



# Little Stars Newsletter July 2018

## What's happening in the community?

### Dates for your diary

#### Teddy bear picnic for charity

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 11:30 and  
12:30

#### Parent stay and play week

Week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> July  
Monday- Friday 9am-5pm  
everyday (please book yourself  
in to attend an activity)

#### Summer Holidays:

23<sup>rd</sup> July - 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
2018

#### Picnic in the park:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August @ 2:00-  
4:00pm (All parents welcome,  
letter will be sent in due  
course.)

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#### School leavers Graduation photographs

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
(Letters will be sent out next  
week.)

### Details update

#### Could all parents ensure you update your **Contact Details**?

It is really important for  
**Parents/Carers** to keep us up  
to date with their  
current **contact details**.  
Occasions can arise when we  
might need to **contact** you  
urgently during the school day  
regarding your child.

Thankyou in advance

### Parent stay and play week

Week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> July

We have a stay and play week.

All parents are encouraged to come  
along and experience an activity of  
their choosing with either their own  
child's room or within another age  
range.

It's a great way for us to spend time  
with you as parents and for you to  
see what we do!

please speak to Jess in the office to  
book in a slot.

### Charity activity

We will be holding a teddy  
bears picnic on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July,  
for crackerjacks children's  
trust, they help provide care  
for children with disabilities  
and provide respite care too!

They're fab!

Could you all bring a bear or  
teddy/favourite toy along, pop  
a £1 into the charity pot at the  
door and help us to help them!

### Oral hygiene

We encourage the children to brush  
their teeth after lunch and  
tea, please bring a toothbrush and  
toothpaste into the setting. Where  
possible we ask that you buy a  
brush with a cap to protect the brush  
from germs. Each baby/child will  
have a toothbrush holder with their  
name on and this will be placed on a  
high shelf to prevent cross  
contamination.

**Free Zumba classes** for mums  
and dads- 9:30-10:15 on Fridays  
@ whitton youth zone  
Call Saskieja on :07469100498

#### 1 & 2year old heath reviews

1pm to 5pm

Heathfield Children's Centre,  
Powder Mill Lane.

Please call the health team to  
book an appointment 033 005  
581 679

#### **Laleham @ the beach.**

*Huge sandpit, deck chairs, beach  
food and drink, rides, water fun,  
character visits, punch and Judy  
and so much more!*

**Open daily 26 July- 28<sup>th</sup> august  
11am-6pm.**

#### **Story time Sundays @ Hampton court**

Join us for some family fun by  
becoming part of a story. This is  
an interactive story telling  
session based on a well-known  
children's book. What will you  
discover today?

[www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-  
court-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace)

#### **Gnomus the gnome caretaker of the earth at kew gardens**

In a gift to Kew, Gnomus is  
sharing special stories that show  
children how important it is to  
value and learn about some of  
the world's rarest and most  
endangered species.

[www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

Sat 21 Jul - Sun 2 Sep 2018

### Parent link App

I would to inform all parents that in  
the recent month we have been  
experiencing a problem with the  
app and our tablets not being able  
to support them, we have been  
working closely with first steps to  
sort this problem out and have  
now decided to buy tablets to  
rectify this issue, we shall have  
these this week.

We apologise for a lack of diary  
updates and missing  
observations.

## School Leavers

It is that time of year when you will be finding out your child's school placement.

**There will be a list on the Office Door could you please add your child's school next to their name so we can send the school relevant information and so you can see who else will be attending your child's school!**

Just a reminder that we will need **4 weeks' notice** of their last date with us. Also, can we remind those of you who pay by voucher payments to ensure your vouchers have stopped the month your child leaves (credit of voucher payments cannot be refunded so please ensure they are stopped in time) If you have a younger sibling with us the voucher payments can be transferred between accounts if you wish. Please let us know if this is something you want to do.

## **School leavers Party!!**

Can you believe it's nearly time for our oldest Children to go to big School! To celebrate their time with us we will be holding their Pre School Leaver's Prom on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July between 2.30-5.00pm. All children going to School are invited to this special event! Please do dress up! (If your child attends this Friday PM and are not going to school a member of staff will speak to you to as soon as possible to discuss arrangements for your child during this time)

## Nursery Activities

### **Babies:**

Babies theme this month is messy and sensory, they are learning to use their senses!

Activities include;

**Body painting** – *learn to use and control their gross motor skills!*

**Sensory baskets** such as *heuristic play, materials baskets, magic bag! sensory pouches*

This ties into their speech, physical play and feelings and emotions.

### **Two-three's:**

The twos are doing sensory play as their theme, but with a twist of animals/water They are learning about animals, their names, where they live and how we look after them, what they eat.

Water play; they are learning exploring colours within water play, such as Dropping colouring into water and watching it mix! Each activity will have a different animal/set of animals and colours.

### **Three to fives:**

Within in the threes room, our children going to school are building upon their school readiness with activities such as; stories, our school books, role playing in their soon to be uniforms, talking about their school visits and their stay and plays; recognising their name or at least the first letter.

Other activities for the children in this room include learning shapes, phonics, numbers and letter in finding games such as hide and seek, archaeological digs to find the numbers, arts and crafts decorating their own letters within their names.

## Lost Property

We have a lost property box please check to see if any items belong to your child. It is rather full as of late.

## Our Ofsted Action plan

I wanted to let parents know about how our action plan is coming along in regards to improving ourselves from our “requires improvement” to “good” and beyond! And all the great things we are achieving this year.

I have included findings from our report, our actions and how this is going.

- 1) Ofsted said “monitor the quality of teaching and planning for learning to ensure all children are consistently involved in challenging activities”
- 2) “Ensure all staff use assessments of children’s development to plan challenging activities to help children make as much progress as they can”
- 3) “Ensure that children’s behaviour is managed in suitable manner to enable children to understand that some behaviours are unacceptable and consequences their behaviour has on themselves and others”
- 4) (*To improve further*) - “To make better use of ongoing self-evaluations to identify areas that require improvement.”

What we planned to put in place:

- 1) To evaluate how we do planning and to make sure we show and explain how each activity links into COEL and EYFS and to next steps of each child and to use child’s interests to manage activities better.
- 2) To make sure all staff get access to and have training and then are able to cascade their training in staff meetings.
- 3) Training and role modelling from our EY advisors.
- 4) Visit similar nurseries.
- 5) Role model and encourage more independence from the children when doing activities or things from the daily routine such as washing own hands, dishing out own food, pouring drinks by themselves.
- 6) To use peer observations for self-reflections on our practises and incorporate this into supervisions and appraisals, staff being involved more in setting their goals and tasks, staff being more self-reflecting in their practise, “what’s going well, what’s not?”.
- 7) To use supervisions/appraisals to create clear goals for staff every 6-8weeks.
- 8) Use rainbow rules for children in rooms- encourage them to be involved in their own rules.

What we have done so far:

- 1) Staff have been on various training courses they and management have identified as areas that need to be developed and then have cascaded these courses to other staff members in our monthly staff meetings so that all staff can use these and we can work together in implementing changes within all rooms where necessary to make our practise better.
- 2) All staff took time for two’s training from our EY improvement and inclusion officers, which has lots of useful ideas for not only two’s but all rooms in how to deal better with resolution conflicts, schemers and skills to help mould our teaching to better fit all children.
- 3) We have implemented new planning which requires us to show and support a better link into our next steps, COEL, EYFS and child’s interests in one document. This works better in supporting children’s learning.
- 4) We have been using self-reflecting tools such as peer to peer observations, recording and watching back activities and more supervisions to set firm clear goals for staff to follow, but also for staff to self-reflect and become further involved in development.
- 5) We have now twinned with another nursery practising at outstanding and staff have been along in small groups to observe their routines, staff and structures and to get a great sense for what we can be in the future, they have brought back some fantastic ideas already which we have moulded to fit our nursery better!
- 6) Rooms have now created rainbow rules with help from the children and have been encouraging them to demonstrate the rules for example how can we be kind. These are shown in all rooms but have been tweaked to each room’s development needs.

- 7) Jessica has been doing Audits with Our EY advisors within each room, and within each audit, work with the room leader to support the rooms to improve on areas we have felt could be better.

(The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale – Revised (ECERS-R) is designed to evaluate quality of provision for children aged 2½ to 5 years in centre-based settings. The Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale – Revised (**ITERS**-R) is the partner scale for the 0-2½ age range.)

- 8) Now using a better challenging tool within our planning to ensure children are being challenged but that they are within reach of their developmental age.
- 9) We are now encouraging and praising a higher level of independence within the rooms for example a better use of self service at food and snack times, children not only tidying away their activities but also helping to set them up too.

To further improve in area's, we feel can be Improved upon:

- 1) We have felt a need to greatly improve the gap within the area for children's speech and language and therefore will all be wearing lanyards with visual clues as we feel this can and will improve the gap.
- 2) We have felt we can improve on feelings and emotional development with the children and will be setting up some lovely activities to help children express emotions using emotion boards.
- 3) Sensory play is so important so we will be making sensory a priority from the help of our wonderful SENCO.
- 4) We have also spoken about children's behaviours and what we can do better, we have found giving children more responsibility, helps to promote positive behaviour and therefore we are making responsibility boards within each room.
- 5) We felt parents need to know more about us as staff members so we are creating profiles within our welcome packs to increase parent knowledge and trust. Staff will now also be getting name badges to help to identify.
- 6) We have been in talks with the company first steps to improve services for parents using the app.

Things we have taken on board from parents:

- Seeing the owners more often - the owners are involved in nursery business but will be attending more open days and events for parents to speak to them if they wish. The owners also attend the nursery on a Wednesday afternoon every week.
- Being able to view a child's next steps - there's an inconsistency with this feature on the app, we are working with the company to fix this, so all parents can see them and interact more with them.
- More consistency within observation- this has been spoken about within our team meetings and room meetings. We have worked on a new routine that allows the girls more time to fill in and complete their observations.
- More details within the daily diary on what your children have been doing- again this has been incorporated in the time the girls have now been given to complete these crucial pieces of information.
- Parent/staff training evenings and presentations - we are putting together a schedule for this and parents will be told more within the next few weeks.

We would all like to thank the parents and families that have stuck by us and continue to do so

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**Thankyou from us all at little stars**

**xx**