



NEWSLETTER

What's been happening in the Baby Room?!

Over the past few weeks the babies have been exploring different types of playdough. We have provided lots of sensory playdough including: green peppermint play dough, herb play dough, and corn flour dough. To enable the children to explore this, the children used used an array of different tools such as scrapers, rolling pins and cutters in order to make different marks. During these activities, practitioners reinforced descriptive language such as: "pat, squeeze, and pull".

Following on from the children's interest in the play dough the practitioners planned and provided a baking activity. The children were eager to participate and each child had their own bowl and were able to do pouring, mixing, rolling and cutting of the dough. The particular highlight was when the children tasted the end result!

The babies have taken part in lots of physical and movement activities and have been particularly enthusiastic to take turn on the soft play obstacle courses that practitioners created within the drama room. Children were able to: crawl, balance, jump, climb and slide on the different obstacles which also helps to develop their large motor skills and their confidence through participation and setting their own challenges.

Ways to support at home

- Carry out a baking activity (we would love to see some photos if you have any!)
- Make some play dough and explore it together.
 - Play dough recipe:

- **Ingredients**

- water 1 cup
- cream of tartar 2 teaspoons
- salt 1/3 cup
- vegetable oil 1 tablespoon
- food coloring
- place all of the ingredients in a bowl, mix together until you have created a dough then give a good knead for a few minutes, once made this should keep in an air tight container, and can be used again and again for lots of enjoyable messy play.
- Reinforce the key words: "roll, squeeze, pat and pull" if you do any play dough with your child



What's been happening in the 2's Room?!

Playing with dinosaurs has been a much loved theme in the 2's room, with practitioners observing the children begin to role play with the small world figures and the children have also been transforming themselves into their favorite dinosaur. As they engage in imaginative role play together, children build stories around their dinosaur characters using large motor movements to stamp around the room roaring loudly.

In creating a simple but fun representation of their favorite prehistoric friends

the children participated in a Dino archaeology inspired activity. We turned our sand tray into a Dino excavation center whereby the children worked to uncover the dinosaur bones eggs and fossils using spades and brushes. It didn't take the children long to discover our hidden gems but they continued to enjoy the sensory experience of the wet crumbly sand between their fingers as they themselves hid the dinosaur bones under rocks and logs in the sand ready for the next person.

Following on from the interest in dinosaurs, the children have been encouraged to make connections between their movements and marks as they use the small world dinosaur figures to stamp footprints across the paper. Whilst doing this we used and encouraged descriptive language "big" and "little" supporting the children's thinking about experiences and patterns in their play.

If you haven't already seen our wonderful display 'all about mini beasts' outside the foyer then you may not be aware that the children have continued their hunt for creatures and taken this outside into the garden. The children were encouraged to go on a 'mini beast adventure' in their hunt to find and identify all of the 4 and 8 legged friends in the garden. The children were full of excitement as they ran around the wet and muddy garden and used tools to dig up the soil to find spiders, worms and ants. The children had stacks of fun as it provided them with the freedom to enjoy some energetic play outdoors and to be involved and interested in their learning of the natural world.

The children continued their investigation of the natural world and were encouraged to notice and talk about features of mud, trees, leaves, etc. The children were provided with colour charts as they explored and were encouraged to match the colours of objects to the colour on the chart i.e. a green leaf and brown mud.

Practitioners plan time for the children to experiment and practice their fine and large motor skills safely and continuously throughout the nursery routine. As practitioners we plan indoor and outdoor activities to strengthen existing skills. this week the children have been provided with the large soft play equipment which they move freely on and off and support their enjoyment of working cooperatively to move the equipment around as they work together to build structures, at the same time using it to balance, climb and jump off.

Ways to support at home

- carry out a bug hunt whilst out and about in the garden or on a walk
- talk about colours within the environment
- enjoy some dinosaur books such as:
 - Usbornes - That's not My Dinosaur
 - Henretta strickland - Dinosaur Roar
 - Dinosaurs love underpants

- o Carol Diggory Shields - Saturday night at the Dinosaur Stomp



What's been happening in the Pre-School Room?!

This month in Pre-school we have been talking about transitions. For some children this has been the transition to school and others the transition into the new Pre-school room. We have been introducing routines within the room, as well as rules and expectations such as sharing toys and being kind to one another. To link in with this we have also been encouraging the children to develop their independence and confidence in their abilities by encouraging them to: put on their own wellies or have a go at fastening their coat zips. Throughout this practitioners have been modelling and offering lots of praise and encouragement.

We have also been discussing whereabouts in the world our children come from and about their family backgrounds. We have started to learn new words in each others languages. We hope that you will support us with this by providing packaging from home with examples showing other styles of writing or languages to enable discussion with the children.

The children have also enjoyed exploring phase one of phonics. This is where the children are encouraged to listen to environmental sounds. Therefore we have been playing the listening logo game and carrying out listening walks in the garden. We have also been listening to rhyming stories and have been talking about words which sound the same. We find the Julia Donaldson books such as: The buffalo, Stick man, Room on a broom are excellent for this and the children are really able to engage with these as they are familiar stories.

The introduction of 'Dough Disco' has been a huge hit with the children this month. The concept of using play dough along with disco music allows the children to engage within an activity and use rhythm, dance and movement along with the play dough to increase concentration and develop their physical skills. Practitioners can clearly see the children focus as they listen for the

instruction, repeat the key words and carry out the action. This may be in the form of: rolling, splatting, passing, squeezing and pinching the dough. the movements allow the children to enhance their grasping techniques, muscles and sharing as they have to manipulate and pass the dough.

Lastly the children have enjoyed finding bugs within the nursery garden and have been fascinated with holding and watching, and moving them to a 'safe place'. The children will be continuing this interest within the next few weeks.

Ways to support at home

- Try some 'Dough Disco' at home (these are some of our favorite songs)
 - on youtube search -
 - Fine Motor Development Play Dough Disco
 - lets get ready to rumble dough disco
- Carry out a bug hunt within a garden playground or whilst out on a walk
- Provide photos of people who are important to your child to be placed on the preschool family tree
- Provide any signs, labels or packaging you may have with example of different font or languages.





Staffing structure for September

Office Administrator
Miss Sarah Rogers

Baby Room:
Mrs Lauren Marr
Mrs Rebecca Harwood
Miss Asia Israr
Mrs Jan Lightfoot (Supply Cover)

2's Room:
Mrs Faiza Ali
Mrs Nafisa Master
Mrs Kayleigh Woodall
Miss Asia Israr

Pre-School:
Miss Laura Grant
Miss Aimee Pape
Mrs Faiza Ali
Luke Guerin - Student

We would also like to introduce and offer a warm welcome to Mr Luke Guerin who will start in the next few weeks and he will be undertaking his Level 2 Childcare Apprenticeship at Smart Kids .

Outdoors

We are sure you will appreciate how important the outdoors is for children's learning and development, as it allows them to explore nature and interact in activities differently than they would indoors. Therefore may we please ask you provide a pair of wellingtons to enable your child to access the outdoors in the wet weather.

Spare clothing

May we please remind parents to provide a bag for their child on a daily basis which contains a spare pair of clothes in should then need changing due to having an accident, getting wet in the water or getting muddy outside. We do have a small amount of nursery clothing however I'm sure you can appreciate we are unable to store and provide enough clothing for all children should they need it.

Nursery Opening Hours

Within recent weeks we have noticed a number of children being collected late. Could we please take this opportunity to politely remind you that the setting's opening hours are 7.30am -6.00pm. We understand that in some instance this is unavoidable, however if you are going to be late please could you contact us and let us know. Those parents who continuously collect late will be charged in accordance to the nursery terms and conditions.



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 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

Swimming sessions start (Pre-school) - Thursday 7th September
Drama sessions start (Pre-school) - Wednesday 6th September
Swimming sessions finish (Pre-school) - Thursday 7th December
Drama sessions finish (Pre-school) - Wednesday 6th December
Christmas Party (All children) - Thursday 14th December

Term Dates

Open: 4th September 2017

Mid Term:

30th October 2017 – 3rd November 2017

End term for Christmas: 15th December 2017

Open: 8th January 2018

Mid Term:

12th February 2018 – 16th February 2018

End term for Easter: 30th March 2018

Open: 16th April 2018

Mid Term:

28th May 2018 – 1st June 2018

End term for Summer: 20th July 2018

Christmas Closure for Full Time Children -

25th December 2017 - 1st January 2018

Full Time Children return on Tuesday 2nd January 2018



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