



# Jack In The Box Day Nursery

## Newsletter – October 2023

### Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn 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 have been having lots of fun exploring messy play and different textures, including playing with shredded paper. We have been finding mini beasts hidden inside by using our fine motor skills to move the paper out of the way. We have also been trying to catch the mini beasts as they float around in the water tray.

The children have been learning about the effect they can have and marks they make when using paints and objects. They have been using different media and objects to make marks, including tin foil with paint, and using their fingers and toes! This has been exciting for the children to feel the texture and see what they can do.







### Piglet Room News

The piglet room have been looking at 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' as their story of the month. They have taken part in a wide range of activities, such as making binoculars to look for the bear, creating bears with their handprints and mixing paint at the same time. They went for a walk to pick some apples from the apple tree and went on their own bear hunt!

The practitioners have been focussing on messy play recently to encourage the children to experiment with different textures and media. They have been making marks with trains and paint and printing with Duplo bricks in shaving foam. These activities allow the children to experience how different things feel and what marks they can make through their own actions.

They have been taking part in lots of tactile play activities such as cornflour play and compare bears, oats, pasta, and cereals. This introduces different language to the children when talking about the items, such as 'crunch', 'snap' and 'squeeze'.





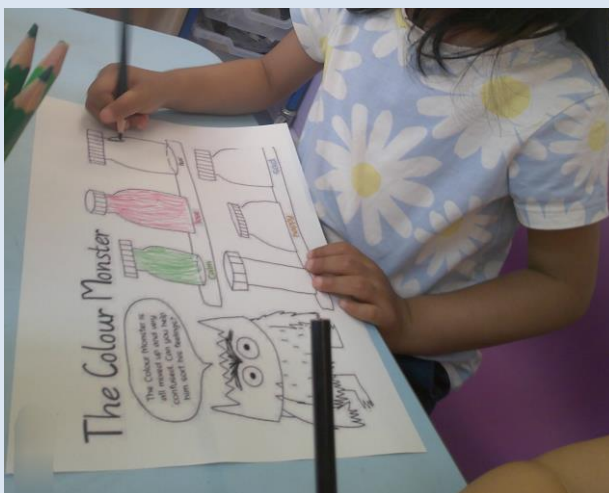


### Pre-School Room News

The Pre-School room children have been talking and learning about themselves as an individual and how we are similar and different to each other. They have been using paint to create self-portraits and learning about eye colour, skin colour, different hair and how some of us share these same features. These portraits have been put on our display board for all to see, including the self-portraits of our practitioners. See if you can guess who is who!

The children have also been learning about minibeasts. They have been incredibly interested in the outside world and exploring the outdoor environment. They have been on bug hunts and finding snails and worms as these are coming out more often now the weather is changing, and the ground is wetter.

The book of the month has been 'Colour Monster'. This is a brilliant book that talks about emotions and feelings, assigning them to a colour. As the children are getting older, this is something that we find important to teach and assist the children with. We have been talking about how we can ask for help if we are feeling sad or angry and what we can do to resolve situations, as well as what makes us happy and calm.





## **School Admissions - 2024 Reception Intake**

If your child was born between **1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020**, you must apply for a Reception school place for September 2024. The national closing date for online primary applications is **15th January 2024**.

If you have not done so already, please visit <https://www.slough.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school-place> to apply for any school that comes under Slough Borough Council. There is also some information attached to this email regarding this.

We are aware that some parents are exploring term-time only nurseries linked to their school preferences. If you are looking to move your child to another nursery in January, a months' notice is required in writing to prevent us claiming your 15 / 30 hours funding.

## **Meal Times**

As you are aware, the nursery provides a variety of meals for the children throughout the day. Please see below for our mealtimes.

Breakfast – served from 7.30am – 8.00am

Snack – served at 9.00am

Lunch – served with a pudding at 11.30am

Tea – served with a pudding at 3.00pm until 27<sup>th</sup> October (summer routine) / 3.30pm after 30<sup>th</sup> October (winter routine) – please be reminded that this is a light tea. We recommend that your child has a meal when they return home in the evening.



## **Routine Change**

As you may already be aware, the clocks are due to change on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October and will go back one hour. As this means that it will get darker in the evenings, our nursery routines must change along with it.

Please can I make you aware that tea will now be provided at 3.30pm, rather than 3pm. This allows all children access to the garden before teatime, rather than afterwards when it may be dark.

Please press your child's room buzzer on the front door to alert our staff that you are here.

For all playrooms, as I am sure you can appreciate, our main priority throughout the day is to ensure that we are in the playrooms with the children to ensure they are safe, and we are maintaining our ratios. This is particularly important at feedback time when you collect your child.

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.

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Parent's Open Evening**

The nursery is holding an open evening on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is an opportunity for you to view your child's learning journey. We are offering a drop-in session between the hours of 5.30pm and 7pm. No appointment is required, however we would appreciate it if you would let your child's playroom know if you will be attending.

On this occasion, we would like to invite you to bring your child so they can share their folders with you. Please note that there will not be any toys available in the playrooms or childcare provided.

Staff based in your child's playroom will be available should you have anything you wish to discuss.

### **Christmas Parties**

As you are aware, the nursery holds Christmas parties for the children to enjoy some fun, games, dancing and party food at this festive time of year. Parents are invited towards the end of the party to join in with our carol singing and to watch your child receive their present from Father Christmas. If your child does not usually attend the nursery on the day of their room's Christmas party, they are welcome to attend the party session from 10.30 until 12.30 when you will then collect them from the nursery.

This year, the Christmas parties will be held on –

Baby room – Tuesday 12th December, 10.30 – 12.30

Piglet room – Wednesday 13th December, 10.30 – 12.30

Pre-School room – Thursday 14th December, 10.30 – 12.30

More information about our parties will follow closer to the time.

### **Current Staffing Information**

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  
Memuna – Baby Room Team Leader  
Claire – Piglet Room Team Leader  
Suad – Pre-School Room Team Leader

Baby room – Memuna (Team Leader)  
Maddy  
Rani  
Sepideh  
Anna

Piglet Room – Claire (Team Leader)  
Macey  
Nourina  
Paige  
Ewelina

Pre-School Room – Suad (Team Leader)  
Ella  
Heather  
Samina

Rukshi will continue to float throughout all rooms as required, as well as our bank staff, including Chaz and Alison. Louise is our nursery chef.

We are in the process of recruiting Nursery Nurses. If you know anyone that is qualified and may be suitable for this role, please contact the nursery. An update will be given once we have successfully recruited.

### **General Reminders**

#### **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.

### **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.

### **Clothing**

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 weather is due to become slightly colder, please can you ensure your child has a labelled coat at nursery, as well as a hat, scarf and pair of gloves.

### **Family photos**

Please can we remind all parents to send us in a family photo via email to either Carly or Shaahidah. 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.

### **Fees and funding**

**A note from Katie regarding the new 2 year old funding starting in April 2024.** I have received a few enquiries regarding this funding and at present, I am only able to advise parents that the funding will be for ELIGIBLE WORKING PARENTS ONLY. I have not received any further information from Early Years on exactly how the funding will operate. As soon as I have more information, I will contact all relevant parents by email.

If you have any queries regarding fees, the 15 and 30 hours funding 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.

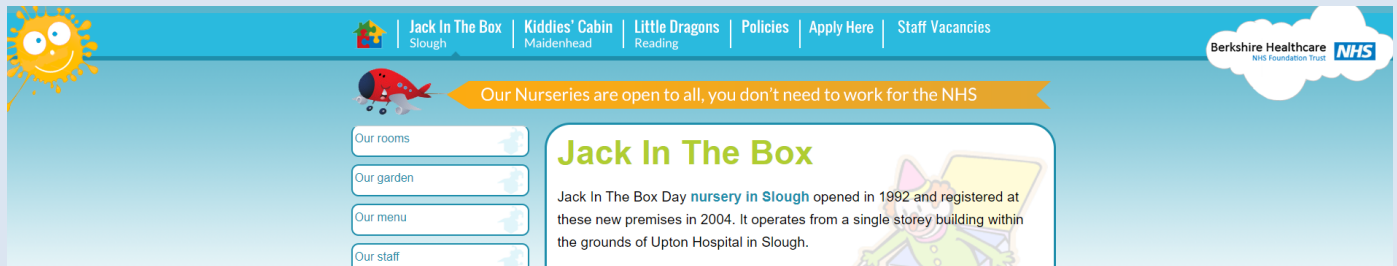
[katie.baker@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:katie.baker@berkshire.nhs.uk) 07789 374217.

### **Our Partners**

We are engaging with multi agencies which will enable us to support our families. This includes Health Visitors, Early Years and the Local Authority and we will share information accordingly.

## 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](http://www.nurseries.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk).

## NURSERY CONTACT INFORMATION

Carly Byrne Acting Nursery Manager  
[carly.byrne@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:carly.byrne@berkshire.nhs.uk)

Shaahidah Akhtar Deputy Manager  
[shaahidah.akhtar@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:shaahidah.akhtar@berkshire.nhs.uk)

Nursery telephone number – 0118 9044636

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