



# Newsletter

## August/September 2018

What a fantastic summer we have all had - thank you for sharing your holiday photos with us so that we can talk to the children about their adventures at nursery. We had a lovely Graduation celebration for all of the children who have left the nursery to move up to 'big school' and begin their next adventures. Parents, siblings and even Grandparents all came along to celebrate with a ceremony, tea party and bouncy castle. We even performed our Makaton version of the song "Proud" by Heather Small.

Our Grandparents stay and play session was also very popular - so popular in fact that we are now repeating this on a different day (Wednesday 3rd October at 3pm) to allow more Grandparents to come along and join in the fun.

Thank you all so much for completing our parent questionnaires, it's so useful for us to receive your feedback and we always try to improve our service however we can, taking into account your suggestions and comments. It was also lovely to read such positive comments and we have passed these onto the team.

One thing I did want to mention which came up on the questionnaires was our shift patterns. In order to maintain ratios, our shifts start anytime from 7.45am and finish anytime from 4.15pm. Some staff work long days (7.45am - 6.00pm) (Tasha, Nina, Julie, Terri, Vikki, Paul, Charlotte) whilst others are on the different shift patterns which change each week. This means that you may not see your child's key person on drop off or collection on some days but please rest assured that our team work hard to ensure communication between all staff within the rooms is excellent and that your key person will be carrying out all of your child's planning and assessment each week even if you don't see them. Shifts are rotated each

week where possible to try and ensure contact between the key person and parents at some point over the course of the week, but please feel free to communicate via e-mail, Learning Journals and your child's communication book too. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.



## Our team

Congratulations to our staff member of the month in August - Julie! She received the most votes from all of the other team members and some wonderful comments, including "She is a creative activity wonder woman!" and "Always happy, so much fun to be around and a pleasure to work with."

Our staff member of the month for September is Ceri. Staff votes included "She is always there when I need her with a lovely smile and so much patience." All of our staff work so hard all the time and everyone looks forward to hearing the votes each month for the person who has impressed them the most, it's always very exciting!

### Babies - News from the baby room

The babies basically insisted on their topic being "Baby Shark" over the past few weeks and have been looking at various different animal books to make links between the song and books. This is a fantastic example of child-led learning and they enjoyed spotting sharks in lots of different contexts, including on their own clothes and of course they have thoroughly enjoyed singing and dancing along to the song (repeatedly!) with the staff. A warning to parents who aren't familiar with the song - it is very catchy and simple so once you start singing it you won't be able to stop! In October the babies will be looking at the book (and song) Incy Wincy Spider which will link nicely to our Halloween theme for the month.

Victoria, Tasha and Mary :)

### Toddlers - News from the toddler room

The toddlers have been very busy with The Hungry Caterpillar book (lots of maths activities were enjoyed alongside fruit and vegetable discussion and identification). They then moved on to the book "Zeki gets a Checkup" and enjoyed lots of role play activities including bandaging various limbs of staff and peers and they also went on a trip to Bramhall Health Centre to collect

leaflets and take some photos. The staff have put together a fantastic display to celebrate all of their hard work - please feel free to pop in and have a look.

Debi, Niamh, Nina and Charlotte

### Pre-School - News from the pre-school room

Pre-School enjoyed their topic “Me, Myself and I” which involved lots of sharing of information and prompted lots of exciting discussions between the children. We then moved on to “All Around the World” and Pre-School loved tracking Terri on our huge map as she travelled around America. They also built their own Golden Gate Bridge using art straws, collected stones from the garden to make a small world version of the Grand Canyon and practised posing like the statue of liberty, keeping as still and as balanced as they could. Please pop in and have a look at our fantastic ‘We’re the Kids in America” display where your child will happily tell you all about Terri’s adventures using the map and the photos as prompts. Terri is now back from her adventures and had a fantastic time exploring.

Terri, Ceri, Julie, Georgia and Jeny.

### Communication Books

**Please please please** can we ask that all parents/carers complete your child’s communication book each week, letting us know what your child has been up to during the weekend and time at home with family members. This is a hugely important tool for engaging your child in discussions linking home life with nursery life and I can assure you that the children all look forward to sharing their news with their key person and peers every week. You don’t have to write much, just a couple of sentences (or more if you want to) and if you don’t have time to complete please could you just initial your key person’s comments to let them know you have seen these as it’s an important tool we use to share information with parents.

We would also encourage you to comment on your child’s observations on Learning Journals when possible - when you login to see your child’s observations you will see a section where you can make a parent comment - feel free to add any comments here, eg. ‘We have been working on this at home’ or ‘My child loved talking about this’ or anything else that you feel is relevant. Please ask if you need any help with this.



## Foodbank News

We would like to thank everyone for such kindness with your Foodbank donations recently, everything was gratefully received and passed to local families in need via the Wellspring.

One of our lovely parents has suggested that we could continue with this kindness and help people in our local area who are in need. The Wellspring organisation is a local charity who provides services to homeless and disadvantaged people 365 days per year. Their aim is to support people out of homelessness and to become independent of services. We have spoken to them to see how we can best help at this time of year and they have provided us with a list of items which are always in high demand so we have decided to collect 1 item each week at nursery for the next 11 weeks which we thought would make it easy for parents to simply donate 1 item each week if you would like to help. After the 11 weeks we will be in touch to see how we can help disadvantaged people over the Christmas period (we are thinking of possibly asking for toy donations to help local families in need but will get back to you nearer the time).

I am planning to send out a reminder e-mail each week to let you know which item we are collecting for that week and if you would like to help to just bring that item in and pop it in the box in the hall. We will be asking for the following items:

Wk Commencing	Item
1st October	Instant Coffee
8th October	Biscuits
15th October	Sugar (granulated)
22nd October	Tinned fruit
29th October	Tinned soup (meat or vegetable)
5th November	Rice pudding
12th November	Cordial
19th November	Shaving foam
26th November	Shower gel
3rd December	Roll on deodorant
10th December	Mayonnaise

Thank you in advance for your help with this.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 1st October - International Older Persons Day - Pre-school children will be walking to Sunrise Care Home to sing and play

Wednesday 3rd October 3.00pm - 4.00pm - Grandparents stay and play session

Wednesday 10th October - Nursery photography day (in the morning, exact times TBC)

Thursday 18th October 2.30pm Pre-School Autumn Crafts session (Parents or Grandparents welcome to come along to join in the fun)

Wednesday 31st October - Halloween Party 2.30pm - 4.00pm (children only as we need dancing space!)

Blooming Kids - every Monday at 10am the toddlers will be enjoying a 'Blooming Kids' class involving singing, dancing and drama with Natalie.

8 by 8 Football classes have now resumed with Alex every Tuesday for pre-School children.

### **Please could we ask you to.....**

#### **Outdoor Play**

Now that the temperatures are dropping, please ensure your child has everything they need to stay warm outside - warm clothes, waterproof coat, wellies, hat, gloves etc. We go outside every day

#### **Spare Clothes**

Please can we ask parents to pack a bag with at least 2 changes of clothes (including underwear and **socks**) as the children often get very messy during activities at nursery and need to have a full change of outfit!

#### **Car Parking**

Please can we ask parents to use the car park for dropping children off or picking them up at the end of the day whenever possible? We have been asked by the council to ensure that parents are using the car park rather than the road when there are spaces available within the car park so we would appreciate your co-operation with this. It also helps to keep our neighbours happy! Thank you.

### **Communication Books**

As mentioned above, please can you help to support our lovely team by completing your child's communication book each week with news about what they have been up to at home. You don't have to write much, just a couple of sentences would be perfect and then we can share this news with your child and their peers at nursery.

Any questions or anything we can help you with please feel free to speak to a member of our team or you can send us an email to [enquiries@therailwaynursery.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@therailwaynursery.co.uk).

The Railway Nursery Team