



Newsletter October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for your **Harvest donations**, we took a group of children last Tuesday to Hatfield Sanctuary Care Home where we spent some time with the residents and donated them 50% of the food. The other half of the food we placed at Asda food bank.

As we are now in the **autumn season**, we would like to remind parents to bring in **waterproof clothing**. As you are aware all children who attend have the opportunity to experience indoor environments as well as the outdoor area in all seasons so they do require **wellington boots and jackets**.

We would like to respectfully remind you that the nursery closes promptly at **6.00pm** and all children, parents, careers and visitors should have vacated the premises by this time. Should you require verbal feedback on your child's day, please ensure that you arrive in plenty of time to allow you to leave before 6.00pm. This also stands for children who attend half sessions and are collected after 1pm or those brought in before 1pm.

As you are aware, charges will be levied for delays after 6.00pm and we really do not want to be in a position to have to charge this.

Our **Under Twos** have now started to use the **care diary** section on Tapestry instead of writing their daily diaries. We feel using the diaries online will **enable parents to access the information about their child's day from home** and of course reduce paper waste– which is always good for the environment. We pride ourselves on working in **partnership with parents** and feel that when collecting it is a good time to communicate to you about their day so will continue to give this and go into more detail about what they have been doing.

As you will now probably be aware we have put in place a **Bright Comets Book Library**. Enjoying books and reading stories from a very early age is **crucial in the development** of children, it helps to develop their **spelling, listening, writing, literacy and social skills**. The aim of our book library is to encourage children to choose a book with their parent that they want to look at and are interested in. You can then take this book home and look at the pictures talking about what the child can see or you can read them the book for a bedtime story. With a selection of different stories each week we hope you find a book that is different to what you have at home.

If you wish to take out a book, **please sign it out** in the folder on the front reception desk. We kindly ask that you **return this book after 7 days** to ensure we have enough books and variety for all children.

We have had a few phone calls requesting our closure dates for Christmas, I can confirm that the **nursery will close at 2pm on Christmas eve and will re-open on Thursday 2nd January**. All other event dates including pre-schools nativity you can be found on our website http://www.brightcometsdaynursery.co.uk/new/?page_id=1711

Please also note the **2020 Training Days** are now also **available on our website** should you need to know these to arrange alternative childcare.

Dates for your Diaries for 2019

Wednesday 2nd October – Grandparents Day 9:30-10:30am or 2:15-3:15pm

An exciting chance for all of the children's Grandparents to come to nursery for a one hour session to play alongside the children and take part in some fun activities including, reading stories, drawing pictures, playing in the sand and doing puzzles. If your child's grandparent/s wish to attend please inform Janine or Lorraine.

Wednesday 9th October – Nursery Photo Day

Caamkids will be returning to the nursery again this year to take professional photos of the children for you to purchase in time for Christmas.

If you wish to provide your child with a particular outfit for their photo please ensure you let the staff know within the room and label the outfit clearly with your child's name.

If your child does not attend the nursery but you would like to bring them in to have their photo taken please let Janine know and she will provide you with a time slot.

Thursday 17th October – Animal day

The children will be learning about a variety of different animals including, reptiles, mini beasts, farm and zoo animals. We will be carrying out a variety of fun, educational activities for them to take part in and will also have a visit from the "Zoo Lab" which provides the children an opportunity to meet and hold some animals.

Wednesday 30th October – Nursery Training Day

The nursery will be closed for a staff training day therefore, alternative childcare will need to be arranged. Please note that you are NOT charged for this day and this has already been taken into account when calculating your fees.

Thursday 31st October - Halloween

We will provide the children the opportunity to take part in some Halloween themed activities throughout the day such as, carving and exploring the inside mush of pumpkins, making and exploring green gloop, making ghost meringues and creating magic potions. Along with, carrying out various arts and crafts such as, sponge painting and printing, making spider mobiles and pumpkin faces. In the afternoon the children will have a party tea. If the children wish to dress up then they can do.

Monday 11th November – Parents Evening 6:30pm - 8:30pm

We will be holding parents evening for you to attend and have a ten minute consultation with your child's key worker. This is a time for you to discuss your child's development and what we are working on with them to close any gaps in their development. We will also be able to answer

any questions you have around Tapestry. Time slots will be available to book from Monday 21st October.

PLEASE BE SURE TO REGULARLY CHECK OUR EVENTS BOARD/FACEBOOK FOR REMINDERS AS WELL AS OUR EVENTS LIST ON OUR WEBSITE

A Note from Each Room

Farmyard: This month in Farmyard we will be doing lots of singing and simple stories to help develop the children's early communication and language skills – don't forget to take a look at the book library! We be looking at lots of different stories with effects such as, sound buttons, lift and close flaps, and touch and feel books.

Please don't forget to bring in or e-mail us some family photos to create family photo books for the children to look at whilst at nursery.

Seaside: This month we will focus on our early maths skills, we will be encouraging the children to do different sized puzzles, using the loose part to fill and empty different sized containers and will be introducing number names to the children in their play and through songs/rhymes. We will also begin collecting some autumn materials on autumn walks such as conkers, pine cones and leaves for use in our heuristic play and to use as loose parts in our messy play and tuff spots.

Meadow: This month we will be continuing to work on our independence skills paying close attention to washing our hands thoroughly before mealtimes and explaining to the children why we wash our hands. We will also be encouraging the children to independently help with dressing routines such as, putting on their coats, shoes and socks.

We have now introduced self-registration every morning using picture of their faces encouraging them to recognise their image.

We will also be doing lots of activities based around early communication, using single words and extending the children's vocabulary, we will do this by playing different games, looking at stories, singing and using visuals for support.

Arctic: This month we will be exploring what changes the new season brings to the outside environment such as, leaves changing colours and falling from the trees and the changes in weather. The children have also been showing a keen interest in the natural environment and wildlife so we will be doing some activities to explore animal habitats and how we can care for them in these environments.

In addition to this, we are also focusing on developing our maths skills and we will incorporate this into their play such as looking at shapes outside, comparing sizes of objects in the room and recognising numbers.

This week we will be sending out some "Nature bags". If you could collect any natural objects from the environment such as twigs, conkers, pine cones, leaves etc and bring them in to nursery for us to use as a talking part and within our loose parts.

Safari: This month in Safari we will be focusing on developing the children's understanding of letters and sounds and introducing more phonic songs. We are looking forward to having our music room in place where children can explore sounds and describe what they hear.

As the children have shown lots of interest in cooking and mixing ingredients we will continue

to explore what other ingredients can be mixed together and will encourage the children to describe the textures, tastes and smells of the different foods they use.

Gentle Reminders

Please don't forget to follow our **Facebook** page for regular updates and news. We would also be very grateful to parents if you could leave us a review.

Under no circumstance should a parent let anyone into the building or leave the door open for them. Simply **ask them to enter the codes themselves** or wait outside whilst you inform a member of staff. Parents allowing people into the building is a breach in our safeguarding, security and health and safety policy and therefore, we ask for your full co-operation with this. Whilst we appreciate this can put parents in an awkward situation **the safety and well-being of the children is of paramount importance to us** and we cannot stress to parents how important it is that you strictly follow our policy.

The nursery has a strict **NO NUT** policy and we kindly ask parents that children do not enter the nursery with any food items to help us ensure we can adhere to this policy at all times. We also kindly ask parents to keep this in mind when giving children breakfast/meals at home before coming to nursery as we do have some children with severe nut allergies.

Please can all parents ensure that you **inform the setting if your child will not be attending** due to sickness/holiday, whilst it is not compulsory for them to attend as it is private day care we do have a duty of care to record their absences and it also really helps us with catering for the children and staff ratios.

Please don't forget to check your parents' information boards, Facebook and our website for further information and reminders.

As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do NOT hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards
Janine, Lorraine and Team.