

Newsletter Spring Term

April 2022



It's **the final term** of this academic year already, how this year has flown by!

This is always a busy term as spring is always a wonderful time of the year and staff have been busy planning so many exciting activities about mini beasts, life cycles, and growth; it's so much fun!! The Rainbow garden is a wonderful addition to nursery and we will be planting more flowers and growing fruit and vegetables – all for us to try! Our baby caterpillars have also arrived and we are enjoying watching them grow, it will be lovely to release them into the wildlife garden once they emerge as butterflies.

This term is also a time of transition as the Sunflower children begin making visits to the Bluebell room and primary school places have been allocated for our older children; a newsletter will be sent out later in the term about how we support the children moving to school and how you can support your child at home.

I wanted to thank everyone who was able to attend the Parents EYFS Consultation Evening. It was a lovely opportunity for staff and parents to meet up, talk about the children and the progression they have made. We also enjoyed being able to show you around the rooms and share how we use play activities for learning. To support families extending their child's learning at home, please see the Learning of the Week section which demonstrates how you can support your child across numeracy, literacy, song and reading.

Thank you for returning the parents feedback questionnaires, they have been extremely useful in knowing what we are doing well and what we could develop. We particularly enjoyed reading what the children thought about nursery! We will share the responses with you shortly.

Our mission statement is '**Foundations for Life**' .

We aim to give our children the confidence and experiences to grow and be self-assured and happy. We are proud to be an inclusive setting and recognise the importance of teaching children acceptance and understanding of all faiths, cultures and religions. We have recently celebrated Easter, Holi, Vaisakhi, Passover and Ramadan and Eid and several parents have kindly come into nursery to talk to the children and share their experiences. This is always so much fun and it's a wonderful way for the children to learn. We recognise that parents and families play the most important role in their child's development and we always welcome you into the setting; please let us know if you would like to come in and share your experiences with the children or simply read a book.

Many thanks

Paula Wilson

Childcare Manager

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Our Important Dates this term are;

Monday 2 nd May	- Bank Holiday – Closed
Monday 30- Wednesday 1 st June	- Holiday Club – open for nursery children 2-4 year olds (8am - 6pm) Booking required
Thurs 2 nd – Friday 3 rd June	- Bank holiday – Closed (Queen's Jubilee celebrations)
Wednesday 15 th June	- Leavers photographs
Tuesday 5 th July am	- Bluebell Leavers Party
Friday 22 nd July	- Last day of term
Monday 25 th July– Friday 26 th Aug	- Holiday Club – open for nursery children 2-4 year olds (8am - 6pm) Booking required
Monday 29 th Aug – Friday 2 nd Sept	- Closed – Bank holiday and deep clean
Monday 5 th Sept	- Closed - Statutory training
Tuesday 6 th September	- Nursery re-opens

IMPORTANT NEWS - Learning of week

Each week the children learn a letter, sound, maths, song and read a book, this is emailed at the beginning of the term and on the blog shared each week.

Over the last term we have been sharing a song of the week via video. Further to the EYFS parents consultation we will now be expanding this to cover all areas of Learning of the Week. The aim is that we can share with parents how we talk about a shape, how we read a story, what sound a letter makes..... The staff are all excited to be sharing these with you as this will also mean the children all see their key person on video and parents will become familiar with all staff.

It would be lovely if you could take the time to watch the videos with your child and help them practice at home.

More information is also available on the website including the learning of the week and lots of videos from staff on activities and stories

<https://shadwellchildcare.co.uk/our-curriculum/>

<https://shadwellchildcare.co.uk/home-support/>



Communication and Parent partnership

We appreciate leaving your child can often be emotional and we recognise the importance of communicating how your child is and what they are doing whilst in our care.

Every day is filled with activities and fun as we offer each child a variety of learning opportunities; we know that you will find it reassuring to know how happy and engaged they are each day. To keep you informed of what your child is taking part in we try to communicate often and in different formats, this includes;

- Weekly blogs explaining the main topics that week and what we have focused on
- Information on the butchers board with meals, key information and important notes
- A informative website site with areas for health and wellbeing, learning and curriculum and lots of other information, www.shadwellchildcare.co.uk
- Sharing your child's WOW moment via the app each week with photos for you to see
- Each half term you will receive a long observation showing what they have learnt and how your child is progressing, plus the next steps for each individual child.
- Finally each term a full PDF journal will be emailed for you – a wonderful document to share with family members, discuss with your child and to keep as happy memories.

Of course each day the staff are available to talk to at drop off and pick up or via the telephone and any communication will be shared via email daily as needed. If there is anything else you feel would benefit in updating you on your child's day and progress, please let us know.

Invoices

Invoices for this half term have been emailed and payment is due by 6th May. If your child is eligible for 30 hours funding please be aware it is the **parents responsibility** to ensure they request a code and that it is renewed every 12 weeks, the nursery is unable to request any details for 30 hours funding. If the code expires you will be invoiced for all costs incurred. Please send your 11 digit code to the office once you have received it and we can request the funding for your child.

This term in Bluebell Room.....



In April we celebrated the Queen's birthday and had lots of fun as we made flags and bunting to decorate the nursery, this incorporated our physical skills in using large muscle movements and small motor skills and lots of scissor skills. We had a lovely afternoon tea party where the children together shared special events and experiences and ate lots of yummy party food!.



The children also celebrated **St George's Day** by learning about St George, the Patron Saint of England, and made flags and shields to celebrate this victorious day. This links into Mathematical development where the children made comparisons of size, length, weight and capacity as they built castles from lots of different shapes. Dragons and knights are always fun to play!



We also celebrated **Vaisakhi, Passover, Holi and Easter!** Phew. It was so much fun and we were lucky to try lots of different foods, learn about other cultures and religions and listen to our friends talk about how they celebrate.



In May we will celebrate VE day and talk about special people that had been in the war. We will also discuss the **Festival of Eid**, which is celebrated to mark the end of Ramadan. Thank you to the parents that have been in to nursery to talk to the children and for sharing the special items that are part of this festival. We will continue to take part over the coming two weeks in dancing to music, dressing up, tasting some delicious food and watching videos to see how this festival is celebrated around the world. The children will get creative by making Eid cards and develop their pattern making skills in creating different henna patterns.



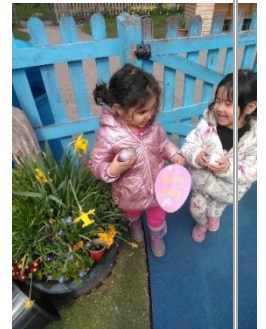
The month of May is also **National Smile Month**, and we love to smile in nursery. The children will be showing off their beautiful smiles and talking and learning why brushing and looking after your teeth is important. We will also use our **giant teeth** to practice brushing!! We will be looking at different occupations, particularly at what dentists do as we learn about others. Incorporating health and self-care and getting school ready, the children will practice putting on their own coat and shoes and learn the importance of washing hands.

This is a terrific opportunity to help your child at home become independent by encouraging them to learn these skills, just give yourselves a few extra minutes to allow them time to put on their own shoes and begin to learn their coat zips.





May is a very exciting time where we will learn all about **Minibeasts**. One of our favourite activities in nursery is when our caterpillars arrive and we take care of them, observe them daily to see them grow and turn into beautiful butterflies. They grow so quickly!! We hope we can release them onto the lovely flowers we are now growing! We will link this with the story of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" as this is a wonderful story to enhance this experience and offer lots of learning opportunities in itself as we go for lovely nature walks and explore the plants and flowers and see if they can find any amazing creepy crawlies. This links in with Understanding the World where the children will learn life cycles of plants and insects and how to look after the natural environment and all living things. We will be doing lots of life drawings too as the caterpillars move through their transformation and have already started painting the spring flowers using lots of different methods including using forks and string and fingers!



This term marks a very special occasion: **The Queen's Jubilee**. We will learn about the Queen and celebrate with an afternoon tea party and watch videos of how she became Queen. The children will have opportunities take part in dressing up and we may have some news about taking part in the local Shadwell Village Scarecrow Trail over the Jubilee weekend.



For **World Music day** the children will have the opportunities to listen to music from all around the world and talk about their favourite songs. The children will be encouraged to express themselves by creating their own music with the musical instruments. We will use our numeracy skills as we count the beats and patterns and use new words to describe what we are hearing or what the sounds remind us of. It's so much fun to learn whilst we play!



On top of all of the topics we have been hammering, threading, matching numbers, listening to sounds with the headsets, reading endless stories, singing non-stop rhymes, using lots of science experiments to work out how things work, racing about outside, climbing and making obstacle courses.

No wonder we all love nursery!



Sunflower Room this term is all about.....



The children have loved being outside in the beautiful sunshine! They have taken a big interest in ball games so we have been incorporating different skills and ideas from football, cricket, tennis and basketball and we have been creating our own rules and following instructions! We have been using our hand eye coordination playing tennis with our friends, building our balance and aiming skills while kicking our balls through cones and throwing our balls into numbered tyres.



Spring offers the children lots of opportunities to look at different colours and shades from the various types of flowers. Our Learning of the Week is linked with this theme too and we are reading stories and singing lots of songs about spring, flowers, insects and colour. We have been going on nature walks around the setting and playground to observe the different changes in nature watching things grow and change and learning about the seasons and environment.



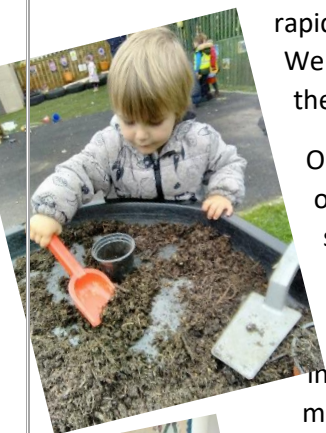
The children were very excited that the caterpillars arrived and we have been watching them rapidly grow and change and having lots of discussion about what is happening. We are preparing the Rainbow Garden with wonderful flowers ready for when they emerge as butterflies so we can release them.



Outside we will be growing our very own sunflower seeds, some vegetables in our Rainbow garden, herbs and flowers in our big plant pots exploring where seeds come from and what flowers need to grow including the life cycles.

Following on from the children's interest at being outside we have been exploring the garden for minibeasts and flowers and this has led to us turning our home corner into a Garden Centre. The children have been learning about numbers and money as they buy and sell their flowers, taking turns to be the shop keeper and customers.

Of course a garden centre wouldn't be the same without a Garden Café! We will be having our very own garden centre café where children can make their own snack building their fine motor and independent skills learning about different foods that are healthy for us.





It's **National Smile Month** and we love to smile at nursery. It's also a good opportunity to discuss how important it is for children to look after those wonderful teeth. We will help teach them how we can keep our teeth healthy and clean and what we should eat, drink and how to brush their teeth. Our children are very independent little learners and are always excited to tell us all the amazing things they can do all by themselves. It's a lovely opportunity for you to extend this to home learning.



We will also be taking part in **National Science month and space day**. This will give us lots of opportunity to explore different shapes and size and use our problem solving skills as we explore different areas of space and take part in experiments.



Each week we use different vocabulary based around different themes and topics we are looking at -keep a look out for these on our butchers board.



Over the recent weeks we have been looking at Holi the festival of colour and Easter and we are now talking about Eid and taking part in discussions about Ramadan and what happens throughout the month.



Transitions to Bluebell will also be starting this term with the opportunity to visit the bluebell room, play and meet the bluebell staff too. Our children are very excited about being so big and ready to start their next chapter and widen their experiences.

We are going to be inviting parents in to help us make our Nursery Scarecrows- we feel it is very important that the children feel part of the community but also that parents can be involved in their children's learning and experiences too. The children came up with the brilliant idea of making our own scarecrows and as well as a Queen they have requested very special characters for everyone to make. We are keeping it as a surprise for you all!!



Makaton

What a wonderful response we have received from children and families for the Makaton teaching. As you maybe aware each week Claire, our SENCo, is sharing some Makaton signs with the children and staff and these will be shared via video for parents and families. The videos will be emailed directly to you and there is also a link on the website.

The children have been using the signs every day to communicate with their friends. We have been using 'more' and 'finished' at snack and lunch times, 'Mummy' and 'Daddy' at collection times. Thank you to the parents sharing videos of their children practicing at home and also thank you to those who have emailed in with their feedback.



AMAZING!!! Thank you so much for doing this 😊

Great - I think she knows a bit already so it's great you'll be continuing this. Thank you is one she does a lot!

Wow this really is amazing news!! Thank you for sending all of this, we are really excited to learn Makaton...will do our best to help support this, thank you!

This is brilliant- thank you and the team, it makes a big difference.



Staff announcements

We are delighted to be able to share the news that both Lucy Butterfield and Lucy Wiltshire will be returning after their maternity leave ends in June. They have remained in touch throughout their leave and have been in to see the children several times, we are all excited to have them with us again.

Sara Hall decided to return to teaching in primary school. Whilst we are all very sad to see her leave, we are delighted for her as she returns to her profession and we wish her all the very best.



We also would like to say a huge **GOOD LUCK** to Hannah as she gets married in May. We are all very excited for her and can't wait to share photos of her wonderful day, we know she will look beautiful.

Please can all items be named

Please, please can we remind all parents that bags, all clothing, boots, hats, coats and scarves MUST be named.

It is increasingly difficult for staff to remember the items each child is wearing each day and to ensure that the correct items are returned home to you. This is especially important in Sunflower room where there are lots of changes.

If items are not named we cannot ensure that they will be returned to the correct person as many children have the same items and so they are easily mixed up.

Thank you for your support.





Supporting the transition to big school

Thank you to everyone for confirming which school your child will be starting in September, we are sure that you were all eager to know. In line with your requests we will let you know which friends your child will be attending with, although many of the children have been telling each other already!



A separate newsletter will be sent out over the coming weeks sharing top tips to support your child over the coming weeks and months. Shadwell Childcare has always had one aim; to give every child **Foundations for Life**. This means ensuring our pre-school children are as prepared as they can be for the move to a new setting. We want them to be confident and happy as they embrace what can be an uncertain time for them.

At nursery we are beginning to help them through lots of talking; children are super clever and explaining what is happening and letting them ask any questions is extremely important. We are also helping them in lots of other ways each day, through play! Here are a few;



Mark making, pencil grips, small and large movements, threading, finger gym



Having respect for others and understanding

Team work, taking turns and listening to each other



Having confidence to share our stories, listening to others



Physical development taking risks, trying new things



Counting beats, making patterns and following sequences



Working as a team, waiting as we work out 'who it is'....



In the final half of the term the key person will be writing a transition report. This is information on your child such as what they like, dislike, their learning so far and how their new teachers can help them settle quickly. We also invite school teachers in to the setting to meet the children and key person and Claire, our SENCo, will communicate with the new teacher any individual support where needed. We will have lunch in All children will have lunch in Shadwell lunch hall to familiarise themselves with the big dinner hall and noise. We will invite teachers in to read stories, hang a mix of school uniforms in the role play area for children to proudly wear and have a post box for any questions you or the children may have.

We are confident all of the children will be ready for the next stage of their journey and they fly high with big smiles.

