

Spring Term One 2025

Welcome

Regular communication with parents is vital, so we work hard to keep you informed about our activities. Our newsletters are available on the website, closed Facebook page, and can be requested in paper form if needed.

Each half-term newsletter includes children's activity highlights and other important information, such as staff news, funding updates, key dates, upcoming additional activities, and useful updates.



#### FUNDING UPDATE: Important Updates and Procedures

Recent changes to the government's working family entitlement funding, commonly referred to as expanded hours, mean that we are currently reviewing our procedures for offering funded nursery places and setting start dates for children joining us at 22months.

Please be aware that, from now on, children will not be able to start with us part-way through a term. Instead, all new starters must join before the Local Authority headcount week.

This requirement is especially important if your child has previously been enrolled at another setting.

As a nursery, we are unable to claim funding for a child unless we receive a valid funding code or it has been re validated before the start of a new term. To help you stay on top of this, we regularly share reminders on our Facebook page, by email, through verbal communication, and in our newsletters. Key dates to remember for obtaining or renewing a funding code are 31st August, 31st March, and 31st December.

If your family already has a funding code, please remember that it is your responsibility to revalidate it every three months. If you do not obtain or revalidate your code in time for the new term, we will follow our terms and conditions, and you will be invoiced for the upcoming term's fees.

Should a funding code not be provided to us when requested, we will invoice you accordingly. However, if you supply a valid code before the deadline, the invoice will be refunded or voided.

Unfortunately, we must now enforce these procedures more strictly. Last term, there were a significant number of cases where we had to chase up codes, send repeated reminders, deal with families who had not secured valid codes in time for submission and lost a full terms funding due to another setting claiming.

If your child is transferring from another setting to join us, please ensure that you give notice and that your child has left their previous setting before the Local Authority headcount week. If this is not done, we will be unable to claim funding for your child, and you will be responsible for paying the term's fees in full.

Please follow the link below for our [IMPORTANT DATES](#) for the rest of this academic year.

[NURSERY REMINDERS](#)  
Please take some time to look over our nursery remember list by clicking [THIS LINK](#)

#### Celebrations over the Spring Term

##### CHINESE NEW YEAR

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year over the W/c 16<sup>th</sup> February, and the children will be able to participate in lots of activities such as making dragon masks, learning about the animals of the zodiac,

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trying Chinese food, making red envelopes filled with chocolate coins and sharing mandarins at snack time.

It will be a wonderful and meaningful introduction to Chinese culture and traditions.

#### PANCAKE DAY

Pancake Day will be observed on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. The



children will engage in various activities to learn about the significance of Pancake Day. They

will participate in serving pancakes in the home corner, designing their own pancake creations, and making a delicious pancake to enjoy during snack time.

#### WORLD BOOK DAY

This year's World Book Day will be observed on Thursday, 5th March. We will focus on bedtime stories to encourage children to reduce screen time before bed and enjoy the pleasure of reading a book.

Children are invited to come to the nursery dressed in their most comfortable pyjamas and bring along their favourite book to share throughout the day.

If your child does not usually attend on Thursdays, they are welcome to participate by wearing pyjamas on any other day of the week or by sharing a photo on World Book Day via our parent email.

#### EVERYWHERE BEAR



We want to introduce our new families to the Everywhere Bear, he has been part of our nursery since 2018. Each child will have an opportunity to take our multicoloured Everywhere Bear home and document his

adventures in a learning journal. The Everywhere Bear connects nursery and home, teaching children about broader communities.

The Bear will come home on different days based on your child's sessions and should be returned along with his book on the day given by your child's key person.

**The Everywhere Bear has a home on a shelf**

**But he doesn't spend much time by himself**

**Each boy and girl in the class is his friend.**

There's no need for you to do anything special with the Everywhere Bear. Please send photos of his time with you to the parent partnership email, and we will print them for his book.

#### TOYS FROM HOME

We have previously requested that only comfort items be brought into the nursery, but we are noticing an increase in the number of personal items being brought in, which is impacting the children's engagement in activities.

We understand that it can be challenging when children wish to bring something from home; however, we kindly ask that ALL toys, including teddies, remain at home.

Moving forward, any toys other than comfort items brought into the nursery will be left on the pegs until the children are collected. Please do not take offense if we request that you leave your children's toys on their pegs. Our school cohort children SHOULD NOT bring toys or teddies as we prepare them for school environments.

**Following the link to see why we let children be the masters of their own creations**

**[Process verses product - Kirkgate Childcare](#)**

#### A HUGE THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful parents who shared many kind words

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in cards and conversations prior to the  
Christmas break.

The staff team were thoroughly spoilt and are  
grateful for every gift received, they were  
appreciated but most definitely not expected.

Thank you to IPs family for the £100 Wagamama  
voucher which will be used for one of our team  
get togethers in March.

Our next staff well-being events are:

**Jan:** A long walk followed by brunch at Café  
1876

**Feb:** Team meeting followed by tea at Café  
1876



**March:**  
Wagamamas  
and bowling  
**April:** Sound  
bath or  
paddle  
boarding  
We are very  
lucky to have  
an event  
planned each  
month

**Happy Staff, Happy Children and Happy  
Families make foundations for life**

#### February Half Term – FRIDAY CLOSURE

Due to predicted attendance numbers for the  
Friday of February half term, we will be closing  
on that day, just as we did during the October  
holiday.

We will instead be offering families an  
alternative session during that week and all  
families affected have been contacted via email  
in December and January.

#### STAFFING UPDATE

We would like to welcome Faye to our little  
team, Faye wowed us at her interview with her  
interest in child development and is already  
loved by the children. She has settled in so  
well and will be an asset to our team. Faye will  
be working opposite to Sarah at the end of the  
week and supporting blue group alongside  
Sarah and Teresa.

#### WHAT HAVE WE BEING LEARNING

Over the  
weeks we've  
been back  
since  
Christmas  
we have  
been:

**Using lots of loose parts in our play**  
**Painting and looking at colour mixing**  
**Exploring oats in the sensory tray**  
**Exploring ice and rescuing the dinosaurs**  
**Talk Boost**  
**Lots of time in the garden**  
**Looking at the Gingerbread Man**



#### IMPORTANT

If you know that someone else will be collecting your  
child early, even if they have been before, please let us  
know.

Our staff are extremely busy and cannot get children  
ready when they are unaware, they will be leaving early  
which means there may be a wait before we can  
answer the door.

We regularly run a Talk Boost session in the entrance  
between 2.30 and 3.00pm so if you arrive during this  
time there may be a wait as we collect children's  
belongings and bring them out through the gate, so  
we don't interrupt this important intervention.

Core times in nursery are between 9 and 3.30



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