well as the large variety of animals and fruit grown around the world.

A great deal of creativity took place when the children made their own stickmen using all natural elements found in our adventure garden. Autumn allowed a large variety of leaves to fall for the children to gather up. An extension of this led to leaf printing and mark making in the garden.

Halloween has sparked imagination for all the children in our pre-school study. Children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters from, wizards to witches to the Gruffalo. The children wanted to create their own potion and lotions station using many different resources, they picked their own resources and created many magical spells.





### Small reminders

The weather seems to be surprising us and constantly changing, please could you ensure that your children come to nursery with the following.

- Spare clothes (named) we only have limited spare clothes at the nursery
- Coats (named) This is essential as the children do go out in all weathers.
- Water bottles (named)

### November dates

#### 11th November

Sharon's 8-year anniversary with the company

#### Hannah's Birthday

21st November

#### Ashlee's Birthday

27th November

### Staff holidays

**Lara** 8th-12th November

**Hannah** 5th-23rd November

**Ellen** 18th-23rd November

### WSSC Funding

If you are currently claiming the extended government funding, please do not forget to renew your eligibility code. This needs to be carried out every 3 months and can be completed through your government log in. If you do not re-confirm your child's code, your claim for the extended funding will be declined and we will be unable to claim the extra hours which will be reflected in your invoice.

Please be aware, we have joined the "Tax Free Childcare" scheme. If you would like more information and to know if you are eligible, please click the link below.

[www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

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