



Jack In The Box Day Nursery



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Newsletter – April 2026

Welcome

Welcome to another exciting quarter at Jack in the Box! We would like to say a warm welcome to new families to the nursery. 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

We have recently had a new fence fitted within the baby room to create a dedicated messy area. The children have enjoyed taking part in a range of planned and child-led activities to enhance all areas of their development. This separation has allowed activities to continue throughout the day where children can explore freely in smaller groups. Activities have included water play, sand play, painting, drawing and sensory play. This area has been a focus for the children this term as practitioners encourage them to explore and discover.

The children have been working on their awareness of maths recently by listening to practitioners count objects and trying to copy. They have also been working on their colour and shape recognition.

The children have been learning about different celebrations that have taken place over the months, including Valentine's Day, Eid and Mother's Day. They have been making cards, creating handprints and reading stories about kindness. Practitioners have been assisting the children with turn-taking skills along with this.

The song of the month in the baby room has recently been 'Miss Bunny'. Practitioners have been singing the song with the children and encouraging them to join in with the actions. They have also enjoyed using the puppets in pretend play along with the song, as well as learning to recognise certain animals.

Please can we request that parents check their child's bag at the end of each day to ensure dirty clothes are taken home and supplies are replenished. We advise parents to have two or three full changes of clothes in children's bags in case of messy accidents or fun creative play.

Piglet Room News

We have recently had a door fitted onto the piglet/pre-school room bathroom. This supports the requirement to maintain children's dignity and privacy while in the bathroom. Practitioners will continue to monitor and support children in the bathroom as appropriate.

The children in the piglet room have been learning about measuring and different sizes. This supports both their mathematical knowledge and their communication and language development. They have been learning new language such as 'big', 'small', 'tall' and 'short' and have been building towers with different resources. They have also been learning about sequencing and patterns while counting objects.

The children enjoyed World Book Day and are really enjoying looking at books in the home corner, both independently and with practitioners. Reading books with an adult, and eventually independently, is important for a wide range of learning outcomes and areas of development. We encourage all parents to read with their children daily to encourage language development. It's also a great way to wind down before bedtime.

The book of the month has recently been 'The Three Little Pigs'. This has allowed the children to learn about animals, counting and different materials. There have been several black tray activities available to support this, such as a set up using straw, small brick toys and wooden sticks to allow the children to act out the story. As well as this, children have been decorating paper plates like pigs and building brick and Jenga block towers to make their own houses for the pig toys.

Please can we remind parents to ensure that children are wearing appropriate shoes for nursery and to take bags home every week to ensure dirty clothes and supplies are replenished. We advise parents to have two or three full changes of clothes in children's bags in case of messy accidents or fun creative play.

Pre-School Room News

We have recently had a door fitted onto the piglet/pre-school room bathroom. This supports the requirement to maintain children's dignity and privacy while in the bathroom. Practitioners will continue to monitor and support children in the bathroom as appropriate.

The children in the pre-school room have widened their learning recently by learning about fossils. They have been talking about different animals who live in different places, as well as digging for fossils in the black tray. They have also been enhancing their understanding of the world by talking about different habitats, including rivers, lakes and oceans. They have been talking about the human body to increase awareness of themselves by talking about the different organs in their body and what they do, their different body parts and their 5 senses and how they use them.

The book of the month in the pre-school room has been 'Kind'. This has allowed practitioners to teach children about respect towards others and the importance of showing kindness throughout words and gestures. The children have been learning the importance of working together and problem solving, as well as learning about their emotions, particularly in times of conflict. The children are working hard on

following the golden rules of the room, including using kind words, taking turns and listening to others. This supports their personal, social and emotional development.

Over the next term, we will be preparing some of the children for school by leading different activities, however all children will be encouraged to join in with writing their names and carrying out tasks that promote their independence skills.

Please can we remind parents to ensure that children are wearing appropriate shoes for nursery and to take bags home every week to ensure dirty clothes and supplies are replenished. We advise parents to have two or three full changes of clothes in children's bags in case of messy accidents or fun creative play.

Please can we also remind parents to hand your child over to a pre-school member of staff when coming into the nursery to ensure any messages can be passed over effectively.

If you would like your child to take part in Shelene's dance classes on Wednesdays each half term, please ensure payments are made on time directly to Shelene following the details on her information letter.

Graduation and School Admissions – September 2026 Intake

If your child is starting school in September 2026, you can find out your child's place from Thursday 16th April. Please can we ask that you let us know which school your child has been allocated, 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.

Our nursery graduation ceremony for children who will be starting reception in September 2026 will be taking place on Thursday 9th July in the afternoon. More information will be communicated separately.

Please be aware that children can attend the nursery until Friday 28th August 2026. A months' notice is required via email to katie.baker@berkshire.nhs.uk

Current Staffing Information

We have welcomed Leah to the team who will be with us as a Nursery Apprentice working towards her Level 2 qualification. She is now based in the pre-school room.

We have recently recruited an Early Years apprentice who will be joining us to work towards their Early Years qualification once recruitment checks are complete.

We have recently said goodbye to Shazia. We wish her the best in her new role.

Paige has now returned to the nursery after maternity leave and will be leaving at the end of April. We wish Paige the best of luck for the future.

Stacey will be returning to the nursery after her maternity leave in July. Her room base will be communicated in due course. We look forward to welcoming her back.

For your information, please see below for the current staffing of the nursery, as well as the hierarchy of management at the nursery.

Lee – Nursery Area Manager (07557 207 429)

Carly – Nursery Manager

Shaahidah – Nursery Deputy Manager

Paige – Baby Room Team Leader

Suad – Piglet Room Team Leader

Samina – Pre-School Room Team Leader

Baby Room

Paige – Team Leader

Memuna

Heather

Anna

Rukshi

Alexandra

Piglet Room

Suad – Team Leader

Cifica

Sepideh

Gulshan

Pre-School Room

Samina – Team Leader

Ewelina

Gurleen

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

Nursery Routine and Menu

We have recently moved to our summer routine. This means 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, 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 Coffee Morning

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families 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 families again at our Father's Day breakfast. Information will follow regarding this closer to the time.

Swap Shop

We are continuing our 'Swap Shop' set up in the nursery hallway. We understand how fast children grow and change and how expensive clothing and toys can be. This swap shop is available for families to be able to donate their child's clothing, toys or other items that are no longer suitable for them, as well as for families to take what they may need. Please feel free to bring any donations you have that may be suitable for our Swap Shop to the nursery office for us to make available for other families.

This is available for all who enter the nursery, so feel free to help yourself. You do not need to ask before taking anything. Thank you for working with us to support all families.

General Reminders

Parent Polling Station

Thank you to all parents who have communicated their views through this as it is important to us to gain parent feedback and work in partnership as much as possible. As a reminder, this is an opportunity for you give us valuable feedback on the service we provide. Each month, a new question will be asked where you can answer either 'yes' or 'no' by placing a token into the corresponding jar. If you would like to add a comment, you are welcome to use the sticky notes and pen provided to share further feedback or alternatively send an email. I hope you are finding the Parent Polling Station useful in giving your thoughts about our service. Please can I ask all parents to ensure that children are not playing with the polling station tokens as this may affect how parent's views are communicated.

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. Spare clothes are required when children become messy in the day due to exciting activities.

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.

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.

Speech and Language Support

Our nursery practitioners conduct several activities that support children with their speech and language development, including language groups, bucket time and general speech support throughout the day. We may also be able to signpost or refer you to other services that can support you, as well as the nursery. It is also possible

for parents to complete a referral themselves for support for their child. If you would like further information about this, 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.

Nursery Closing Time

Please can I remind all parents that the nursery closes at 6pm sharp. After this time, or if you are collecting your child after their agreed session ends, 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 or to let us know somebody else will be collecting your child. 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

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

Carly Byrne 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**