

Newsletter 2021

Newsletter January/February/March



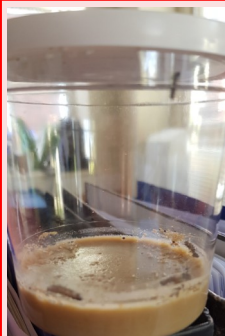
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Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2021. In fact, it's our first Newsletter since December 2019 which just shows what a year we had last year. However, we've come through it and it's now looking like there is some light at the end of what has been a very very long tunnel. We would therefore like to re-introduce our Newsletters with you, one each term, to give you an update on what's going on in and around the Nursery. We regularly share lots of information and pictures on our Facebook page, so please look out and Like our page if you haven't done already.

We'd like to start the Newsletter off, first and foremost, with a very very big THANK YOU for your support and co-operation that you have given since we re-opened last July. Drop off and collections have certainly been an area that have been impacted. We really really do miss you coming into Nursery, into the classrooms and engaging in hallway conversations with staff and with each other, sharing parenting stories. Let's hope it's not too long until we can re-open our doors to everyone. Our main priority though has been the children, providing them with, as always, the utmost care and attention and focussing a great deal on their personal, social and emotional skills. Keeping them happy, loved and safe with plenty of cuddles and lots of fun activities is our daily routine and now that the weather is picking up we can start making use of our fantastic gardens!

Suncream & Sun hats

With the ever changing weather we currently have, please could we ask all parents to bring in suncream and a sun hat for your child(ren), labelled with their name, that can be kept at the Nursery until the end of Summer. The children love spending time outdoors so it's essential, when the Sun has got his hat on, our children are protected. Thank you.



They've arrived!

Keep asking your child (ren) about the caterpillars. They will soon turn into chrysalides and hang from the lid of the pot. We can

then transfer them to the habitat and watch them turn into Painted Lady butterflies, feed them until they're strong then let them go in our garden!

Dates for your diary:-

Easter closure—Friday 2nd April to (and including) Tuesday 6th April

May Day—Monday 3rd May

Spring Bank Holiday—Monday 31st May

August Bank Holiday—Monday 30th August

Paolo Loras will be attending Nursery on Wednesday 12th May to once again take Nursery photo's of Wednesday children only. More than anything, we would love to open this up to the whole Nursery, however, until restrictions are lifted further we must conform to guidelines and keep the risk of infection at a minimum.

Parents Evening, which would normally take place in May will once again have to be cancelled, however, we will keep you updated with further information on this and our Customer Quality of Service questionnaire.

Are you eligible for Tax-Free Childcare?

Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme to support working parents with childcare costs. If eligible, you set up an on-line account which you use to pay your childcare provider directly. For every £8 you pay in, the government will pay in an extra £2. You can get up to £2,000 per child per year (£4,000 for disabled children). To find out more, please click here:-

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/how-to-use-tax-free-childcare/>

Bubble 1 (0–2 years), Jade, Billy, Samera & Georgia S

This term Bubble 1 have been learning all about farm animals, repeating which animal they are looking at and practising what noises they make. They created a farm yard using the tuff spot tray with small world animals and a variety of different textured materials. The Hungry Caterpillar story has also been a favourite for Bubble 1, looking at the food he eats. A new wall display called the 'Proud Cloud' has been created which shows what the children have achieved or how they've made someone proud. Daily singing takes place choosing different Nursery Rhymes from their Rhyme Wall display. Story-time is also very popular together with flash card learning of colours and animals. Bubble 1 set up a tent / ball pit in the conservatory which the children absolutely loved (there were more balls out of the tent than in the tent by the end of the day)! The tent was also set up in the garden with a tuff spot display and now that the weather is getting better, Bubble 1 will be spending lots more time outside. They'll take toys, messy play, musical instruments and more onto their circled lawn area and who knows next term there may even be a few picnics and alfresco snack times! Bubble 1 would like to say a big thank you for all of their lovely feedback and comments they receive from parents, it means so much and they are very grateful!

Bubble 2 (2 years–2½ years), Isobel & Georgia N

Whilst it was still cold and wintery in January and February Bubble 2 continued with their Winterland theme, making footprint penguins, ice-play and winter collages using different textures. Different forms of mark-making have been offered to the children, such as stamps, sponges, finger-painting, chalk, paint and colouring pens. Isobel and Georgia enjoy seeing the children express themselves using their creative skills and imagination. Playing with the dolls and babies is also another activity that uses the children's imagination. Setting up a little nursery, within a nursery, the children bath the babies, dress them, cuddle them and pretend to feed them in the little high chairs that are set up. Lots of love is coming from Bubble 2! At the start of the year Bubble 2 introduced Star of the Week awarding the children when they shared and showed kindness to their friends. 'We're going to the zoo' story book has also been part of Bubble 2's theme this term. They've explored the animals' sounds, what foods they eat, where they live and (the cutest) baby animals. Next term, as the weather improves, Bubble 2 will be doing lots of learning through as much outdoor play as possible. They will explore plants and new growth. They will create lots of artwork using different materials they find when they become explorers in our gardens!

Bubble 2a (2½ - 3 years) , Kelly, Lorraine, Tori

Bubble 2a started the term by talking about their Christmas adventures, what they did, who they spent their celebrations with. They continued to practise putting on their own coats and shoes when going out into the garden and talked about Bubble 2a rules. The rules consist of kind hands, feet and words, listening ears and watching eyes, indoor voices and following simple instructions. We must say, the children are very good at following these rules, the staff are very proud of them! Bubble 2a classroom is set out with different "stations". There's always a tuff spot activity set up, a creative station (such as the bunchems), colouring/painting table, a home corner and a cosy story corner, so the children always have a choice of what to do. This term Bubble 2a have also started to learn about seasonal Spring changes such as new life, growth and weather changes. They've planted some watercress seeds and going into the next term will watch how the seeds grow, making sure that the little pots are watered regularly. Exercise is also enjoyed in the group, especially children's yoga. They practise the different positions—heads down, arms up, stay still ...! Bubble 2a, as with the other Bubbles spend lots of time in our gardens, up and down the slides, in and out of the maze, messy play in the mud kitchen, hula hooping and more—what an energetic lot!

Bubble 3 (3 years +), Megan & Maria

In January Bubble 3 moved back upstairs into the larger Pre-school classroom, so their first job was to decorate it with lots of lovely new displays. There's the phonics wall, birthdays, reading corner (which shows pictures of the children reading their favourite stories), a celebrations around the world wall and a very colourful funday artwork display. Bubble 3 are currently working on a new Spring is here board, so we'll post some pictures on Facebook when that's complete. After breakfast each day Bubble 3 have circle time so they all look at what day of the week it is, what is the date and the year. They also choose a letter and using their phonics knowledge all have the chance to say a word beginning with that letter. Phonics, maths and literacy skills play a big part in Bubble 3's routine, but what the children don't realise is that when they are playing with games such as the coloured sorting bears, snowflake number lines, four leaf clover counting, they are actually learning so much. Name writing practice and letter formation is also another activity that the children enjoy and receive lots of praise for. When it comes to outdoor activities Bubble 3 play a lot of hide and seek, pretend play in the houses, using the bikes and trikes and hopefully next term when the ground is drier out will come the chunky chalk for them to make some colourful pictures on the floor and quite possible draw around each other lying on the ground!