

Dear Parents and Carers,

All I can say is it's hot! And it looks like next week is going to continue to be hot!

Apparently, there may be a chance of a much-needed thunderstorm so let's keep everything crossed for that!

As we know children are resilient, so they and the staff have coped well with the heat this week, adapting their day to spending most of the day outside in the morning as our garden is shady at that time to moving inside after teatime once the garden becomes a little more sun baked. The prediction is for the temperatures to remain high until Monday, but at this point it is still only an amber warning. What I would advise is to make sure your child has lots of spare clothes or a swimming costume that they can get wet in as water play is everywhere now, as it's the best way to keep cool!

Travel Disruptions Will Cause Disruptions To Our Service

Looks like next Thursday and Friday are going to cause some headaches to the staff that use public transport to travel in.

There is a train strike on Thursday which shouldn't affect us too badly. We've managed to secure a couple of agency staff to help fill a couple of staffing gaps. If you are able to drop off later and collect your children earlier on Thursday this would help enormously.

We have a big problem on Friday.

The strike action on Friday affects the tube service and a number of bus routes, which will leave us with a very limited team. We have also been unable to secure any agency staff for Friday. This leaves us with a significant challenge to maintain normal service.

Initially we thought we would have to close for the day, but now it looks as though we can just about remain open if we limit the number of children and hours, we are open.

We have looked at the bookings for the day and have calculated that we have enough staff to cover the children that attend 5 days a week.

We realise that this will cause some frustration and challenge to those of you that use us on a part time basis, but unfortunately, we have no alternative.

The choice was reducing the service or close for the day!

We will be offering all our p/t children a day back in lieu of the cancelled day. Please contact Tom to rearrange you day in lieu.

There will also be a slight reduction in opening hours on Friday, as we will not have enough staff to work shifts to cover the service from 8am to 6pm.

So, to clarify on Friday:

- The nursery will open from 9am to 4.30pm for f/t (5 day a week bookings) only.

Thanks for your support in this matter.

Core Books- Focus On What's Happening In Explorers

Nantshama would like to share what has been happening for Explorers this week in relation to their Core book 'Apple, Bear, Orange, Pear'.

During circle time this week children have been learning the names of different fruits, tasting them and singing the song "Teddy bear, Teddy bear where are you?" adding in additional names each time including 'Daddy bear, mummy bear, sister bear, brother bear and baby bear. Where are you?"

Next the children were introduced to difference, starting with size; 'Big Bear, medium bear, and small bear' and then looking at their different colours.

All the children worked very hard on developing their speech and language by joining in the story and repeating the names fruits. Some of the older children extended their learning further by learning about the colours of the fruits and counting how many there were (up to 3). It was lovely to see the children joining in and singing along, copying the words, rhymes and actions which included clapping in time and making gestures with their bodies.

The children also spent time touching and exploring the taste and texture of the different fruits. They did really well sharing and taking turns with each other, they seemed to be mesmerised by the activity and all stayed till the end, which is quite something for our babies!

Donations

Thank you to all of the parents that have brought in some books to help replenish our stocks. We're also looking for paint brushes and kitchen utensils. We have enough pots and pans but old muffin, ice cube trays trays, large spoons, spatulas, tongs, pipettes etc are what always seem to go missing. We also seem to have run out of items for junk modelling, so if you have any paper towel tubes, tin foil, cling film tubes, containers, magazines, ribbon, bottle tops, etc then please bring pass it on.

I've been asked to say that Family Support and Community no longer are asking for donations (clothes/suitcases, etc) as the families that were placed in the hotel in temporary accommodation have moved out of the borough now and we don't really have the storage to hold any more donations.

Thanks to all of you that supported this effort, it really did make a difference.