

Little Dragons Nursery



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Newsletter – September 2026

Welcome

It has been a busy few summer months at Little Dragons since our last newsletter.

In August, we said a fond farewell to our 22 Blue Room children who left us to start in their reception classes this month. It was a large group this year and the staff and other nursery children are really feeling their absence from the nursery. It is always sad for us to say goodbye to families after helping to nurture our Little Dragons, often from as young as 6 months old. Our Leavers Ceremony is a wonderful way for us to celebrate children's successes through their nursery journey as they move on to the next chapter in their education. We are grateful to share this time with parents.

We have welcomed lots of new families to Little Dragons over the first couple of weeks in September and we are all thoroughly enjoying getting to know you all. We hope you feel settled and are happy with your nursery experience so far. We have a few more children joining us through the next month or so and look forward to welcoming them too.

You may have noticed the rooms looking a little different. At this time of year as children move through the nursery playrooms, each of the 3 room teams adjust the layout of their indoor spaces and free flow areas to support the new cohort of children. These are often minor changes that are made after observing how each group of children use and move around the space.

Green Room News

We had a summer of fun in the Green Room which included exciting activities around holidays, the summer and the lovely warm weather. The children have loved playing in water and getting wet - we have washed our dolls, played with boats and explored filling and pouring. We spent a lot of time in our garden and made the most of the warm sunshine.

The children have also taken part in a lot of sensory activities and experiences, including playing in a pretend beach where they used their hands to explore wet sand and created marks. We explored paint and colours by decorating our own buckets and spades. We also made tissue paper crabs which allowed the children to exploring texture and shape. We used plenty of natural resources such as shells, sand, mud and water in our play.

We looked at different ways of travelling on holiday, making aeroplanes, boats, cars and caravans. We had cars and trucks available for imaginative play. The children loved looking at the wheels moving, as well as pushing and pulling them.

Thank you to those parents who have sent in family photos. The children have thoroughly enjoyed look at them as this supports their settling process and awareness of themselves as an individual. If you have not yet sent a photograph, please can we ask that you send these via email to michelle.foster@berkshire.nhs.uk.

We have recently welcomed some new children to the Green Room. As we get to know one another, the children are settling happily into nursery and beginning to

feel at home. We look forward to supporting them as they grow, learn and make new friendships.

Red Room News

During the summer months, the children in Red Room have been making the most of the warmer weather by having lots of picnics either out in the garden or in the free flow area. The children also had a teddy bear picnic where they made their own jam sandwiches to eat at the picnic with their teddy bears.

The children in Red Room have also been learning lots of new songs over the last few months. These include 'The Goodbye Train', 'The Coloured Fish Song', 'Little Peter Rabbit', 'Hammer, Hammer', 'The Bumble Bee Song', 'The Ladybird Song' and 'The Bun Song', where children choose what they would like on top of their bun.

Red Room recently had the new addition of a tree house in the free flow area. The children love waving to their friends, reading books and singing songs inside.

Red Room has also said 'goodbye' to some of the older children as they have now started their next adventure in Blue Room. Red Room has now welcomed some new children from Green Room and those that are new to the nursery. We are working with the children as they become settled and familiar with Red Room and the team. We look forward to continuing to see them develop new skills with us.

Blue Room News

This summer, we have been working closely with our parents and children to support them with their transition to school. We have said a sad 'goodbye' to 22 children who left Little Dragons to continue their educational journey and adventure at primary school. We had meetings and visits from the teachers at these schools which were enjoyed by the children. They loved showing them around the playroom and sharing their knowledge and learning with them. We focussed on refining the skills children need to succeed in their transition and to help them be ready for Reception.

We had a lovely graduation ceremony on Friday 28th August where parents and carers were invited to join us to celebrate their children's achievements. This included speeches for the children which were truly heartwarming and completely unique to each child. This was followed by a celebration party which allowed the children to bounce on the bouncy castles and take pictures with their friends, as well as spend time with family and practitioners who have watched them develop through their Little Dragons' journey.

Blue room have been working closely with Red Room to support children with their transition between the rooms. We have been communicating with parents to let them know how the children are settling in. They have each settled in well, building strong bonds with their key carer, exploring their new surroundings and beginning to form lovely friendships.

We have been enjoying the summer by taking part in many creative activities. The children have particularly enjoyed taking part in water play activities. This has influenced the practitioners within the room to enhance our water area outside on the free flow with new water toys.

We have also been able to invite parents into the nursery to support the children's learning of the multicultural festivals we celebrate in Blue Room.

Current Staffing Information

Over the summer, our apprentices have been finishing and starting their qualifications in Early Years.

Congratulations to Kaitlin for completing her Level 2 in Childcare. She has now moved on to begin her Level 3 qualification.

Congratulations to Summer-Rose who has now completed her Level 3 Childcare qualification.

Hannah became the Team Leader in our Red Room after joining Little Dragons as a Nursery Nurse this April. We look forward to seeing the skills Hannah can bring to this role.

We said a fond farewell to Rebecca who has now relocated to Devon and embarked on a career supporting Health Visitors. We wish her the best of luck.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new apprentice to the team who is currently going through our rigorous recruitment checks. Further details will follow.

We also continue to search for dedicated, knowledgeable and enthusiastic qualified Nursery Nurses to join our team.

Occasionally, we need to make carefully considered changes to our room teams to help balance qualifications across the nursery. Our current room teams are as follows:

Green Room

Michelle - Team Leader and EYP

Hayley

Claire

Lola

Summer-Rose

Kaitlin

Red Room

Hannah - Team Leader

Sophie

Alannah

Madi

Blue Room

Hollie - Team Leader and SENCo

Catherine

Claire

Ruby

General Reminders

Nursery Closure Day

As you are aware, the BHFT Nurseries initiated a change in our operational schedule which started in 2026. This involved the nursery closing for two days annually to allow our staff to complete essential Statutory and Mandatory training. These training days are vital to ensure our team remains fully equipped to provide the highest standards of care, safety, and education for your children. We truly appreciate your cooperation as we invest in the ongoing professional development of our team and nursery as a whole.

The next date for the staff training day for Little Dragons will take place on **Thursday 15th October 2026**. The nursery will be closed on this day.

Clothing and Footwear

It is important for the children to access our outdoor areas all year round. With colder, rainy days ahead, please make sure your child has suitable footwear, coats, hats and mittens for all weather garden play. We suggest mittens as they are a helpful alternative to gloves and enable the children to be more independent when getting ready for outdoor play.

Due to many duplicates of footwear and clothes, please clearly name your child's belongings to allow us to easily identify who items belong to. There are many companies available where labels can be purchased, such as www.mynametags.com

Please can we remind families that Crocs and slip-on sandals are not suitable footwear for children to wear in the busy nursery environment as they can be a trip hazard. Children are able to wear Wellington boots, however these are for outdoor use only. Please also provide indoor shoes for children to wear throughout the day.

Using our Car Park

Please can we remind all parents and site users to take extra care and keep your speed down when driving in our car park. We have noticed that some vehicles are still travelling too quickly, and with pedestrians and other site users moving around the car park, we want to make sure everyone remains safe.

Please remember that the speed limit is clearly signposted at 5 MPH. We appreciate your help in keeping to this limit and helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

You may have noticed that new parking signage has been put up this month in our car park regarding a new parking system. The ANPR cameras went live on 11/09/2026, earlier than expected. Currently, we understand that there will be a grace period for parking which will be enough time for you to drop your child to and collect them from the nursery.

If you are parking for a prolonged period of time on the site, you will be required to input your registration details at the main reception, which is located in the main front office NHS building.

Further information regarding the new parking system will be shared as it is received.

Feedback When Collecting your Child

We understand that collection times can be busy at the nursery with many families collecting at similar times, therefore we aim to keep feedback and handover as quick as possible to help reduce queuing times, while ensuring important information is communicated.

While you are waiting for your child, please read through the information on the whiteboards positioned at the pickup points for all 3 playrooms. If you have any queries regarding your child's development or would like to have a lengthier conversation with a practitioner about your child, please speak to a member of the team in your child's playroom to book in a phone call or meeting at an appropriate time.

As you may be aware, the Blue Room team send out their daily email to all Blue Room families encompassing the day. This includes meal information and activities that have been available.

To help prevent upset for other children waiting for their parents to arrive, please can we urge all Blue Room parents collecting their children to wait by the Blue Room whiteboard.

We encourage parents to come into the Blue Room when dropping your child to the nursery to access the cloak room. This is a great opportunity for you to see the room and activities taking place.

Absences from Nursery

Thank you to those parents who have emailed Becca or Louise regarding their upcoming holiday dates. This is extremely helpful and enables us to plan ahead for your child's learning at the nursery, as well as to plan our staffing allocation.

If your child will not be attending the nursery either due to illness or other plans, please telephone the nursery or email Becca or Louise, preferably by 10am. We always phone families just after 10am if we have not heard from them to ensure all is well.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 29th September - Flu nasal spray vaccinations for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds whose parents have completed the online consent form from the vaccination team

Thursday 15th October - Nursery closure day for staff training

Thursday 12th November – ECP visit the nursery to take children's portrait photographs. Further information will be shared in due course

Christmas closure - The nursery will close by 1pm on Thursday 24th December and will reopen at 7.30am on Monday 4th January 2027.

Please look out for dates and information from each age group for our cultural celebrations through November and December.

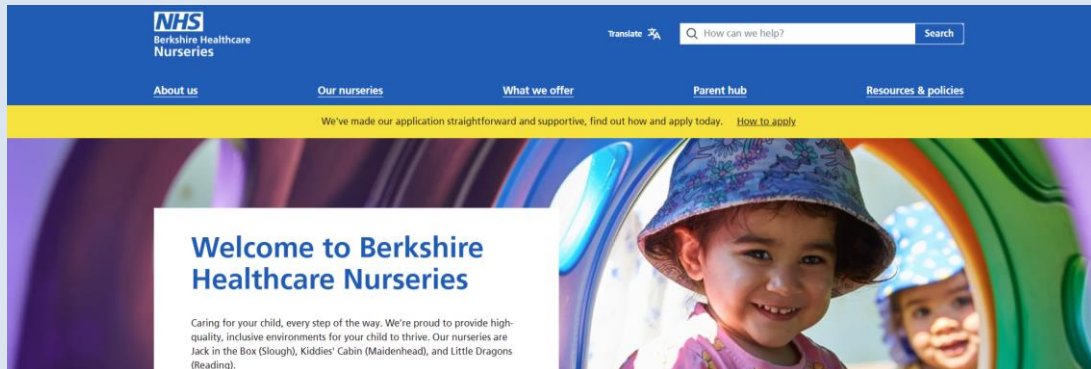
Fees and funding

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

Have you seen our [new website](#)? It contains plenty of information about the three BHFT nurseries and we hope you like it as much as we do. You'll find most of the information you may need in the [parent hub](#). Please have a look and let us know what you think.



NURSERY CONTACT INFORMATION

Becca Croft - Nursery Manager

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Thank you for your continued support for Little Dragons

Becca Croft