

Easter Newsletter 2021

It has been a year since COVID-19 first affected NDN life. We are so impressed with all staff, families and certainly the children for the continuous contributions to ensuring the highest standards of hygiene, safety, and care. We must continue our great work together.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Please remember the nursery is closed on bank holidays with these being Good Friday and Easter Monday. Taking advantage of our child free time, we are having some new flooring fitted whilst we have the chance.

STAFF ROOM

After many, many months the new staff room (still called bluebell)! Is now open for well ventilated staggered breaks. Just to finish their staff garden area now and then the team can finally work out how to spend the generous monies you gave them at Christmas.

KIT

We now have a dedicated email address for you to use for uniform orders, missing items or anything relating to items needed by children at nursery. A named person will be appointed to oversee your needs, furnishing you with attire, tracking items and helping you out if you are unsure about what your child needs at nursery.

We are happy to keep nappies and wipes here for you from after Easter so do start bringing in your stocks from Tuesday 6 April. Hooray for nursery storage!

SUN CREAM and HATS Now is the time for you to bring in your factor 50+ sunscreens for children, large size and with your child's name label on, the labels needed for this have your team colour background on them. Once they arrive at nursery, they will stay here until much later in the year when they are no longer needed. Tags will come home with a picture of sun cream when you need to bring in another bottle. Please check any old sun creams that they have not expired or have been opened and not used within the timescale. Sun hats should now start to come into nursery, legionnaire type which have the long backs to cover delicate ears and necks are best. Hats with strings should be avoided if possible. We have nursery hats bottle green hats here at £6.99. Hats will stay at nursery so one less thing to think about unless a wash is needed.

Wellington boots, ideally, we would like to keep the children's wellington boots here at nursery from Tuesday 6 April. Children can now generally wear Velcro type trainers in and out and we will move into croc style, easy on and off footwear which can get wet soon. Boots will then be available here should we need them. Would you mind looking to see if you want the boots they are using now at home and whether a cheap pair maybe a size up can be purchased for nursery use only?

Rucksacks – Please can you check you have yours somewhere! And that it has a team colour coded named keyring on it. We do not believe it will be necessary to add ribbons, toys, keyrings to your rucksacks for other little hands to touch, as we want rucksacks to travel with their child owners from May.

Please pack enough daily nappies, a few essential journeys have been made recently for us to stock up when no nappies come in. And if you can use your towel, bed blanket or coat to fill the hole in the top of the box, that helps us to carry more than one box at a time when items do not fall out. Greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The email about kit should be used for any queries – **kit@nutfielddaynursery.co.uk**

Eco Warriors!

We are working towards a greener eco nursery and have purchased 5 HOTBIN composters. These will recycle all our food, brown cardboard, and paper waste to produce soil that we will hopefully be able to start using in three months' time. Any questions, Lee, Guy, and Charlie are leading the way on this one.

Car Park

We are working through ideas of how to practically allow parents into the first area of the garden for drop offs and collections. With some changes to your kit packing and items staying here, we might just get back to rucksacks soon. Realistically we are looking at May for that to happen. Staggered start and finish times are not really happening as before as parents are requesting total use of their 8am – 6 pm booking patterns. To manage the car park at its peak of 5.45pm time is becoming impossible unless all cars drive as far as possible to the round bush (blocking in staff cars is fine). Cars do need to use the full outer circle of the car park to allow more cars in and pull up close to each other. Please help us out with great driving whilst we transfer over to a new system, we hope to explain the original use of the car park and new procedures to start from May. We do acknowledge that handovers at day end are extremely brief to enable us to manage this busy time. As always do catch up with us via text or email and we will get back to you and/or arrange a follow up phone call during the day so you can understand more about your children's' days here. Interestingly I managed an entire drop off last week to oversee exactly how many verbal messages we were receiving from you to transfer into nursery and action at point of car park. There were 39! Together with emails and texts, that is a mammoth operation to deliver, record, share with other team members and action. Your help with reducing verbal important messages would be helpful. A polite reminder to also keep your speed down for the straight run into the car park please.

Portion Sizes

Marie has been kindly duplicating our menu for you to physically see at leave point in the car park. This will continue until the end of this week. Certainly, Marie will have the opportunity to add to newsletters and give you more about portion sizes in due course.

Vaccines, Masks and Testing

Vaccinations are now reaching our staff team, no one is at second vaccination stage yet. We have some way to go but progress no less. Surrey County Council have also asked us to ensure that staff wear masks in communal areas in nursery. Therefore, you will see us in our own masks from time to time as we are getting used to a new way of working and sometimes it is easier to keep them on when moving around and not in direct contact time with children. Surgical masks are worn for handovers of younger children as per usual where social distancing cannot be maintained between staff and parents.

Finally we have taken delivery of staff test kits today and we will therefore be conducting twice weekly tests.

From September

Our plan is to drop the group names from September as the children move around nursery. Their new room name should be sufficient. Thought best to advise you well in advance so that children begin to hear the correct wording. Catkins will become Sunflower and Buttercup, Cherries will become Cornflower and Conkers will become Hazel.

Fire Drill Today we had a fire drill for new children and staff. Children were excellent at staying together and gathering in their groups. Fire evacuation cots move well in the drizzly weather. Good job all.

Guy, we hope most of you will have met Guy our wonderful new Manager over the last few days having joined us on 8 March 2021. A little piece about him.

Guy comes with a wealth of experience working with children and families from 3 months – 19 years. He started off his childcare career by volunteering in children's centres at their Stay and Play sessions, where he developed his passion for the job. He completed his childcare qualifications in 2000 and quickly worked his way up to become the Manager. He was selected to complete a L7 Postgraduate course at the London Metropolitan University, where he studied early years leadership and has been managing nurseries since. Plus, he started his career as a Florist, so we are hoping he brings his green fingers to Nutfield too!

From Guy - Having been a London-lad all my life, I moved to the local area three years ago and seem to have taken to the countryside like the proverbial duck to water! I enjoy walking in the countryside – my fiancée (Susie) and I are lucky enough to have seemingly endless public footpaths to explore across the fields at the bottom of our garden. We also like to sail whenever the opportunity allows; I helped my father build a 32 ft ketch sailing boat in my youth and sailed extensively around the UK southern coast, but in later years Susie has introduced me to the wonders of sailing in the Mediterranean sunnier climes. I have a cluster of grown children and one dependent, and recently became a step-grandfather ("Papa G") which has been such a joy despite the restrictions for visiting during lockdown. I love the whole concept of forest schools and am delighted, and excited, to join the team at NDN. I look forward to meeting you all properly in the weeks to come.

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More Information from Laura C – Head of Education

Learning journals for children at nursery are up to date with most recent reports for the end of the Autumn term and targets for the Spring term having been produced at the beginning of the year. Observations are conducted throughout the week which are then approved by myself or one of my colleagues in the Senior Management Team or Heads of Education in the rooms at nursery. Your next reports come out for the end of the Spring term with progress/update and targets for the Summer term. These get uploaded to your nursery app' towards the end of April/early May. I oversee these in batches as it is a massive task. They are called Summative Reports on your app'. As we did before we will contact you by telephone during the Summer term to discuss further. Arranging a mutually convenient time was not straightforward and took us a few weeks previously. Maybe the light and the weather conditions will allow for a different approach. I know Ally is looking at options for you to meet the room leads and rest of the staff team in your groups. That is what everyone wants; so, between Ally, Guy, and the room representatives they will make that their mission from May. Halfway through our academic year and we have produced 3500 observations.

For the children most recently, we have been enjoying a wide range of activities set up by the heads of education in their groups. Including riding bicycles, cutting, drawing, playing with sensory items, flower soups, rice, cornflour, oats . . . you name it! They

have been learning with their senses, bonding with key people and we have had lots of fun together. And much more to come with the brighter days!

We do not want to miss the opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to our families for helping us track your children's development. You have been amazing uploading lots of observations that help us greatly with your child's/children's individual planning and it has been very lovely to see all the fun things that you have been up to as families. Keep the observations coming!

Let me signpost you to our parents' website – nutfieldparents.info. You'll find this newsletter there once it drops from your nursery app' blog. You will find our roles and responsibilities leaflet to let you know who we all are, and you will also find the document to show you how to upload your photographs and observations from home. Do email us if you need help with your website login.

Lastly, I know it is difficult for you not being able to speak to your head of education in person often but do email me if you have any queries and I can help you out. I am on the staff email address staff@nutfielddaynursery.co.uk.

Thanks, and hopefully see you in person when we can for chats about your children and their education at NDN.

Laura C.

Round Up from Ally

What a serious year. Trauma and sadness hit many of us. No idea how a tiny team of us rattled around our great big nursery with a handful of children, it was divine! Completely unsustainable though and we missed our chums. Some families ran, some came back. Staff were scared but knew parents wanted them here. The military operation of drop off and collection has been the only safe way to for us all to ride the storm.

The most frequently asked question from parents is - when can you all come in??? If I knew the answer; I would let you know. Unless social distancing and mask wearing are lifted, it would be impossible. I have a feeling that the reality is a controlled tour when the nurse is closed. And this would be to view your child's future room they will move to in September. Children are now transferring to outdoor play where we set up in the gardens for the summer. The inside of nursery will become just a base during extreme weathers.

Please do get in contact with us if you need more communication with us. Phone calls can then be arranged during our core hours in the middle of the day. The human contact you crave during our busy five hours of car park duties is literally impossible for us to manage.

Whilst we all continue to try and patiently wait for restrictions to be relaxed, I want to talk about the children. They experience an unpressurised day and have the time and space to explore, run, roll, shout, chat. . . They are totally undisturbed with no free flow of adult movement. It will take some thought as to how they will feel when new faces appear at nursery on mass. They innocently continue to be motivated to learn, take risks, gain confidence, seek new experiences as individuals, alongside one another and with developed friendships. Their play is so busy, they hit milestones, language gains pace, they try to negotiate with each other. They find themselves and follow their interests in the social world

of nursery. With trusted adults to help them reflect and modify their behaviours so that we can all get along!

Guy has been asking the children this week what they like best at nursery, without listing every name mentioned, the top activity and resource is hands down the HAMMOCK!

Happy Easter Everyone. Ally

