



Nursery Summer Term 2021 Information

Welcome Back! We hope you have all had an exciting and relaxing Easter holidays. We hope your child is excited to be back at Nursery for our Summer Term. We are thrilled with how the Spring start children all settled in over last half-term, but please do speak to us if you have any concerns. Please continue to use the yellow box out the front of the Nursery to say goodbye to your child from, in order to maintain social distancing guidelines. A HUGE well done to all the children and all the parents/carers for your enthusiasm and support with this.

Topic: This half-term, we will be enjoying a topic that has been chosen and planned following the children's interests. We will be thinking about farms, farming and the animals we might find on a farm in our topic 'Who's down at the farm?'. We will also continue to think about Spring, Summer and the changes we see during these seasons.

We will continue having daily phonic inputs where we will be developing the children's listening skills, thinking about rhythm and rhyme, and zipping sounds together to make words (blending - c-a-t, cat), the first step in learning to read, as well as breaking words down using 'robot talking' to segment words into the sounds that make them (cat = c-a-t), the first step in learning to spell. Letter sounds will be introduced to the children, during their play, where children are ready and interested. There will be lots of opportunities daily to work on the children's fine motor control including: cutting with scissors, pencil grip and control and strengthening the muscles in our hands and fingers using playdough etc... We will also be providing lots of opportunities for the children to mark make in their child-initiated learning and encouraging children to continue trying to write their names.

In maths we will be learning to recite number names in order to 10 and beyond, matching numerals 1-10 and beyond to quantities and looking for numerals in the environment. We will also be talking about size and the language of quantities, as well as finding and naming 2D shapes. We will explore different repeating patterns and create some of our own.

In our Jigsaw (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons, we will be thinking about 'Relationships', focusing on who is in our family, making friends, dealing with conflicts with friends, managing our feelings and working together with our friends.

Foundation Stage Curriculum News: At Littletown we are always keen to be at the forefront of any changes in education. We are fortunate that this year we are trialling the new Foundation Stage Profile before it is due to be implemented September 2021. It is very similar to the previous profile but places more emphasis on language development. Our philosophy of early years education remains the same with play and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. Nothing will change for your child. We will continue to offer them the highest quality learning experiences and develop their interests and fascinations in the world around them. They will be unaware of any changes. If you have any questions or would like more information please email me.

Routine reminders:

Dropping off at the start of the day: Please remember that our Nursery start time is 9am unless your child is booked into Breakfast Club or they have younger siblings whose classes have earlier drop-off times. It is essential that these times are adhered to in order to facilitate our staggered start and keeping everyone safe.

Collecting at the end of the day: Our doors open at 2.50pm for afternoon collection. Please ensure that if someone on your named list is collecting your child after Nursery, that they know your chosen password. Your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us so they will be asked for this.

Clothing: Please ensure all items are named including shoes and wellies.

Sunhats and sun-cream: Please ensure your child has a named sunhat at Nursery every day. All children need to have sun-cream applied before they arrive at Nursery. Most sun-creams are water resistant and last at least 6 hours. We will make sure the children do not spend extended periods of time directly in the sun. Please do not send your child with any sun-cream in their bag.

Footwear: During the summer term we will aim to have the climbing tower open as much as possible. If girls wear skirts, they sometimes like to wear shorts underneath. As stated in our risk assessment, children will only be allowed to use the tower if they are wearing suitable footwear. Children wearing open-toed sandals, Crocs or welly boots will not be able to use the tower as these shoes do not provide enough grip.

Book Bags: All children in Nursery have a book bag. Please encourage them to bring their book bag each day in order to put their letters and creations inside. Please do not send any other bags such as rucksacks. We try to limit the amount of things coming into Nursery from home and we simply don't have room for the children to bring and store rucksacks every day. We will continue to support the children with choosing two books each week to bring home and share with you. Please ensure all books are returned to Nursery. If you find you have a book which is damaged, please hand it to a member of staff so that we can throw it away and replace it. No child gets excited or enthusiastic about a book which is torn or damaged!

Outdoor Classroom: Our 'Little Explorer' sessions will continue this term, will start next week, and will be on a Monday until May half term. Please see further details about these sessions further down this letter.

Water Bottles: Please ensure your child has a bottle of water (not juice) in the Nursery for drinking throughout the day. They may have juice in their lunchbox but no fizzy drinks.

Packed Lunches: We have peanut allergies in Nursery so we ask that no children have nuts or nut based snacks/spreads in their lunchboxes. We are a healthy school and ask that children do not bring in chocolates or sweets for lunch.

Toys: **We ask that toys/valuables are not brought in to school**, unless by prior arrangement with a member of staff.

Important Dates this half term:

Monday 19th April - Children return to Nursery
Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May - Children break up for the May half-term
Monday 7th June - Children return to Nursery
Tuesday 27th July - Last day of term



'Little Explorer' sessions

This term, we will continue our 'Little Explorer' sessions. During these sessions, we will use a variety of areas around the school, including our own garden, the wildlife area next to the nursery, the pond area and the field. During this session we will apply aspects of the 'forest schools approach' to provide the children with an alternative environment and approach to their learning. 'Forest Schools' was an idea originally developed in Denmark as one approach to Early Years education. It was recognised as having a positive impact on self-esteem, confidence and the ability to work in groups. Our 'Little Explorer' sessions will be planned alongside the Foundation Curriculum and will be included in our planning.

The Nursery children will enjoy their 'Little Explorer' sessions, **every** Monday morning, beginning on Monday 26th April, for up to an hour. After the May half-term, our sessions will swap to a different day and will continue to change each half term, so that throughout the year, all children have the chance to have at least one half term of 'Little Explorer' sessions.

On this day, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for being outdoors i.e. jeans and tracksuit bottoms (not best clothes - they will get extremely muddy). They will need to wear their normal shoes to Nursery and

bring named welly boots in a separate named carrier bag. If they have an all-in-one puddle suit, please provide this too.

Please could you provide the following items in a named bag and place on the rail outside in the morning:

Wellington boots are essential!

Clothes appropriate for weather - hats, gloves, warm waterproof coat/ puddle-suit etc.

A sunhat and sunscreen already applied if the weather is good.

In preparation for these sessions, please practise with your child the routine of taking their shoes off, placing them in their carrier bag, and putting their own wellies on, as well as the process in reverse! We will be working outside in all weathers, except in extreme weather conditions!