



We would like to welcome all of the new children and families who have joined us in September. As we have been back a few weeks, many of the children are settling in well. They are building relationships and friendships with the practitioners and children and are settling into their new rooms and getting to know the routines.



The Baby Room

During September the children have enjoyed exploring all things sensory. We went into the garden to explore collecting herbs from the herb garden. The children were observing and copying staff as they pulled the herbs from the branches (see picture).

We brought the herbs inside and created sensory bags, which the children made themselves and have decorated the Baby Room with them. As part of our next steps on planning we have explored sensory play dough with herbs such as lavender, mint and lemon.

The children have enjoyed caring for babies in the role play area, feeding, cuddling and putting them to sleep.

We have introduced new nursery rhymes and songs to the children, they particularly enjoy 'Baby Shark'. The children have enjoyed copying the actions along with the song and have been practising the key words too. 'Baby Shark' is very catchy and can be found on YouTube if you would like to have a go at home.

We have been listening to Urdu music and the toddlers have been actively playing the musical instruments and dancing along. The music has lots of different actions. If you have any music at home that your child particularly enjoys, please feel free to let a member of staff know and we will incorporate this into our planning.

Ways to support at home:

- **Whilst out and about with your children, talk to them and ask them what they can hear, smell, taste and see.**
- **Explore your senses at home and talk to your children about the different smells whilst out and about.**
- **See if they can find their nose, ears, eyes and mouth.**

The 2's Room

Over recent weeks, the children have been exploring nature. This developed from the children's interest in carrying out bug hunts in the nursery garden. Practitioners have provided a nature tray which enabled the children to label and identify different natural objects including: leaves, pine cones, log slices, conkers and flowers.

We also planned and carried out painting activities focused on this. The children were able to choose if they would like to take part in an observational painting, petal printing, leaf printing or making their very own flower collage picture. As you will see within the room, we have made a lovely display to show off all of the childrens' beautiful creations.

During the first week in September we were building relationships and finding out about each other's families and the people who are important to us. This has allowed the children to talk about people in their family and who lives with them.

A focus has been placed on the story 'Dear Zoo' as the children have been showing an interest in animals. At story time we provided an interactive story

session which involved the children getting lots of presents from the zoo.

As we read the story the children were able to open the appropriate gift which had the animal enclosed. This enabled us to use key vocabulary to describe the animals including: big, fierce, tall, scary. The resources were then available for the children to label, describe or re-tell the story in their own words.

To incorporate the story into other areas of the setting, we have been 'writing' our own letters to the zoo, and the children have been able to select their own animal pictures to stick onto their letter of the animals which the zoo sent. This has been valuable as the children have been able to label the animals and also talk about the animals which they have at home. Please take the opportunity to have a look at the childrens' lovely work which will be displayed above the book corner.



Also spontaneously within the room we found a very large moth. Some of the children thought this was a butterfly, but once we caught it we were able to take a closer look. We discussed how butterflies have lovely colours but this one was brown.

The children were intrigued and watched with great anticipation as it flapped and flew around the container. Some of the children even did an observational painting (see picture, above). We have followed this up with the children by encouraging them to make their own very colourful butterfly printing picture. These have been used to create our new key worker display within the hallway. May we remind you that if you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything about your child's progress you are able to discuss this with your child's key person, Mrs Woodall, or Mrs Hayes.

How to help at home:

- Talk about the changing seasons within the natural world. For example: the leaves falling from the trees, their changing colour, the air getting colder and what we might need to start wearing to keep warm.
- If you have not already done so, please could you provide some 'special people' photos so we can make a special people book for your child to look at and use as a discussion aid.



The Pre-School Room

As summer ends, the children were so eager to welcome autumn that we set up a variety of autumnal interactive displays. Starting on September 1st the children enjoyed the free exploration offered by many seasonal activities which combines some of the colours, scents and symbols of autumn (see picture).

As we observe the children interacting with new displays, practitioners are always impressed by the childrens' creativity and how they use materials in ways we could never imagine.

The children loved exploring the autumn tuff spot tray using natural materials collected on the autumn hunt in our very own garden.

With loose parts we have on our play and learning shelves, we simply added soil, muddy leaves, pine cones and conkers along with the insects and wooden log slices (see picture, below). The autumn sensory scene extended childrens' awareness of all the wonderful environmental changes that can be seen!



When conflicts occur at nursery we have been encouraging the children to resolve these by asking questions such as “You both would like the toys, what can we do about that?” or “If you’re feeling angry, would you like to go and look at a book while you calm down?”

eyLog

Please can all parents ensure that they have the latest version (2.0.4) of eyLog on their device. This has recently been updated.

Facebook

Make sure you 'Like' the Smart Kids Facebook page as we upload lots of photos and keep you updated on the weekly going's on! For Twitter fans, we're there too!
Click the links below!



Introducing New Staff Members



We are very pleased to introduce the newest recruit to our practitioner team, Mr Luke Guerin. Mr Guerin is undertaking his Level 2 Young People's Workforce Childcare apprenticeship. Luke has already proven to be very capable and a very popular member of staff in the short time that he has been with us.

A warm welcome to Mr Russell Hayes as the nursery's new Business and Communications Manager.

Mr Hayes is a former journalist who worked for an international publication in London. He also runs his own communications company.



Welcome to our newest member of staff, Miss Lauren Caloe, who will shortly be joining us as Administrative Assistant / Receptionist, and who you'll all be getting to know. Lauren loves her stationery, so that's the Christmas present sorted...!

Lauren replaces Miss Sarah Rogers who leaves us after five years. We'd like to thank Sarah for all her hard work and wish her well in the future.

Policy of the month

Packed Lunches - Newly updated, please click the link below:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b9e463654f5c099435ccf6851/files/2cabeba7-6e5e-41ec-afaa-7335e4894fff/Packed_Lunch_Policy.02.pdf



Nursery Drawstring bag

Our Smart Kids bags are now back in stock! As this is currently **part of our uniform** we would ask that any child who currently doesn't have a bag to purchase one from their room.

The cost of the bag is £5.50

Children in our 2 Year room through to Pre-School should also have a nursery T-Shirt and sweatshirt.

Diary Dates

Application for school

Primary school applications are now open. The deadline for applications is
Monday 15th January 2018.

Click below for all dates of Primary School Open Days/Evenings:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b9e463654f5c099435ccf6851/files/2a76efbd-8dc2-451d-aeb6-be758463bd98/School_Open_Dates.pdf

Harvest Festival Celebration

The Pre-School will be visiting Christ Church in Fulwood on **Monday 9th October** as part of our Harvest celebration.

October Half Term

Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November

Halloween

We will be celebrating by having lots of spooky spider activities and by holding a Halloween party at nursery on **Tuesday 31st October**.

The children are able to dress up in Halloween costumes and we will have lots of fun activities throughout the nursery.

Fairmont Care Home Visit

The Pre-School will be making a visit to the Fairmont Care Home on **Wednesday 1st November**.

Children in Need - 17th November 2017

We will be celebrating by asking for a small donation of £1 for this worthy cause and the children and staff will be able to wear PJ's at nursery for the day.

Swimming

The last day for swimming this term will be on **Thursday 7th December 2017**.

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party will take place on **Thursday 14th December 2017**.

Christmas Closure

Nursery will close at 6pm on **Friday 22nd December 2017**

Nursery will re-open at 7.30am on **Tuesday 2nd January 2018**



Smart Kids



Nursery & Childcare

Email: info@smartkids.org.uk

Telephone : 01772 719719



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Smart Kids Nursery & Childcare · Bhailok Square · Fulwood · Preston, Lancashire PR2 8DY · United Kingdom

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