

Since returning in January we have had a full diary of families keen to look round our nursery and we are now booking places for 2023/24.

We have also welcomed lots of new families and children are settling in beautifully into our magical little place that is Kirkgate Childcare. We are sure your children will make lots of wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

We are observing lots of wonderful learning through play and seeing children develop new friendships.

Our new magnet resources, mark making, the solar system, numbers, movement sessions, pretending to be doctors and our new outdoor art studio are firm favorite's this month.



Outings

Now the children have settled back into nursery life following the holidays and new children starting we have introduced our outings.

Mondays will see us going to the library with Sarah and Katelyn

Our Memory Café visit will start as soon as the organisers feel its appropriate with Milly and Maizie taking the lead
Our allotment visit will take place on a Friday with Kim and Holly

Kate will be contacting Hilltop Care home to see when they envisage us being able to visit again.

Children will be taken out of nursery in consistent groups on a 1:2 or 1:3 ratio.

Our school leavers will be prioritised for outings, to ensure they all can be involved in at least one outing before they head of on their next adventure.

If any of our parents would like to take part in our outings, please speak to a member of the team.



Celebrate

This month we have celebrated
Chinese New Year and Valentines Day
Pancake Day and Mothers Day

The children will enjoy a Chinese themed snack of noodles, rice, prawn crackers and pancakes with toppings aswell as taking part in various craft activities to celebrate all occasions we may even make a surprise or two

Cold Outdoor Play

As our parents are aware we are advocates for outdoor play, our door is open all day every day for children to explore and enjoy the great outdoors – fresh air is good for everyone even when it's cold!

When playing outside in the cold think layers because there is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing and that includes adults.

We advise lots of thin layers that can be removed when children then come inside. Children should also be dressed in one additional layer to adults as they lose heat faster and it's important to ensure that their head and neck is covered to keep them warm.

Cold outdoor play has long been blamed for colds and flu. Although going outside unprepared for the elements is unwise, viruses that are spread by other humans and cause colds and flu are indoors.

The indoor circulation of germs and bacteria is much more harmful to children than playing outdoors, hence why guidelines for covid are to have rooms well ventilated.

If children are wrapped up warm and are moving around to generate warmth, then there is no reason why they shouldn't go out.

If your child is well enough to attend nursery then they should be well enough to play outside albeit shorter time periods during extreme weather.

Playing outside allows children to develop self-confidence, independence, and self-esteem. They also become aware of limits, boundaries, and challenge during play. When children are used to playing outdoors, they are more likely to try new activities, engage with others, solve problems, explore, and respect the natural environment, make friends, and show resilience.

We are sure you will agree that these are great

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE
READ
WE ARE A NUT FREE ZONE**



We currently have a child in setting who has a severe allergy to several tree nuts, we have various things in place to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction but ask for your help in this matter by ensuring that children's packed lunches do not include anything with peanuts or tree nuts.

(Almonds, Brazil, cashews, chestnuts, hazelnut, Macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts are all classified as tree nuts)

If exposed to the above products or it can cause Anaphylaxis which is the most serious type of allergic reaction and classed as a medical emergency, staff are trained in using an Epi - Pen and regular use a training Epi - Pen and Kim our Assistant Manager is well trained when it comes to food allergies.

Packed Lunches



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 can bring hot food in a suitable thermos flask.

Please label all food containers, boxes, and lunch bags – as you can imagine lots of children have the same lunch bags and boxes along with children having allergies. Where lunch bags are not labelled following half term one of our staff team will find a suitable place to write names on.

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. If you are struggling for lunch ideas, we do have a useful blog on our website which can be found [HERE](#)

LATE COLLECTIONS

Can we kindly remind you that our morning session finishes at 12.30pm and we close at 5pm, any parents who pick up after these times will be charged as per point 10 on our terms and conditions signed prior to starting.

Persistent lateness will be discussed on an individual basis with the nursery owner and/or managers. As we are full on most days late collection can affect on our ability to ensure sufficient staff to support all children and impacts on staff commitments outside of working hours such as collecting their own children from childcare.



As you can imagine at the end of the week in nursery, we do end up with a number of items left in nursery ranging from water bottles and socks to jumpers and hair clips/bobbles.

To avoid items being lost we do recommend labelling everything where possible, as it is exceedingly difficult to get items back to children where there is no name label or similar on them.

Can you help?

Our wonderful Sarah has spent some time creating our outdoor art studio and is appealing for all in ones.

If you have any all-in ones that your children have outgrown, please consider donating them to nursery.

We would also welcome any unwanted kitchen item donations towards our mud kitchen such as small clear containers with lids, metal tea, coffee and sugar caddy's, a microwave, metal spoons and utensils, wooden curtain rings and Yorkshire pudding tins

Please send a photo to kirkgatechildcare@outlook.com prior to bringing items in as we have so many generous parents that we often become inundated with items.

Childcare Choices

HMRC ADDITIONAL FUNDING CODE 3&4 YEAR OLDS 30 HOURS

If you are in receipt of additional 3&4 year old funding, look out for a prompt every 3 months from HMRC to reconfirm your details so that your eligibility can be re assessed. If you do not do this, please note that we are unable to claim the funding on your behalf.

If you think that your child will be eligible for the additional funding in the coming months, please speak to Dawn or Kim as soon as possible as we have been inundated with new enquiries, so places are limited.



Thursday 3rd March 2022 is World Book Day, children are invited to come to nursery dressed as their favourite superhero, princess, or character from a book throughout the whole week.

As always there is no pressure on parents to buy new items for children to wear that week, we also have an array of costumes for children to choose to wear in nursery.

Children can bring along their favourite book to share at together times.

We just ask that children have clothes underneath their costumes to keep them warm for outdoor play and items/books are clearly named

Sarah's language group is returning

Sarah will be running her greatly beneficial language group with Milly over the next term. This group has an incredibly special visit to The Old Girls School where they have snack and take part in lots of fun activities based around speech sounds and listening and attention.

The children in this group will stay the same for consistency and will take place during the nursery day.

Activities may include:

Feeding the monster or animal

Feely bags

Talking tins

The hiding game – where an object is removed, and children guess what has been taken

Songs and rhymes

Parents will be informed if their child is part of this exciting group.

Please can we ask that where possible children arrive at nursery before 9.30am for a morning session and before 1.00pm for an afternoon session, particularly when leaving for big school in September as we have different activities planned such as outings that they may end up missing out on.

We are finding that children are arriving outside of these times and its causing disruption to things like one-to-one times which are valuable times for children who need a bit of added support.

When arriving late children are also missing core times within nursery.

COVID Reminders

Please can we remind all parents that although restrictions have been relaxed by the government our COVID-19 policy is still in place.

This means that parents must still adhere to the 1 family in the entrance at any one time, we are finding that some parents are entering nursery whilst other families are still inside.

If a que forms, we will always try our best to use the gate entrance in the garden to allow children to enter and leave nursery.

We are also finding that lots of children are needing the toilet or being asked to go to the toilet by parents prior to leaving. If children need the toilet before going home and a que has formed, we will ask parents to wait outside to allow another parent to enter nursery.

We thank you for your help in this matter

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 all children.



February/March Newsletter 2022