

 **October/November Newsletter 2020**

 We are all much better at wearing face masks when bringing and collecting children from Nursery– thank you. A parent has asked me if I could remind parents outside of the nursery door to maintain the 2m social distancing to keep us all safe. One of our parents, also, commented that we must be getting through a lot of hand sanitiser – the answer is ‘Yes we are’ and anti-bacterial soap!

It has been great with so much cooperation with all the parents and staff.

 Our Theme for October/November is intensive. We will cover great range of topics such as:

* People who help us in the community-great topic for children’s understanding in the current situation. We will be going through all the current guidelines in relation to COVID-19 with our preschoolers.
* We will develop an awareness of Autumn. Become aware of the weather conditions in Autumn – windy weather, clothes worn, changes in the natural environment e.g. leaves falling, berries ripening, hibernation.
* Developing an understanding of how to keep our minds and bodies healthy. This will be displayed through plenty of role play
* Black History Month- Why it is Important? We will be talking about our black history heroes and our teachers will be sharing some of their family history with them.
* Learn the meaning of ‘Harvest’ and understand that many different foods are produced.
* Learn new vocabulary associated with Halloween e.g. witch, cauldron, cast, spell, pumpkin. Listen to stories, songs and rhymes and engage in imaginative play related to theme.
* Health & safety- Learn about Fireworks, stranger danger etc..

At this time of the year we have always supported Macmillan Cancer Care by hosting an open coffee morning. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions we were unable to host our open coffee morning in September. This year To get the pupils involved this year we have decided to join it with Halloween and we are hosting a ‘Macmillan Halloween Costume week 26th- 30th October’ We ask for a donation of £1.00 per child towards this very deserving cause. Thank you in advance for your support.

Chef Santi and Nazia will start doing cookery club with the children every other week allowing the children to bake a variety of things including rolls, cheese straws, cookies and oat biscuits. These will be done a group of 4 and everyone will get an opportunity to do these activities with Santi. Cooking is such a great way to explore all areas of learning with the learning opportunities being completely open ended.

We will be updating the Autumn Term report on Famly by 18th December 2020. All the feedback will be through Famly private staff messages.

Here are a few important reminder

* The advice is that only one adult brings the child to school, to help with social distancing at the door and on the paths
* PLEASE remember that all adults, always, should socially distance themselves from other adults. You may wish to consider wearing a face mask whilst dropping off and collecting.
* PLEASE can you make sure that your child’s belongings are clearly labelled for example, sweatshirts and coats. This will greatly help your child and staff!
* PLEASE do not send your child into school with lace-up shoes, as they cannot manage these themselves and we want to avoid accidents and help them be as independent as possible
* PLEASE always telephone if your child will be off school because they are unwell. We have to complete a daily online register for the DfE and we need to know the reasons for children’s absences. If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, then you must keep them off school for 48 hours to avoid spreading the bug.
* As you are aware the symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 are:
* A new, continuous cough
* A high temperature (38. degrees or more)
* A loss of, or change in, smell or taste (anosmia) In a letter from ‘Public Health England’ and ‘NHS Test and Trace’, Headteachers have been urged to stop pupils, parents and staff from getting unnecessary coronavirus tests if you do not display the symptoms above, to help with the surge in demand for tests. We appreciate that this is a very difficult decision to make and that you are likely to follow the advice of your doctor.
* Keep in touch-Please download any files for child’s learning journey, as we delete the account after they have left. This has been such a wonderful way of keeping in touch and knowing what you are all up to
* Birthday celebrations-We do understand that your child’s birthday is a very important celebration for them. We always give your child a card and the class sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to them and they blow out the candles on cakes we will bake, currently. A reminder that we ask you not to send in cakes, biscuits or sweets to have in class or to send home. Thank you for your cooperation with this.
* Diary dates: Normally I would be taking great pleasure in sending you our ‘ Programme of Events’ with lots of opportunities for you to come into the setting and share in your child’s learning and workshops for you to attend. Sadly, these events are on hold, but as soon as we are back on track, we will be inviting you into the setting. In the meantime, please keep up to date by regularly looking at the news feed update on Family and responding to your child’s learning journal!
* Fees Query- Please email the manager or accounts@theorcharddaynursery.org. I will investigate it and will be able to update you immediately.

There is a ‘Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline’ which is available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children’s social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm You may be interested to read this report, published on 17th September:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Staff NEWS:

We have Priscilla Akyeampong Level 6 qualified; she is our Third in charge and Under 2’s room leader. She has many years’ experience in childcare.

Due to personal change in circumstances, it is with Heavy heart I inform that I will be leaving the nursery end of November. It has been a tough and difficult decision as I have loved being a part of this amazing team and of course the amazing children and families at Wimbledon. I am very sad to be saying goodbye, but I am very delighted to say Laura and Ugo will continue to provide the support and care you and your children need.

On behalf of the staff we send you our best wishes, keep safe, stay blessed and look after our community.

The Orchard Day Nursery has an open-door policy, if you have any questions please speak to management, we are always happy to help. Thank you for your continuous support!

Erum and the Nursery Team