

*Nursery
on the
Heath*



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October 2018

Autumn Term Newsletter



Our Pre-school mechanics hard at work putting oil in the car!



Felix trying a 'Berry Go Round' smoothie at the local tearooms!



Henry and his friends from the Barn going on a bear hunt!

A busy term is already upon us with new families at the start of their learning journey, as well as our current children turning a new chapter as they move between rooms. Whilst the children are busy settling in, the staff are busy capturing the spirit of Autumn with a wide variety of activities to enrich the children's learning from creating scented orange playdough to making bird feeders to baking 'leaf' cookies. The Pre-school children have visited the local church to learn about the Harvest Festival and had a wonderful day at Stansted Mount Fitchet Castle feeding animals and exploring the giant catapult! Behind the scenes a new website has been launched, GDPR compliance continues and discussions are underway for a new look for the Nursery that will be unveiled in the New Year. Read on to find out more!



This term we will be raising funds for BBC's Children in Need. This UK corporate charity, aims to make a real difference with a vision that every child in the UK has a childhood which is:

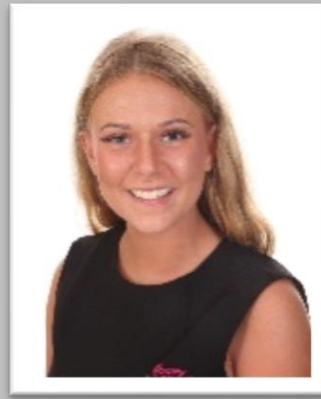
- Safe
- Happy and Secure
- Allows them the chance to reach their potential



To help raise funds in the run up to the BBC Appeal Show on Friday 16th November, the children will be baking cakes, going on a bear hunt, holding a Pudsey Bear picnic, playing guessing games and much, much more.



Our Employee of the Month



Megan Hillier

Every other month we recognise and reward a staff member, who has demonstrated exceptional practice with children, colleagues and parents.

This month Megan was nominated by her peers as they wanted to share and celebrate with everyone how Megan:

- ~ Is always happy and has a smile on her face everyday ~
- ~ Loves each and every child ~
- ~ Gives 100% ~
- ~ Is supportive to everyone around her ~
- ~ Is always there to help ~

If you would like to nominate a staff member to acknowledge a special something they have done to support you and your child, please let us know. Thank You.

www.nurseryontheheath.co.uk

We have launched a new website – what do you think? It would be hugely appreciated if you could take the time to have a peek and let us know your thoughts, ideas and comments.

Is it clear and easy to navigate and find what you are looking for?

Is there any information you were looking for but couldn't find?

Is it an accurate representation of the Nursery?

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank You.

"Spring in the New Year"

As part of our role working in early years, it is our duty to continuously reflect on our practice & provision to ensure we are giving you and your child the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfill their potential. Furthermore, during future Ofsted inspections, we will need to discuss the quality of the environment and how well they meet the learning needs of the children.

With this in mind, we have been looking at our Transition Procedures. Whilst new initiatives have been implemented, such as the Transition Passport, feedback from parents and staff together with observations of the children during settling in periods, has led us to the decision to swap rooms and move the Toddlers upstairs and the Pre-schoolers downstairs.

This room swap will:

- Create a gentler transition and ease the emotional journey for children when leaving The Baby Room
- Establish consistency of care with only one Key Person in the toddler room by merging the 'unders' and 'overs'
- Provide a larger, more appropriate play space for the Pre-schoolers

Please note this is a current working project; meetings are being held and logistics are being finalised, so further details will be issued in due course. The actual physical move will be carried out whilst the Nursery is closed during the Christmas Break. If you do have any queries, please contact the office.

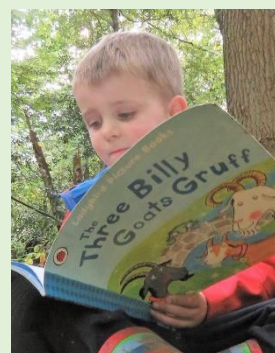


Forest School

With the rich learning environment that Forest School offers, it was announced in our last newsletter that the sessions will be extended to two days per week for the Autumn Term. Although we are only half way there, the development of children's confidence, resilience and self-esteem is already blossoming. Elaine Taylor-Mayes, our Forest School Leader commented, "It has been so inspiring to observe how capable and in touch with the forest environment the children have become. Each individual has developed holistically and with more weeks to come, we look forward to so many more magical moments."

We would like to continue to offer two days of Forest School per week in the Spring Term, however, whilst the Nursery will absorb many of the costs, a contribution from parents is needed. The monies will go towards the cost of the minibus and the amount will be tailored according to the number of trips your child will make. Individual costs will be provided in January along with Forest School information packs.

To ensure equality of provision and to offer Forest School to as many children as possible, the two days for the Spring Term will take place on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. Sessions will begin in February - a confirmation of dates will be issued shortly. Parents whose children will be attending Forest School for the first time will be invited to a presentation in January, where there will be the opportunity to ask any questions.



Our Reminders

My Name Is



Please remember to label your child's belongings so we can ensure the right belongings go home with the right child!

From footwear to clothing to accessories.

Moving House?



Have you moved house recently?

Please remember to let us know of your new address details.

It takes two!

Does your child attend another nursery setting or do they spend regular time with a childminder? Please let us know so we can work in partnership with them to best support your child.

Remember the clocks go back!



On Sunday 28th October 2018 at 2am the UK switches back to Greenwich Mean Time.

~ Thank You ~



A very **BIG** thank you goes out to the amazing families and Pre-school team who joined forces last weekend to rebuild the wobbly bridge at our Forest School site in Birchanger Woods!



It was all hands on deck as everyone worked together to dig, lift, drill, bang and saw to reconstruct the bridge.

Whilst there, and with the right equipment to hand, the opportunity was taken to cut back some very big and very prickly brambles to clear the pathway. And there's more ... to help protect the natural environment and wildlife, the group also did some litter picking.

THANK YOU!



"Yay! Look what we did!"



HM Government

Important Changes to Childcare Voucher Schemes

Unfortunately, the Government closed the Childcare Vouchers scheme to new entrants on 4th October 2018. If you are currently on this scheme you can continue to claim them until your employer stops supporting the scheme or you change jobs. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with your employer to find out what their intention is regarding childcare vouchers.

10 Things to Know About Tax Free Childcare

1. You can pay into an online account
2. For every 80p the government pays 20p
3. It's available for children under 12
4. To qualify earnings must be at least £120 p.w., but not more than £100,000 p.a.
5. Any eligible family can use the scheme
6. The scheme is available if you are self-employed
7. If you currently receive Employer-Supported Childcare then you can continue to do so
8. Parents and others can pay money into your childcare account as and when you like
9. You must reconfirm your circumstances every three months
10. You can withdraw money from the account if you want to

For further information visit
www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Christmas Dates for your Diary

Pre-school Trip to Alsa Woods

Thursday 29th November

Christmas begins here as the children visit the woods to hand pick the Nursery's Christmas Tree!

Christmas Jumper Week

Monday 10th to Friday 14th December

To get into the spirit of Christmas staff and children are invited to dress up in a festive Christmas jumper!

Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday 18th December

A fun-filled morning awaits at the Village Hall. The children will be entertained by the fabulous Mr Papalarny, have the opportunity to meet Father Christmas and enjoy a festive feast for their lunch.

If your child does not usually attend Nursery on Tuesdays and you would like to come along, please let us know.

Christmas Opening Hours

Monday 24th December 7.30am – 6.30pm

Tuesday 25th December – CLOSED

Wednesday 26th December – CLOSED

Thursday 27th December – CLOSED

Friday 28th December – CLOSED

Monday 31st December – CLOSED

Tuesday 1st January – CLOSED

Wednesday 2nd January 7.30am – 6.30pm

Welcome



Jacob Collins was born on Sunday 12th August to proud parents Sian and Andrew. Although 4 weeks early, he weighed a healthy 7lb 5oz. Mum Sian says, "I love being a mummy, it's my biggest accomplishment!"

Our Mission Statement

"At Nursery on the Heath we strongly promote mutual respect, inclusion and fairness for every child and their family who walks through our door."



Ofsted: a force for improvement

Last year Ofsted published its corporate five-year strategy, setting out its aim to be a force for improvement through intelligent, responsible and focused inspection and regulation.

This means a new inspection framework is heading our way in September 2019 to ensure Ofsted is reliably measuring the right things, and that these measures add up to a meaningful overall judgement.












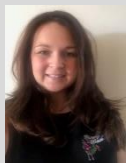



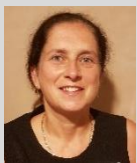




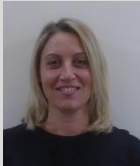






"Inspectors will consider how well a setting evaluates and knows its own strengths and weaknesses ... they must be prepared to discuss the quality of the environment and activities they provide, how well they meet the learning needs of the children."

Ofsted Early Years Inspection Handbook, 2018

All Change!

During the busy summer period the staff said farewell and good luck to three of our team members; Keeley Bird who has changed careers and relocated to West Horndon; Sian Collins, who left to go on maternity leave and Claire Wallace, who left to further her career at a Montessori setting. A recruitment drive went into top gear, promotions were made, and job offers accepted.

Our new teams have been working closely together since the start of the Autumn term:

<u>The Baby Room</u>	<u>The Barn</u>	<u>Pre-school</u>	<u>Support Staff</u>
 Marisa Pikett Third-in-Charge	 Lucy Pryor Acting Room Leader	 Elaine Taylor-Mayes Forest School Leader	 Katie MacDonald EY Practitioner
 Terri McWilliam Room Leader	 Holly Monaghan Key Person	 Kiera Jackson Room Leader	 Emily Price Bank Staff Member
 Sue Sugar Key Person	 Megan Hillier Key Person	 Leanne Smith Room Leader	 Nicole Pedder Bank Staff Member
 Charlotte Trevitt Key Person	 Emma Hart Key Person	 Keeley Newman Key Person	 Ann Jackson Bank Staff Member
 Karen Roethenbaugh Key Person	 Jenny Chamberlain Key Person	 Carol Speed EY Practitioner	 Karen Pollack Bank Staff Member
	 Marta Folgori EY Practitioner	 Deborah Cooper EY Practitioner	 Loren Bagley Apprentice
 Sally Hough Nursery Manager	 Julie Cross Deputy Nursery Manager	 Jill Brownlie Cook (Mon to Thu)	 Gina Collins Cook (Fri)