



# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

## Notes from the Day Nursery...

### Welcome to our September newsletter

Dear Parents,

So here we are in a new season. The temperature grows colder and the days start getting shorter. As read the other day, "This season creates the perfect setting for a sense of comfort, warmth and reflection."

### STAFFING UPDATE

As many of you know, Paola and Maria are now on maternity leave and we would like to congratulate them both on the birth of their baby girls; Alejandra and Mia. We would also like to congratulate Kelly on the announcement of her pregnancy - Kelly will be expecting her little one in March 2022.



Alejandra



Mia

Secondly, as you are aware, there have been many staff changes within the Day Nursery. If you are unsure as to who your child's key person is, please speak with a member of staff within the room.

### MESSAGE FROM MR CROSS, HEAD OF THE SCHOOL

I am sure that you will be delighted to know that Mollie Dodds is returning from maternity leave on 4th October. Her son Ronnie is joining Bear Cubs too and I know that Mollie is very much looking forward to getting back into work, getting to know the new children and spending time with staff. I would like to thank Emily for all her hard work and for more than rising to the challenge of stepping into Mollie's shoes, particularly as she had to run a Day Nursery during a world-wide pandemic. Emily has done a wonderful job and I am sure that you will join me in thanking her for all she has done. I would also like to thank Katie, Mary and Amanda for all their support during this time and I am sure they will be extremely supportive of Mollie on her return. You will be pleased to know that Emily is not going far as, once she has completed the handover to Mollie, she will be joining the School staff and her management skills and care of the children will continue to be a great asset to the community.



### SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

### Diary dates

#### SEPTEMBER

TBC - Macmillan Coffee Morning

#### OCTOBER

4th - World Animal Day,

Grandparents' Day

w/c 5th - Space Week

3-31st - Harvest Festival

9th - School and Day Nursery

Open Morning

*(Please make an appointment by visiting the website)*

TBC - Parents' Evening

*Regarding the Macmillan Coffee Morning and Parents' Evening, please keep your eyes peeled for a further update.*





# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

## THE BORROWING LIBRARY

The importance of reading is highlighted in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage which states, "It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth.

It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together".

Katie has spent time creating a 'borrowing library' which will be displayed within our entrance. Please help yourself to a book to take home and read with your child(ren) - it would also be great to gain feedback on how this is working and if there are any other books you would like to see!

## EXPECTANT PARENTS

At the Day Nursery, we are so grateful for the number of enquiries we receive daily asking for a Nursery place and we try our best to accommodate parents' requests and requirements; however, this is not always possible due to being at full capacity on most days. We do have a waiting list, but we cannot guarantee when/if a space will become available; if you are expecting or know of someone who is expecting, then please get in touch with the office team so a space can be secured for your little one. Amanda and Mary have been working closely on enquiries and on our waiting list and have informed the team that we are unable to offer a space to anyone who is under 18 weeks pregnant!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

For further insight into your child's day at Berky, please follow us on Social Media. We would be really grateful if you could share stories too. Here are our Social Media handles:

**Twitter: BerkyDNChelt (Day Nursery)**

**Twitter: BerkyCheltenham (School)**

**Instagram: berkhamstead\_school**

**Facebook: Berkhamstead**

## STAR OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Trudy who has been nominated as Star of the Month. Trudy's confidence is continually growing within Wise Bears and she has created lovely displays and planned engaging activities, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed her Circle Times! If you would like to nominate anyone for Star of the Month, or have some feedback you would like to share, please take a slip from the front door and post it in the boxes.

Thank you and best wishes from Emily and the team.



*Best Wishes  
Emily and the team...*





# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



## News from the Rooms...



### **BEAR CUBS:** For baby bears from 3 - 18 months

Bear Cubs have been so interested in sand play this month! The children used their hands to explore the sand and some even decided to explore with their feet. The children's main interest was filling bowls, cups and colanders then watching the sand empty through the holes.

The babies have also been interested and excited to use the big garden! This has supported children in crawling and taking steps and they have shown a particular interest in the balls.

Over the coming weeks, the children are going to be exploring Autumn; we are going to be painting with leaves and exploring an Autumn sensory tray.



### **CUDDLY BEARS:** For toddler bears 18 - 24 months

This term in Cuddly Bears, we have been enjoying lots of imaginative play. We made a campsite in our room complete with a tent and campfire - the children have been able to build their social and language skills by imagining they are camping.

We have also been learning new words by feeling different textures. The sensory tray had soft and hard materials like pom poms and tin foil to help them learn plenty of new words.

Later this term, we are going to do some planting of cress seeds so we can watch them grow.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



## News from the Rooms ...

### FUZZY BEARS:

For growing bears 2 - 2½



In Fuzzy Bears, our most recent interest has been exploring different types of transport. We created a display containing cars, buses, fire engines, aeroplanes and traffic lights. We also put vehicles into different textured trays.

We are now going to be talking about the importance of looking after our teeth and doing some arts and crafts to make paintings of our teeth.

### TEDDY BEARS:

For happy bears 2½ - 3½

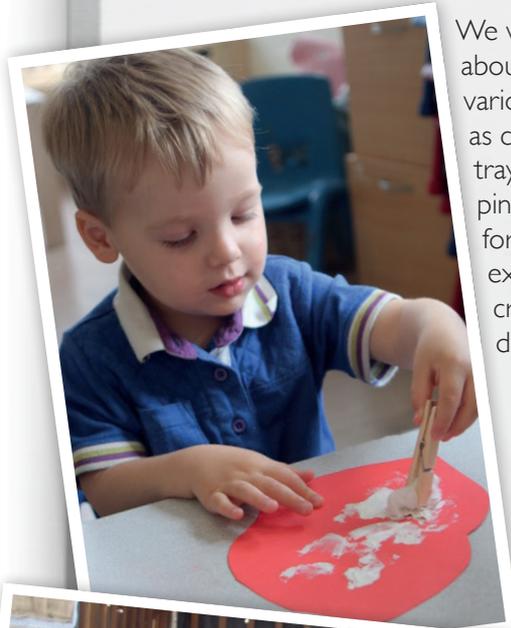
The children in Teddy Bears have been interested in construction, cars and baby role play.

The above interests included building towers with the blocks, creating ramps for the cars to go down and using the wheels of the cars dipped in paint to create marks. As part of the baby role play, the children have enjoying taking care of the babies by dressing, cleaning and feeding them.

Also, the children have thoroughly enjoyed using their senses to explore playdough. The children got involved in the making of the playdough. They were a great help; they added and mixed the ingredients in a large bowl until the playdough was the right consistency. We then used shape cutters and mark making tools to create marks in the dough - we also talked about how it feels and smells.

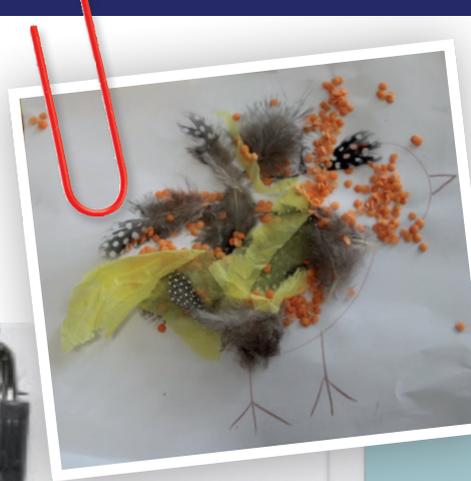
Lastly, we are shortly going to begin planning our Autumn display board and we will carry out lots of fun and exciting activities.

We will also be talking about Autumn through various activities, such as creating sensory trays with conkers, pinecones and leaves for the children to explore. We will also create an Autumnal display board.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY



## News from the Rooms...



### **WISE BEARS:** For curious bears 3½ - 5 years

Wise Bears have been learning about Autumn by exploring our Autumn sensory table. They have loved using magnifying glasses to look more closely at the autumnal objects which have included conkers, conker shells and autumn leaves. They have also developed fine motor skills through painting with conkers.

Pre-school have also had some exciting visitors recently: Winston the tortoise who joined us for the Summer from Kindergarten and, more recently, some 'living eggs'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed watching the chicks hatch from their eggs and during Circle Time, they have been able to stroke and hold them too. We have been talking about what chicks need, such as food and warmth, how we look after them and words we can use to describe the chicks. This has helped Pre-school to develop their communication skills and their understanding of the world around them.

Pirates have been an interest with lots of our Wise Bears so we decided to build a pirate ship, which the children helped to paint. They have loved getting into pirate character with pirate hats, telescopes and practising walking the plank!





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

AND DAY NURSERY

PITTVILLE CIRCUS  
CHELTENHAM

CHELTENHAM'S  
ONLY TRULY  
INDEPENDENT  
PREP  
SCHOOL

*GIRLS & BOYS FROM 3 MONTHS TO 11 YEARS*

*ESTABLISHED 1945*



# OPEN MORNING

## SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER

### CONTACT US FOR AN APPOINTMENT

A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR LIFE