



## Newsletter May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to staff leaving and a large increase in bookings we are still undergoing our recruitment process. We have recently recruited Lucy W who will be working in babies alongside the team on a Full Time, Term Time Basis. Lucy will join us on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May and we will be sure to introduce her to parents at collection times.

Due to the recent staff turnover I wanted to confirm the following staffing for you so that you are aware who works in what room – Information on staff can also be found on our “Staff Team” board in reception.

It is very important that parents know who their child’s keyworker, so if you are unsure please check the Tapestry account to find out who observes them or ask one of us and we can give you a Key worker introduction sheet.

| <u>Under Twos</u>   | <u>Meadow</u>   | <u>Arctic</u>   | <u>Safari</u>                   |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lucy J – Senior   | Emily D<br>Martina<br>Donna   | Brooke<br>Lorna | Amy – Senior<br>Pauline<br>Ella |
| Bethany<br>Anna<br>Emily P<br>Emily G<br>Lucy W (Term<br>Time Only) | We are still recruiting for a senior to replace Paula but Kirsty will be in Meadow 3 days a week supporting them. |                 |                                 |

Bank Staff – We also have our team of bank staff who work within their allocated bubbles on a part time basis. These are: Emma, Stacey, Alex, Malini, Rachael and Sophia.

Due to our increase in numbers we are looking to recruit further full time and part time staff and will inform you who the successful candidates are in due course.

We apologise we have been so quiet on our Facebook page recently however we now have access to this again and will be using this platform to provide updates and activity ideas for parents and staff. Along with Facebook we also have a nursery Instagram account - @brightcomets Please like, follow and share our pages.

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.

### **Covid- 19 Updates**

We are pleased that the Covid restrictions are slowly easing and in line with the most up to date government guidance we are continuing to review our policy and procedure to ensure everyone is healthy and safe.

We are pleased to say that we are slowly introducing more messy play and malleable activities back into the children's routines.

Staff are also committed to self-testing at home twice weekly and report their results.

In line with the latest government guidelines I am delighted to inform parents that from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May we will be welcoming back Tiny Mites!

Tiny Mites will be coming every other Wednesday morning for a session in each age group. Maxine is also testing twice weekly and will be wearing a face covering when in the rooms.

We would also like to stress the importance of being vigilant when opening the nursery front door during busy times. Although this has not happened we are aware of some nurseries whereby children have been able to leave the premises via the front door when the parents open it. If you also collect with a sibling we kindly ask that the siblings also stand with you and wait nicely.

### **Dates for your Diaries for 2021:**

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Eid**

We will be celebrating the Muslim festival of Eid by taking part in various arts, crafts and messy activities such as; making celebration cards, creating pictures of the stars and the moon, dressing up in Sari's and listening to music.

#### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May – National Dinosaur Day**

Dinosaur Day is a new event for us, based on the children's current interests! We have noticed lots of the children love playing and exploring with dinosaurs and therefore, the rooms will be offering lots of dinosaur focused activities for them to take part in.

#### **Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May – Growing Week**

We are so excited to welcome back Ducklings. The duck eggs will arrive on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May and will stay with us for two weeks. The children will have the opportunity to watch as the ducks hatch and will play and care for them as they grow over the first weeks of their life.

In addition to this, they will also be doing lots of growing and planting activities and discussing life cycles of plants and animals in depth.

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



### **Did you know?**

Below is a link on a blog from Hertfordshire with information about screen time for children under 5 years old.

<https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/screen-time-under-fives>

We appreciate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century screen time is introduced quite young and they have access to technology and devices from a young age. Therefore, it is important we are aware of how to keep children safe online.

Please follow this link for some advice by the NSPCC.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

### **A Message from Each Room**

#### **Under Twos:**

We are pleased to say that children over 1 are doing amazingly with their open cups which is great, we use “Doidy” cups with them and think it would be great if they could be offered the opportunity to use these at home also at mealtimes.

#### **Meadow:**

Parents who have not yet done so, please could you e-mail over a selection of family photos for us to use so that we can create some family photos books for the children.

#### **Pre-School:**

If you have not yet done so please could you return the parent questionnaires we sent out for each child. If you wish to book a parents evening, slots are available now for both telephone and face to face appointments.

### **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 to 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.

In addition to this, could we also ask that you ensure you wait with your child in the mornings until a member of staff has taken your child from you. **Children MUST not be left waiting in the reception area by themselves.**

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 or concerns, please do NOT hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards  
Janine, Kirsty and Team.