



We hope you all had the most magical Christmas and we would like to wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

On behalf of all the staff, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely cards, gifts and well wishes we received before the Christmas break. We were all touched by the generosity of our children and families.

We would like to thank you for the continued support of our magical little nursery in what has been an unpredictable and challenging year for everyone.

If you would like to share some photos of your child's Christmas adventures please send them to kirkgatechildcarepp@outlook.com

As always, we extend a very warm welcome to our new families joining us throughout January.



If your child currently attends term time only and you think you may need some childcare over the upcoming holidays please speak to Kim so she can add you to a list to contact the week prior to the holidays.

Sessions will be offered on a first come first served basis and will be limited due to staffing and children who are already booked in due to having an all-year-round place.

As much as we love to see siblings during the school holidays, we have had to make the incredibly hard decision to no longer offer holiday care to school age children. This is due to nursery being very busy and having to prioritise our current children for places.



Congratulations to our full staff team who completed safeguarding training with [M.R Safety Training](#) during our training day on the 4th January 2022.

Huge Happy Birthday wishes to two of our lovely staff Holly and Katelyn who celebrate their birthdays this month.

Updated COVID restrictions
Could we kindly remind parents that they need to wear a face covering when bringing children into the entrance

Please can we ask that only one parent or carer drops off/picks up their child to minimise visitors into nursery.

If your child has a high temperature, continuous new cough or loss of smell/taste, you will need to keep them off nursery and have a PCR test.

Any child with the above symptoms will be sent home immediately for a PCR test.

If anyone within your household tests positive for COVID children must have a negative lateral flow test result before coming into nursery.

Please also be aware that the Omicron variant appears to be more like a cold for some people with common reported symptoms including a sore throat, runny nose, and headache.

Prescribed Medicines



If your child requires medicine prescribed by a medical professional, please can you ensure the doctors label is attached to the box or the bottle.

Unfortunately, we are not able to administer medicine to children without the label.

What a surprise the children had when Santa Claus came to visit nursery – he's been extremely busy but still found the time to visit Kirkgate Childcare to see all the children before making final preparations for his worldwide tour.

We had so much fun at our Christmas Party, and we can't wait to celebrate again next time.



Early Help

In nursery we always try our best to support families, however, we are limited in the support we can give within the home; this is where early help comes in. Early help is North Yorkshires approach to ensure children and their families receive the right support at the right time to prevent problems escalating. Early help is a collaborative approach, and it is designed to support you with any concerns about your child or children, your family or home circumstances. It could be around behaviour, problems at school, housing, debt, routines and boundaries or other difficulties.

Why use Early Help?

Being a parent or carer is one of the most important things you can be, and it is also one of the hardest. Parents and carers are key to giving children a happy, stable childhood. If one person in a family has a problem, it might be a child, young person, or adult, then the whole family are often affected. If the whole family are supported, it's more likely things will improve.

Early Help Assessment

The Early Help Assessment must be completed with a child and their family, this enables the practitioner to understand what is already working well within the family network and what support is already in place whilst identifying worries and any unmet needs, enabling the right support to be put in place.

Once the assessment is completed the practitioner discusses with the family what steps need to be taken to support their identified need, agreeing whether the support can be met by the Practitioner and their single organization or if other services are required. **If you feel that you would benefit from an early help assessment, please speak to your child's key person who are all trained in early help assessments.**

Here is a one minute guide to Early Help

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NYSCP-Early-Help-Oct19.pdf>

Warm Clothes



Please can you ensure to send your child to nursery wearing warm clothes appropriate to the weather – as per government guidelines we must keep the nursery well ventilated so additional layers will benefit the children when it's a particularly cold day. We do provide children with coats, gloves, and hats to keep their own warm and dry ready for going home.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parents consultations will be coming up over the next couple of months – the date will depend on when you had your previous consultation and your child's key person will be in touch to arrange a date.

Consultations took a long time to organise last term due to having to re arrange appointments several times, unfortunately we have had to make the difficult decision going forward that if parents are not able to make two re arranged appointments, then we won't be able to carry out a face to face consultation, in this instance a phone consultation may be arranged or you may receive written feedback about your child's development via email.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but we need staff to be able to manage their time effectively with little disruption to the children's day.

We have always had an open-door policy so if you need to speak to someone don't feel you have to wait until consultations. If you would like to speak to someone regarding a private matter, please advise us of this so we can arrange to speak to you over the phone in the office or book a room at the Old Girls School.

School Application Deadline

If you have a child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, they are due to start school in September 2022, don't forget to apply before the closing date on **15th January 2022**.

You will receive notification of your child's school place on National Offer Day which is **19th April 2022** and is slightly later this year due to easter. Our transition process will then start once we are aware of all children's school offer.

Funded places for 3&4 year olds

You may be eligible to get 30 hours free childcare if you have a 3- or 4-year-old, your eligibility depends on:
if you are working

- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your child's age and circumstances
- your immigration status

To check your eligibility visit [Childcare Choices](#)

We do have very limited places available from September 2022 and are now booking as far ahead as January 2023.

For Parents already in receipt of 3 & 4-year-old funding please don't forget to reconfirm every time you receive a notification from HMRC to avoid the funding being stopped.

Labels in belongings

Please ensure that all items of children's clothing including coats, lunchboxes and where possible shoes are clearly labelled with your child's name, we will always try our best to send children's belongings home, but we cannot be held liable for items that become lost in nursery. It also makes it extremely difficult to get items back to the correct children when they are not labelled.

Packed Lunches

Please be aware that it is parents responsibility to provide an appropriate packed lunch container where food items can be stored securely and appropriately until lunchtime. **Parents are advised to provide an ice pack.**

We provide a storage area for packed lunches however we cannot provide cooled storage areas.

We are unable to heat or re heat food at nursery for food hygiene purposes however children are able to bring hot food in a suitable thermos flask.

Please label all food containers, boxes and lunch bags

We will within reason, send any uneaten packed lunch items back home. The rationale for this is that parents can monitor what their child has eaten throughout the day.

Diary Dates

Feb Half term 21st – 25th
February 2022

Our next staff training day will be on Monday **26th July 2022** this training day will coincide with our school leavers teddy bears picnic– nursery will be closed on this day to children.



January 2022 Newsletter