

# Summer Term Newsletter



## Welcome to Summer Term at Little Blossoms.

Please could we ask all parents to provide their children with **sun-cream and a sunhat** ready for the sunny days so they can enjoy the outdoor environment safely. Please ensure both are clearly named.

### A Fun Activity to Try At Home

Messy play fosters your child's curiosity, imagination and experimentation and practices good concentration. Why not try some Jelly Play- make some jelly in a bowl and once it is set, tip in onto a large tray for them to explore. You could add cutlery for older children, and containers for younger ones to fill and empty- and it doesn't matter if they put it to their mouths.

The high concentration levels needed to explore the different sensory qualities of the objects and elements practise your child's ability to read a book or write a story independently later on- give it a try!

### A few reminders:

As we are a busy nursery, it is inevitable that children are going to pick up bugs from others- however we need to reduce the spread of certain contagious diseases that children pick up. We would like to remind parents of the 'Exclusion Periods' for some of these diseases. We have attached a table to remind you of how long you need to keep your child off nursery. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

It is important that all parents/carers that collect from Little Blossoms by car adhere to the reduced speed limit of **5mph**, many thanks.

### New Staff:

Sam Buxton has been with us a while working around the Nursery- we are pleased to announce she is now a permanent member of the Under 2's department, predominantly in Little Toddlers- Welcome to the Team!

It has been lovely to have Kira back at Little Blossoms after nearly a year of being away, you will see her working in all rooms- it's like she's never been away.

With ever increasing numbers, we are currently recruiting and you may see some new faces around the nursery doing trial days - we will keep you posted.

### Dates for your Diary:

**30<sup>th</sup> May- 2<sup>nd</sup> June**- Half Term. Orchard Explorers Holiday Club Open

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June**- Little Blossoms Big Toddler. See Event posters and Tapestry for more info.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**- Pippins School Leavers Photos

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June**- DRESS UP DAY- to celebrate the Queen's birthday, let's be Kings and Queens for the day, and have afternoon tea- yum yum.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**- Pippins Sports Day

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**- Pippins Parents Evening

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**- Pippins Leavers Party

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July**- Pippins Leavers Trip to Malvern Theatres

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**- Last day of Term.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September**- Holiday Club Open for Summer Holidays

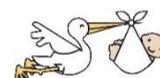
### Staff updates.....

We are very sad to announce that Sue Wright will be leaving us at the end of May- Sue has been the Head of Department in Little Tods for 15 years and has seen many staff, children and parents come and go. Sue has decided to have a career change and is going to be a receptionist- we wish her all the luck for the future and hope she doesn't forget to come back to say hello!



We are currently advertising for the Head of Department position and will hopefully take on someone soon.

We will also be saying Goodbye and Good luck to Caroline and Lauren, both from Big Tods department who will be going on Maternity leave in the next few weeks. We cannot wait to meet the 2 little Bundles!



## **News from the Departments:**

**Seedlings-** We have a Summer Theme running through the Under 2's departments with lots of Sand and Water play, building sand castles, floating fish and splashing. We will continue doing lots of messy activities such as Body Painting, Shaving Foam, Gloop, Flour and Toothpaste play. Please keep checking your Tapestry account for your child's Learning Journey.

**Upper Seedlings-** To continue the Summer Theme we will be getting out the paddling pools once the weather warms up! We will explore Sea Animals, Beach Balls and even a homemade beach. We are going to be doing some summer theme Food Tasting including watermelon, ice lolly's, Pineapple, and Strawberries and Cream- we are also going to be making some Summer Fruits Smoothies, Yum Yum! Our Messy play will include ice play, sand, water, jelly and shaving Foam- Don't forget to look at your child's Tapestry to see what they have been up to!

**Saplings-** We are currently focussing on the Topic of 'growing' with a great Garden Centre role play area- the children are REALLY enjoying this! We will be growing our own grass and cress seeds, looking for Mini-beasts using magnifying glasses and exploring the growing world around us!

The children are currently interested in playing dress-up- if parents have any old dress up clothes, or accessories (hats, shoes, and handbags) they could donate it would be much appreciated, thank you!

**Pippins-** It has been all systems go in Pippins as we are getting busier through the Summer months and many of you are aware that we are splitting the children into 2 groups, older and younger. This is really benefitting the children as we can focus on their individual needs more, we appreciate your co-operation with the changes that have been made recently and will keep you updated on Tapestry.

As we are getting busier, we would love it if any parents would like to join us in Forest School! Please check the dates on your Tapestry and let us know if you can come along- don't forget your wellies!

**Orchard Explorers Out of School Care-** We are going to be looking at Life-cycles this Summer Term, as well as enjoying all the usual Summer Activities in the Garden! Please can we ask that your child has a Named sunhat and Sun cream on them for their after-school sessions.

Holiday Club will be running soon for Half Term- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Please request sessions to the office or by email- [enquiries@littleblossomsnursery.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@littleblossomsnursery.co.uk).

### **News from the Farm-**

The Strawberries are now starting to ripen so it will soon be time for the PICK YOUR OWN season to commence at the end of May/ beginning of June. Raspberries are not far away from ripening too and the new Cherries in the tunnels (to protect them) are looking great!

Farmer Charlie's Ice cream parlour will be opening soon for the summer, where you can enjoy fresh scooped local Ice cream, delicious Smoothies and messy Milkshakes and if you haven't visited recently why not pop in to our Café for a coffee. (new last season)

The Veg Box scheme is going well, if you requested to join but haven't yet signed up please let Claire, Sam or Amelia know in the office and a member of the farm staff will contact you.

## **Reminders and New info on Childcare Help:**

We would like to remind you of the current support available to you and some new initiatives coming into place soon.....

**The Term after your child's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, you may be entitled to up to 15 hours of FREE childcare. You will be eligible if you are getting a form of support, including:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Tax credits and have an annual income under £16,190 before tax

You'll also be eligible if any of the following apply to your child:

- They're looked after by a local council
- They have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- They get Disability Living Allowance
- They've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

Please see the office if you think you are eligible.

**All children aged 3 and 4 years are entitled to 15 hours Universal funding:**

- From 1 January, 1 April or 1 September following your child's 3rd birthday.

**NEW - From September, some children may be eligible for 30 hours childcare for 3 and 4 year olds:**

- For working families **in England**
- An extra 15 hours a week of extended childcare on top of your 15 hours of universal childcare
- Parents of children who will be 3 years old on 31st August can apply from June.

You may be eligible if both parents are working, or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family, and each parent earns (on average) at least £120 a week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage). If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible.

You **CANNOT** get 30 hours free childcare if you, or your partner, expect to earn £100,000 or more.

*Little Blossoms Nursery will be offering 30 hours and a letter to explain this further will be sent out very soon...*

**NEW- Tax Free Childcare, for children 0-11 years:**

- For working families, including the self-employed, **in England**
- With **children under 12 (or under 17 if disabled)**
- For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 **per child**
- Parents of children who will be under 4 on 31st August, and parents of disabled children, can apply now

You can't use Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as childcare vouchers, Universal Credit or tax credits. You **can** use it with the 15 hours and 30 hours schemes.

For more information and to find out if you are eligible, log onto

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>