


**Kirkgate
Childcare**
FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE
April 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to our April newsletter and as always, warm greetings to the new families that have joined us recently, we have had another busy month as we celebrated Easter and lots of our children heard about their school allocation.

We have been looking at the letters in our name and putting the letters in the correct order.

We have taken risks and mastered balancing in the garden. We have observed the changes in our tadpoles through magnifying glasses.

Made new friends

Visited the library

We have used our listening ears to identify environment sounds.

Been for walks within our community to observe the signs of spring and hunt for letters and numbers.

Our summer term projects will be starting shortly where the children will take part in Mini First Aid, Little Cooks with Ashley, Sarah's intervention group, the library, our allotment visits and finding out about people who help us.


Celebrate

Recently we have celebrated
Easter



Please can we remind all parents that staff **are not permitted** to accept friend requests from parents as per our code of conduct.

Should parents wish to contact nursery, this should be done via the nursery email, phone, or messenger service and not the private message of the team.

Thank you for your understanding.

Internet Safety

With lots of younger children having their own tablets or access to their parent's devices to play games, use apps or watch tv programs - here is some helpful and simple advice on things you can do to ensure they are using the internet as safely as possible.

[Click here for more information](#)

Diary Dates

Monday 2nd May

Closed for Bank Holiday

W/c 30.5.2022

Closed for May Half Term

Friday 22.07.2022

Last day for funded TTO children

Tuesday 26.7.2022

Training Day - Closed to children.

School leavers teddy bears picnic 2.30-4

Monday 01.08.2022 - Nursery Closed

Monday 08.08.22 - Nursery Closed

Friday 12.08.2022 - Nursery closed for Summer

Monday 05.09.2022 - Training Day

W/c 05.09.2022 - unfunded week

A Friendly Reminder

Please don't forget to place an icepack into your child's lunchbox to keep it fresh until lunchtime at 11.30am - your child's lunchbox should also be clearly labelled.

Please ensure that all belongings are labelled to help us get items left at nursery back to the correct owner.

Please be aware that we do not allow the children to have sweets in their lunch - children are allowed to bring a small chocolate treat. Sweets will always be sent home.

When bringing treats in for birthdays they will always be left in the entrance so parents can decide whether their child can have them - Dawn has had to perform first aid on a child at a previous nursery who was choking on a hard-boiled lollypop so for this reason they are not permitted within nursery and will be sent home with the birthday child.

Nursery is a NUT FREE zone - please do not send food items containing any kind of nuts in lunchboxes - this includes Nutella products and supermarket alternatives.

Summer Term Parent Consultations

Our summer term parent consultations will take place throughout May/June.

This will give you the opportunity to speak to your child's key person about their development and life at nursery.

We will be allocating 10 minutes per family; school leavers will receive a written report which will require your comments and will then be shared with school.

Let's talk lunchboxes.....

With lots of new families joining us we thought we would share our lunchbox blog which has helped many parents provide a healthy, well balanced, and nutritious lunch as per our healthy eating policy. A healthy balanced diet can develop concentration and learning abilities.

One main worry from lots of our parents is 'fussy eaters' but it is extremely common for preschoolers to become picky with their food or uninterested, they would rather be playing or occupying themselves away from the table.

Understandably, the easy option is to let them eat what they choose because it may seem that anything is better than nothing. However, this can lead to a downward spiral later, with children liking less and less and not being interested in trying any new foods. Our lunch times are not rushed, calm and fun so it could be the perfect time to introduce a new food or two into your child's diet and with lots of children leaving to go to school variety in a lunchbox is key as school lunchbox policies can be a little stricter than nursery or your child may have a school meal which may include foods that they haven't tried before.

We are aware that we have lots of children in setting with varying allergies and they too benefit from a variety in their lunchboxes, these lunchbox ideas can be adapted to suit differing allergies

To read the full blog and see some wonderful lunchbox ideas for allergy sufferers [CLICK HERE](#)

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Teddy Bears Picnic – invites to follow with more details

Following the success of our school leavers teddy bears picnic the last two years we are pleased to confirm that this year's picnic will be the same.

**Our family teddy bears picnic will take place on
Tuesday 26th July, 2.30-4pm at Eversley Park**

Nursery will be closed to children on this day as one of our three training days.

We hope all school leavers can attend as it is a lovely end to the children's time with us.



Some of our children that have turned three over the last term may be eligible to receive 30 hours free childcare. This is available from the term after your child turns three, the recommended time to apply for a September start is between the **15th of June to 31st July**. This can be applied for on the childcare choice's website.

You can apply outside of these recommended dates, but you might not receive your code in time.

You must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts. You will have to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months. If you apply more than 3 months before the term starts, you'll have to reconfirm your eligibility in your account to keep your code valid, failure to do so could result in you being charged for your childcare or missing out on a terms funding.

If you need help or advice with applying, please speak to your child's key person

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

SHOES

Please can we request that children are sent to nursery in shoes that encourage independence
(Velcro/slip on shoes)

It can make a huge difference when children are able to put on their own shoes and they enjoy feeling "big" when they can do things for themselves, it also ticks one thing off your to do list when leaving the house if children can put their own shoes on as well as being independent for school.

We are finding that children particularly our school leavers, are regularly being broken off from play and learning to ask for their shoelaces tying.

A top tip of ours is to put half a happy face sticker inside each shoe – when the stickers make a full smile children will know their shoes are on the right feet.

Reviews

If you haven't yet left us a review on Facebook or Google we would really appreciate if you could spare five minutes to write one – we find these really help potential parents when thinking about using Kirkgate Childcare.

We can then transfer them onto our website

We often have parents ask us - what has my child learnt today? What is your curriculum? When will they start learning phonics in preparation for school?

At Kirkgate Childcare we PLAY, our children learn through play right from the moment they walk through our door. Play is the foundation for all learning and development and for children play isn't a distraction from more serious learning, play is serious learning - it is the work of childhood.

Through play, children can explore, experiment and discover, make mistakes but most importantly to try again, developing skills that they will use later on in life.

Children will have many years to learn formally in a classroom environment which is why whilst they are with us, we embrace their natural desire to play and encourage them to be children for as long as possible.

Play is at the core of the curriculum we follow in nursery - the EYFS, and as skilled practitioners we guide and support children along their valuable learning journey with us, identifying and sharing achievements with children and families, stepping in to help or scaffold learning where needed, providing resources and opportunities to further extend and ignite children's learning and language experiences, all this is done through play.

YES, children will develop the finger muscles to hold a pencil through exploring with play dough, paint, sand, mud, and other malleable materials. YES, children will learn colours by exploring the colours of the leaves on the trees or mixing powder paints.

YES, children will learn about shapes through building with bricks and noticing shapes in the world around them. YES, children will learn how to count through songs and rhymes or counting the animals at their farm. YES, children will learn letters and that print carries meaning through looking at books and different text in their environment. They will learn all this and more at their own pace.....through play.

As a setting we don't like the term "school ready" but in preparation for school we support children to be independent, confident, and resilient, ready for a learning environment - can they confidently leave their parent? Can they make friends? Can they dress and undress themselves? Can they pour a drink or peel a piece of fruit such as a banana or orange? Can they use cutlery? Are they able to listen in a small group? Are they toilet trained? We can honestly say your children will leave us with all the things above ticked and many teachers that visit us in the weeks leading up to the transition say - leave the rest to us.

Childhood shouldn't be seen as a race, it's an experience to be treasured. With the couple of years our children have had let's hug our children a little tighter and let them do what they do best and that's PLAY!!



School Transitions

Starting school is a big step for both your child and family. Creating a smooth transition into school is vital to ensuring your child gets the best possible start in their new setting.

We are immensely proud of our school transitions and work in partnership with you and the different schools, to fully prepare your child for their new challenge ahead, strong partnerships are key to a smooth transition.

Our Assistant Manager, Kim is also our transition lead and link with school, so she is a first contact for any questions relating to school transitions.

To read more about how we support school transitions head over to the useful information section on our website where you will find lots of information

<https://kirkgatechildcare.co.uk/useful-information/>

We will be in contact with all schools over the next few weeks and will hopefully have some teacher visits booked in at nursery over the summer term depending on individual schools covid risk assessments, but we are hopeful that all children will meet their new teacher before the end of term either in nursery or at school and that it will be a more normal transition compared to the previous two years.

We will continue to update you on the transition process, but rest assured all the children will leave us ready to start school.

We are very grateful in nursery for all the donations we receive, however due to limited storage space and time to sort through everything we are no longer able to accept donations of toys, spare clothes and for the time being we have enough boxes and containers for craft.



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