



# Autumn Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the autumn edition of our newsletter. We would like to welcome our new families who have joined us at nursery over the summer. We have loved hearing back from children and families who have just gone to school about their transitions and seeing photos of the children in their school uniforms. In nursery, many of our older children have been moving to their next room and settling into their new routines; if you have any queries please see your child's key person or the Senior in the room.

We have been very busy over the last few months at nursery and here is an update on what has been happening and what there is to look forward to over the coming weeks.

## Nursery Barbeque



On behalf of the Babraham Parents Sub-Committee and the staff at the nursery, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for attending and supporting Babraham Nursery in helping to make our BBQ a success. We were so pleased that so many families were able to join us for the day, including previous and new parents.



A special thank you goes to all the local companies for their kind and generous donations of prizes for our raffle.



All your kind donations has helped us this year raise £2191.01 so far in fundraising for the nursery. The Parents Sub-Committee will soon meet to discuss how to use the fundraised monies to support nursery.

Our next Sub-Committee event will be the disco, usually held in February at the school hall. More details about this event will follow in the New Year.



## MacMillan Cake sale

We would like to thank you for your amazing donations to purchase our cakes in aid of MacMillan at the end of September. We raised a fantastic £174.65 from the cake stall for this amazing charity.

## Visitors to Nursery



The Butterflies were very fortunate to have one of our families come in for an afternoon to share a part of their Guatemalan tradition. The children enjoyed helping preparing some traditional Guatemalan food and then tasting this at tea time. The children and staff all very much enjoyed the food, particularly the homemade guacamole. The children also

learnt about how to play different instruments and enjoyed dancing to some Guatemalan music. All the children and staff had a lovely afternoon and are very grateful for the experience.

If any other families would like to share their culture and traditions with us at Nursery, please do let us know.



## Fun Pack Ofsted inspection

As you may be aware Fun Pack was inspected by Ofsted on 12<sup>th</sup> August and we are extremely pleased to announce that we were awarded an 'Outstanding' grading in all areas. The team worked very hard to accomplish this and we are very proud of what they have achieved. If you would like to see a full copy of the inspection, this is available at:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/EY455038>

## Blossom

Our new online learning system – Blossom, is now being used across Nursery from Ducklings to Explorers. We are really enjoying using the new system and are excited to share your child's learning with you in real time. We are hoping to introduce the system to you all by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November but we will keep you updated closer to the time.



As with our paper observations, photos are often used as key pieces of evidence to support the observations and demonstrate the learning that has been achieved. As per our 'Digital camera' policy (please find attached), within these photos other children may be captured, either in the background or at the forefront, if, for example, the observation is demonstrating the children playing with others, building those essential friendships or observing a group activity.

Each child's individual learning journey on Blossom can only be accessed by their parents/carers that have been approved by ourselves and given individual 'log in' and passwords, therefore this isn't a platform that can be accessed by any unauthorised individual. I will also re-attach the Blossom parent guide for your information.

We hope you will enjoy seeing your child's progress and journey through Nursery. We also look forward to seeing your child's activities and experiences from home.

If you have any queries with regards to Blossom, please feel free to come and speak to Claire, Philippa or myself.

### Open Evening

We will be holding our annual open evening on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November from 6:15pm – 7.45pm. There will be the opportunity to talk to all staff within The Nursery and visit rooms that your child may soon be moving to. Each base room will be set up with the types of activities that the children enjoy, and that perhaps you do not see at drop off and collection times each day. There will be the opportunity to look at your child's Learning Journey and to discuss your child's interests and development. Please note this is an adult only event.

We will be sending out a separate letter nearer the time with more information about this event.



### Staffing News

We have recently welcomed three new staff members to the team in our under two's room.

**Manuela Fanari** joined us at the beginning of September in the role of morning Nursery Nurse in the Caterpillar room. Manuela has had a variety of jobs within childcare, including working in a Nursery within a School in London and working in a Language school in Italy, focusing specifically on teaching English through art.

**Polina Roads** has joined us in the Duckling room as a full time Nursery Assistant, taking Zoe Mason's position. **Zoe Mason** has transitioned to the Purple Butterfly room to cover Georgina Hamilton's maternity leave. We have also welcomed **Mia Wykes** into the Caterpillar room, working as a lunchtime Nursery Assistant.

We would like to congratulate **Eadie Fletcher** on the birth of her Daughter, Cecilia, both are doing well and have already popped in to see everyone.

We are delighted to be able to let you know that **Claire Cundell**, our Nursery Deputy is expecting her first child at the end of the January. I am also excited to say that my husband and I are also expecting our second child in February, a brother for Tilly.

### New Menu



We introduced a new menu this week (30<sup>th</sup> September) for the Autumn/Winter; please find this attached for your information. These menus have been carefully planned to ensure they fully encompass the 'Eat Better, Start Better Voluntary Guidelines for Early Years settings', developed by the Children's Food Trust. We hope the children will enjoy trying the new foods on our menu, and also the returning favourites.

### Funding for 3 and 4 year olds

May I please take this opportunity to remind families who are in receipt of the extended entitlement for early years funding, that their code from HMRC must be validated every three months in order for the funding to continue. Unfortunately, if a code is not revalidated by the parent with HMRC within the timeframe set by HMRC, the HMRC will withdraw the funding will be withdrawn. Unfortunately this system is beyond our control.

If your child turns three this term (before 31/12/19) and you think you may be eligible for the extended entitlement, please ensure you are in receipt of an eligibility code from the HMRC before the middle of December. Any applications after 31<sup>st</sup> December will not be eligible for the extended entitlement until the summer term (April 2020). These rules are determined by the DfE and HMRC, and I'm afraid we have no power to change this.

### Photographs

CI Photography will be visiting on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October** to take individual photographs of all the children who are present. If it is not your child's normal day in nursery, but you would like a photo taken, please let us know.

The nursery receives a percentage of all sales of photographs, all of which is added to the fundraising pot and used to benefit the children and improve our setting further.



### Reports and Learning Journeys

The staff team are currently writing termly reports on each of their key children. The headings are based around the areas of learning and development as described in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This report is a four monthly summary of your child's progress at nursery. We will, as usual, send out two copies of the report home; one to keep and the other to sign, comment on and send back to nursery. Reports will be available at the end of October.

4 Children, supported by the Department for Education, have produced guidance for parents around learning and development within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The link to which can be accessed here:

[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_Sept\\_2015v4WEB1.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4Children_ParentsGuide_Sept_2015v4WEB1.pdf)



### Christmas events

We are currently beginning to think of our Christmas events and activities at nursery. Each room will be having a family event, which you will receive details of in our Christmas newsletter. Pre-school will also be holding their annual play, with music and costumes!

We will also be having a party (including a visit from Father Christmas) for the children in the Red and Purple Butterflies and Pre-school and a festive Christmas lunch where the whole nursery comes together. More information around these events will be in our Christmas newsletter.

### Mobile Phone and Camera policy

All early years settings are legally required to have both a mobile phone and camera policy for use with parents, staff and others who access the setting. This is to safeguard and protect the children who are in our care. We would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring these policies are adhered to at all times.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind current parents and inform our new families of our mobile phone policy for parents and visitors:



**Please note 'Babraham Nursery insists that all parents and external individuals who come on to nursery premises refrain from using mobile phones at all times. Photographs should never be taken on mobile phones on nursery premises during nursery hours'.**

Similarly our photograph policy aims to balance our safeguarding responsibilities with the natural wish that all families like to take photographs of their child at special times and of key milestones. We feel that nursery is an integral part of the community and our families' lives. Therefore our policy states:



**'We recognise that during the year Nursery events such as the BBQ, Sports Day, birthdays (special events) or the Christmas Play, parents may wish to take photos/recordings of their child using their own devices. We are happy for parents to do this. We ask that whilst we would prefer that they only take photos/recordings of their child, we recognise that at times other children may also be captured in the image or recording. If a parent does not wish their child to be photographed by another parent or non-Nursery device then they need to inform Babraham Nursery in writing. In this instance, that child will remain with a nursery member of staff who will ensure that that child is not photographed or videoed by another parent or non-nursery device**

**Photographs are used regularly to support child observations, and as part of recording the children's time at nursery. At nursery we feel that photographing and capturing children in play is a valuable tool in observation. These images are stored in children's files. Parents who are not happy with this should inform us in writing.**

### Infection control guidance

Babraham Nursery, in line with all childcare settings and schools, follows the guidance set by Public Health England with regards to infection control. This guidance also states the period a child should be kept away from the setting should they become unwell. Your support in following these procedures is greatly appreciated, as this minimises the risk of spreading infections in nursery to

other children in nursery and to our staff team. I have attached the guidance from Public Health England for your information.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019: Open Evening

Nursery will be closed for Christmas from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 5.45pm until Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 inclusive. Nursery will re-open on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020: Nursery Closed for Staff Training Day (no fees will be charged for this day).

If you would like to contact me, give feedback or have a general discussion, please feel free to pop into the office. Alternatively, you could call the nursery or send an email to the address below. If you would like newsletters and updates to be sent to a different email address, please email me [alison.bishop@babraham.ac.uk](mailto:alison.bishop@babraham.ac.uk) and I will update our mailing list.

Kind regards,

Alison

Head of Nursery

---

## HOLIDAY/ABSENCE FORM

Please complete this form to register holidays or any other periods of absence.

Name of child ..... Base Room .....

My child will be absent from.....to.....(inclusive)

Signed.....Name.....Date.....

---

Office use only

Base Room  Computer  Diary