



## Little Dragons Nursery

**NHS**

Berkshire Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Newsletter – January 2026

### Welcome

Welcome to our new families that have joined over the Autumn term. We hope you have enjoyed the first few months with Little Dragons and have got used to nursery life.

We have had an exciting few months here at Dragons – the end of the year is always filled with many different cultural celebrations which is always so much fun. The children enjoy learning about the different events their friends celebrate.

The children also had a visit from our local policing team where they asked them lots of questions about their jobs and got to explore a police car.

In November we held one of our nursery fêtes. This time we combined various celebrations and had an autumnal event. The have-a-go craft tables were based around Diwali, Christmas, Guy Fawkes Night and Autumn. As always, this area had so much interest with families enjoying the opportunity to craft together.

Huge thank you to the nursery families that came along and supported us. So many ex-nursery families also attended, showing their continued support, and it was so lovely to see everyone. As well as the amazing cake sales from Katies Kake and Rebecca's family, we had various stall holders offering all sorts of goodies and of course the extremely popular bouncy castle!

The Spud van went down an absolute storm, so huge thanks to Spudski for being our hot food stall this year.

This month we welcome new families to Little Dragons. We hope you and your children have positive experiences attending the nursery.

We would like to extend our thanks to the families and staff who contributed to the Teen Toy Appeal again this year – we had such a great response from you all and were able to fill a car boot with donations. Here is an excerpt from an email we received after the Toy Appeal had finished in late December:

*'I would like to offer my personal thanks for your help in making our Appeal such a success this year.*

*I am so grateful for the donation of gifts from Little Dragons. Thank you for organising the collection.*

*Please do pass my thanks on to your colleagues.*

*And 2676 children across Reading, and their families, will be very happy on Christmas Day!*

Do have a look at our blog post about Toy Week:

<https://www.readingfamilyaid.org/our-blog/toys-and-teens-2025-is-complete>

Thank you again - it's people like you who make our town such a great place to live and work!

Laura Windisch

Secretary, Reading Family Aid, and  
Manager, annual Toys and Teens Appeal  
Reading Family Aid'

Wishing all our nursery families a very Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoyed celebrations and a break from the day to day.

### Current Staffing Information

#### **Green room**

Team Leader: Michelle

Nursery Practitioners at level 3:

Hayley

Claire

Nursery Practitioners at level 2:

Alannah

#### **Red room**

Team leader: Rebecca

Nursery Practitioners at level 3:

Aimee

Nursery Practitioners at level 2:

Summer-Rose

#### **Blue room**

Team Leader: Hollie

Nursery Practitioners at level 3:

Catherine

Sophie

Nursery Practitioners at level 2:

Madison

## **Nursery Apprentices**

Kaitlin

Lola

We sadly said goodbye to Chelsea who, after 5 years with us and completing her childcare qualifications here, has made the decision to take a position that enables her to balance her commitments as a mother. We wish Chelsea all the best in her new position.

Congratulations to Sophie and Catherine who have successfully completed their full childcare qualifications, and to Alannah for completing the level 2 qualification, with Lola soon to follow.

We have 2 apprentices currently going through the recruitment process and continue to advertise to fill staff vacancies within the nursery.

## **Nursery Room News**

### **Green Room news**

In the Green Room we started September off with looking at the theme, 'All about me'.

The children explored different textures and malleable play using their senses, getting to know themselves and their bodies. We shared our family photos and looked at story books about families and people who are important to us.

We made lots of different arts, including collaging people and adding their own faces to the people and using the opportunity to talk about colour by looking at our hair colour and eyes in the mirrors.



In October we celebrated Harvest Festival, Autumn and Halloween. We explored harvest vegetables and used them in painting and our soil tuff tray. The children made patterns in different malleable materials using tractors and tools. The children explored natural materials such as leaves and sticks to develop their awareness of Autumn and the change of the season. For Halloween, we dressed up in different outfits and did various art activities. Such as hand printing spiders and pumpkin painting.



We celebrated the festival of Diwali with firework pictures and making diva lamps. This linked in well to November and Bonfire night.

In November, we celebrated Bonfire night. We made our own bonfire paintings and edible sparklers. We looked at colour and light as part of this theme using coloured fabrics and torches. We filled the rest of the month focusing on what the children really enjoyed the most, using their interests as a guide to our activities- such as Peppa Pig and favourite stories and songs.

In December, we celebrated Christmas with lots of fun activities such as making Christmas cards, enjoying Christmas music and baking Christmas treats. We had an interactive Christmas tree the children could use. The children dressed up in their Christmas Jumpers for Christmas jumper day and also had a yummy Christmas dinner.



Thank you to those who have brought in treats for the nursery guinea pigs. We have enjoyed having them for some time in the Green Room and they are now all cosy at Michelle's house ready for the Christmas break and colder weather.

We look forward to welcoming new children and families this New Year and wish our children moving to Red Room in January and February all the best on their next adventure.



### **Red room news**

During the summer the children had the chance to explore different materials and develop their communication skills as well as their imaginative skills by doing a range of different activities such as car track painting, 'muddy' Oobleck farm animals and water painting.

We also had a lot of fun outdoors, doing water play, sports day activities and lots of garden time.



The children also celebrated Halloween by doing lots of messy play activities and developing their fine motor skills by doing these activities, such as jelly play, rice



and pasta play with tweezers, vegetable print painting and they also played with a 'spooky' Halloween village.



Red room have been enjoying celebrating Christmas this month and have developed skills such as understanding the concept of Christmas, using motor skills and they progressed their communication and language skills by doing activities such as Christmas sticking, snowball parachute, snowman water tray, large scale Winter Wonderland pictures and Winter dance sessions.

Red Room wishes you all Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in the new year and welcoming some new children in Red Room.



### Blue room news

During December in blue room, we had a truly magical time entering the world of Christmas and winter wonderland.



We had a range of physical activities, playing in our igloo tent with white shredded paper and our teddies pretending to be a polar bear in a cave.

The children have enjoyed creating their own creative artwork, from elf hats, reindeer antlers and Christmas baubles.





We have done lots of fun movement times, party dances and focus ball rolling into Rudolph's nose.

The children have enjoyed baking, and they were excited to do a cake sale for their parents to buy the sweet dreams they made.



### General Reminders

Please ensure your child attends nursery with a named warm, winter coat – we will continue to access the outdoors in all weathers. Warm hats and mittens are also strongly advised. Please make sure these are not your 'best' woolly accessories as they get very grubby, and don't always find their way home. Places like Primark do very affordable multi sets perfect for nursery.

Blue and Red room should have by now received the payment information and term dates for Tuesday dance sessions from January. Please follow instructions for payment directly to Shelene.

### Fees and funding

If you have any queries regarding fees, the 15 or 30 hours funding for all ages 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.

### Website Information

We are excited to let you know that our new website goes live on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Further details to follow.

## **NURSERY CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Thank you for your continued support for Little Dragons**  
**Becca Croft**