



Jack In The Box Day Nursery



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Newsletter – April 2024

Welcome

Welcome to a new quarter at Jack in the Box.

We would like to start by saying 'hello' to all new families that have started with us since our last newsletter. We look forward to getting to know you and your child and aid them in their learning journey. Should you have any questions regarding our policies, procedures or general nursery day, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff in your child's playroom or a member of the management team in the office.

Baby Room News

The baby room children have been learning all about spring animals and have created different artwork to go with the Spring and Easter theme. The children have taken part in a range of activities, including making bunny masks, scrunching yellow tissue paper to decorate a chick inside an egg and making their own Rice Krispie cakes! This helps the children with the fine motor and expressive art and design skills, as well as learning to follow instructions with some assistance.

The children have also been taking part in Eid activities and have been decorating moons and stars. They have been playing with Play-Doh and using star and moon cutters to make shapes. This allows the children to learn to use different tools and begin their journey into learning about different celebrations.

The children have been taking part in a lot of tactile and mark-making activities recently to enhance their fine-manipulative and mark-making skills. This assists with early writing when using their fingers and whole hands to complete tasks, such as threading pasta or pipe cleaners through the holes of a colander or making marks in damp or wet sand using lolly sticks and paintbrushes. They have also really enjoyed drawing on rolled-out paper on the floor practicing their drawing skills! This is proving to be one of their favourite activities at the moment.





Piglet Room News

The book of the month in the Piglet room in March was *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The children have taken part in a number of activities to learn about this story, including potato printing to make a hungry caterpillar picture with red and green paint. The children were a bit confused as to why they were using a potato to make marks at first, however loved the activity! They have been learning about healthy and unhealthy foods on the black tray which was painted with a red half and green half. The children then were guided to place the healthy and unhealthy foods in the right place – green for healthy and red for unhealthy.

The children have been learning about Easter and springtime and have taken part in some creative activities. They have been finger painting on paper plates cut as rainbows. This allows the children to use their fine motor skills and be creative while feeling the texture of paint. They also learn through this activity that they can make an effect with paint with their movements. As well as using their fingers to make marks with paint, the children also used their feet to make footprints for their easter bunny pictures. Although it was a strange feeling at first, the children enjoyed the experience of having paint on their feet and pressing them on the paper to see their print. They then used cotton wool to stick on for the fluffy bunny ears and body.



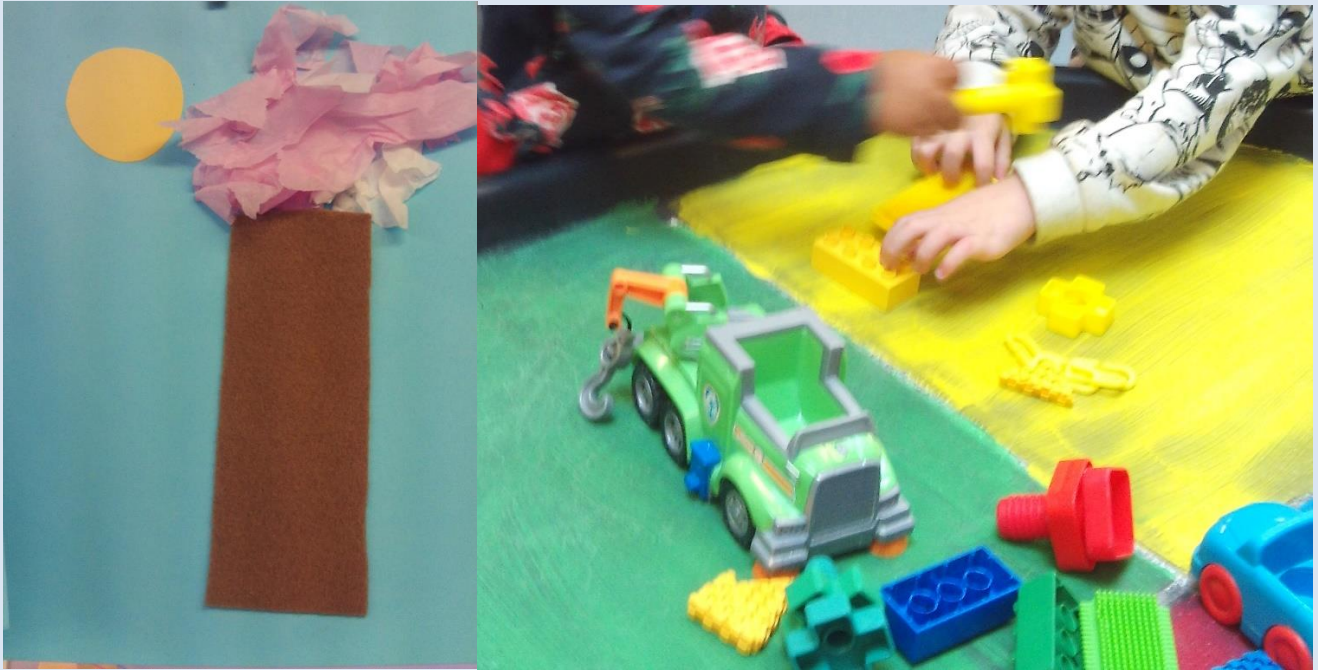


Pre-School Room News

The book of the month in the pre-school room in March was Elmer. The children listened to the story a number of times and spoke about the similarities and differences between the elephants. This then led to conversations about how people are all different and that it is important to celebrate those differences as everyone is unique. The children also made elephant face masks using paper plates and tissue paper. The children chose their colours to stick on the face, just like Elmer. They also took part in an activity on the painted black tray where the children had to match the objects to the correct colour. This was a celebration of the bright colours and brightness of the children's individuality.

The children have been learning about the different celebrations taking part in March and April, such as Easter and Eid. They took part in a cooking activity to make their own cheesy pastry biscuits. They took part in the whole process, learning that they need to wash their hands before cooking, using utensils safely and following instructions given to them.

The children have really enjoyed taking part in the 'letter of the week' activities that coincide with a show and tell activities. Children have been bringing in items from home that they have an interest in to show to their friends at group time. This is to encourage speech, language and communication skills, as well as to encourage confidence in front of others. We have loved hearing the children talk about their objects and letting their friends have a look at them too! If your child would like to bring something in, they can do this on a Monday or Thursday each week. Your child can then take them home at the end of the day. Please can we ask that the items are smaller items that can fit into a shoebox.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 18th April 8.30am-11.30am - nursery photographs, we have Concept Photography visiting us for a Photography Session which will be taking place on Thursday 18th April 2024, 8.30am – 11.30am. If your child does not usually attend the nursery on a Thursday and you would like a photograph, please bring them into the nursery between the above times. Please speak to a member of staff in your child's playroom if you require more information.

Saturday 27th April 9.30am-11.00am – coffee morning, the nursery will be holding a coffee morning, between 9.30am and 11.00am. This is an opportunity for parents to socialise and share experiences with other parents. The nursery will be offering a selection of breakfasts, as well as tea and coffee.

Please could you let the staff in your child's room know if you will be attending so we can plan accordingly.

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday, nursery closed

Monday 27th May - Bank Holiday, nursery closed

Week commencing 3rd June - Parent's meetings (information to follow)

Saturday 15th June - Father's Day breakfast and card making (8.45am-10.30am)

Saturday 6th July - Summer Picnic (bring your own food) 11am-1pm

Thursday 18th July - Graduation for Pre-school children starting school (afternoon – information to follow)

New Indoor and outdoor equipment

As you may have seen, we have been lucky enough to have some new garden equipment fitted, just in time for the warmer weather.

In the piglet garden, we have a new covered multi-use space that can be used by the children. We hope this will bring lots of new activities to the outdoor provision, such as group times, a story corner or a play kitchen. The possibilities are endless!

In the pre-school garden, we have had a brand-new pirate ship built where the children have access to more physical activities, such as climbing, sliding, 'rock climbing' and seeing the world from new heights from the top!

We have also ordered and started to receive new provision, including as sensory activities, physical activities for the gardens and new construction toys for each playroom. This will enhance the activities that our practitioners plan for our children and encourage them to engage in new ideas and ways of using objects.

The children are already beginning to benefit from all of these new activities, and we can't wait to see what more they do with them!





Current Staffing Information

As you are aware, an email was sent by Lee on 25th March 2024 regarding updates to the nursery staffing team. Please refer to this email for further details. Due to this, there will be changes to the nursery teams from April 2024. Please see information regarding the staffing of the nursery below, as well as the hierarchy of management at the nursery.

Lee – Nursery Area Manager (07557 207 429)

Carly – Acting Nursery Manager (Mon – Thurs)

Shaahidah – Nursery Deputy Manager

Claire – Baby Room Team Leader

Memuna – Piglet Room Acting Team Leader

Suad – Pre-School Room Team Leader

Baby room –

Claire (Team Leader)

Maddy, Sepideh & Rukshi

New nursery assistant (currently going through required recruitment checks)

Piglet Room –

Memuna (Acting Team Leader)

Paige, Anna & Ewelina

Pre-School Room –

Suad (Team Leader)

Heather & Samina

The nursery is also supported by members of our bank staff, including Chaz, Alison and Jyoti.

Please be reassured that continuity and consistency for the children will be maintained and an effective detailed handover will take place between staff with regards to room routines, individual child's needs and learning and development. The care and safety of the children remains paramount.

School Admissions - 2024 Reception Intake

If your child is starting school in September 2024, you are able to find out your child's place from Monday 15th April. Please can we ask that you let us know which school your child has been placed into, and whether you have accepted the place or will be appealing. We will be sending out 'school readiness packs' which detail how the pre-school room will be supporting your child's transition to school, as well as some important information regarding the learning and development that your child will be working on.

We are aware that some parents are exploring term-time only nurseries linked to their school place. If you are looking to move your child to another nursery in the near future, please remember that a months' notice is required in writing. Please also be aware that depending on the date that your child leaves us, this may prevent us from claiming funding for them for the term if the new nursery will be doing this. In this case, the fees for the term would be charged at the non-funded rate. If you require further information with regards to this, please contact Katie Baker, details

Nursery Routine

We have recently moved to our summer routine. This mean that our teatime will now be at 3pm, rather than 3.30pm, to allow for the children to use their gardens afterwards in the warmer weather up until home time.

As a reminder, in order to minimise the time that staff are spending away from the children, the feedback given to you will be brief to encompass your child's day. Please be reassured that any important information will be communicated to you. Please be reminded that we have a sign on the main nursery door that is completed daily to inform you what has been provided for lunch and tea to aid us with this.

Mother's Day Breakfast

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the mothers and grandmothers that accompanied their children to our Mother's Day breakfast in March. It was lovely to see so many of you in the nursery joining in with play and crafts, as well as enjoying a lovely breakfast with us! We look forward to seeing fathers and grandfathers at our Father's Day breakfast in June.

General Reminders

Medication

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents of our medication policy which can be found at [Policies | Nurseries in Berkshire \(berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk\)](https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/policies/nurseries). This includes information on what happens if your child needs medication at nursery, including Calpol or prescribed medications, or has had these at home.

Family photos

Please can we remind all parents to send us in a family photo via email to either Carly or Shaahidah if you have not already done so. This is to complete our family display in each room as a discussion point with the children, as well as to be used in each child's learning profile. This encourages the children's language and knowledge of themselves as an individual.

Mobile Phones

Please can I remind all parents that mobile phones are not to be used on the nursery premises. This includes on the entrance walkway once you are inside the main gate. This is in line with our safeguarding policy. If you need to use your phone in an emergency, please speak to a member of staff who will take you to the office or staff room to use it. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Speech and Language

The nursery practitioners conduct a number of activities that support children with their speech and language development, including language groups, bucket time and general speech support throughout the day. If you would like further information about the support we provide or require support or advice regarding your child's speech and language development, please speak to Shaahidah who is our Nursery SENCO. We may also be able to signpost you to other services that can support you, as well as the nursery.

Clothing

As the weather is changing, please can we ask all parents to ensure that children are wearing appropriate clothing for their day at nursery. This may include clothing for both warmer and colder weather. Please can we also ask that there are appropriate spare clothes in your child's bag, ensuring items of clothing, coats and bags are labelled inside with your child's name.

As the sun is now starting to shine, please can we ask that your child has a labelled sunhat that can stay at the nursery.

Nursery Closing Time

Please can I remind all parents that the nursery closes at 6pm sharp. After this time, parents will be charged £1 per minute. Please can we ask parents to arrive at 5.55pm to collect your child to allow staff to give sufficient feedback regarding your child's day. If you are going to be late, please telephone the nursery to make

us aware. Please be reminded that children are not permitted to attend the nursery for more than 10 hours.

We are particularly busy with parents collecting their children from 5.30pm – 6.00pm, therefore we may ask you to wait to gain feedback for your child. Please arrive at the nursery in plenty of time to receive feedback. You are also more than welcome to call the nursery for your feedback if you are in a rush in the evening and are unable to wait.

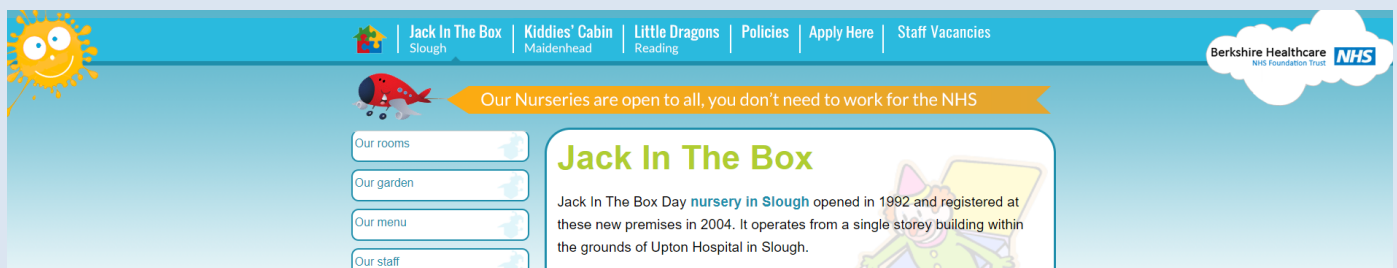
Fees and funding

If you have any queries regarding fees, the 15 and 30 hours funding for all age groups or Tax Free Childcare please contact Katie Baker who is the Nursery Business Administrator for our three nurseries and is always happy to help parents.

katie.baker@berkshire.nhs.uk 07789 374217.

Website Information

Please be reminded that the nursery website provides information regarding policies, procedures, fees, diary dates and messages on the message board.



The website address is www.nurseries.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk.

NURSERY CONTACT INFORMATION

Carly Byrne Acting Nursery Manager
carly.byrne@berkshire.nhs.uk

Shaahidah Akhtar Deputy Manager
shaahidah.akhtar@berkshire.nhs.uk

Nursery telephone number – 0118 9044636

Thank you for your continued support for Jack In The Box
Carly Byrne