



Newsletter February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with regret that I have to inform you, **Shirley Mcdowall** will be **leaving** Bright Comets Day Nursery on, **Thursday 18th March**. Shirley has worked in childcare for 22 years and has spent 11 of those years at Bright Comets, she has cared for many children in that time and has been a very loyal, hardworking and dedicated member of staff. **After many years in the industry Shirley has made the decision to retire from childcare**. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Shirley the best of luck for the future.

Covid- 19 updates

Unfortunately due to the current guidelines **we are unable to offer any holiday club for February half term**. We hope that when things improve we will be able to offer holiday clubs again and will let you know about this when it is available to book.

We would like to remind parents **if you or anyone in your household develops symptoms of Covid 19** then you and your child **MUST stay at home and isolate** with you until you get a negative test result. We would greatly appreciate it if you could let us know if your child is isolating and you must inform us of when their isolation period ends – this is 10 days from when your symptoms first started or if you are asymptomatic, 10 days from the positive result. We understand that this is a very difficult time but we **MUST continue to keep all children, staff and parents safe**.

A reminder that in order to **decrease sessions or change a child's booking pattern** for the days they attend **we do require 1 month; notice in writing** (preferably e-mail) . You will only be able to change a child's sessions if we have the spaces available and cannot guarantee that once you have decreased sessions that we will be able to increase again.

Dates for your Diaries for 2021:

Monday 8th February – Mad about Maths

Today we will be encouraging all children to take part in lots of fun maths activities building their foundations for counting. We will be looking at patterns, subitising, comparison and

classification as well as introducing basic numbers through simple number rhymes and going on shape hunts around the nursery.

Friday 19th February – Staff Training Day

The nursery will be closed for staff training. Please note you are NOT charged for this day and this has already been taken into consideration when calculating fees.

Thursday 4th March – World Book day.

We are very excited to be participating in World Book Day this year; we would love all staff and children to come to nursery dressed as their favourite book character and there will be a prize for the best costume in every room. There will also be a slight menu change to include a twist from some of our favourite stories.

As we cannot invite parents in we will be pre-recording some of the children's favourite stories and sending them out via e-mail for you to watch with your child on World Book Day if they do not attend the nursery on this day.

If you read any special stories at home please ensure you take some photos/videos and upload them to Tapestry. Reading from a very young age is great for children's language development and develops their vocabulary.

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



Did you know?

Below is an excellent link from Herts for Learning with some great activity ideas for you to do at home with children and 2 ½ to rising 5 years. These ideas will be particularly useful during periods of lockdown and isolation! Don't forget if you do any good activities with your children please post them on **Tapestry** for us to see what they have been doing and learning. |

If you would like any additional activity ideas to do with your child at home please let us know and we can provide you with various ideas that cover the 7 areas of learning.

<https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/fun-activities-do-home-early-years-children>

A Message from Each Room

Under Twos:

Please could we ask if you have not yet provided family photos could you e-mail the nursery some family photos for us to use in a family book and also detail any religious/cultural festivals you celebrate at home.

Meadow:

This month we are learning the Makaton signs for the story – Brown Bear and will be looking at learning the signs for all the different colours.

We are also going to begin a self-registration this month to encourage the children to begin to start recognising their names and the sound for the first letter in their name.

Pre-school:

We are going to be introducing more Makaton signs to the children this month and encouraging them to use them throughout the day when communicating.

We are also doing lots of fun activities based around life cycles and how things grow.

Gentle Reminders

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, while you inform a member of staff. Parents allowing people into the building is a breach of 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 how important it is that you strictly follow our policy.

A reminder to all parents that **if your child requires breakfast** they must be at nursery by **8:45am**. This allows them 15 minutes to eat breakfast and start their activities from 9am.

The nursery has a strict **NO NUT** policy and we 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, 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, Kirsty and Team.