

Year Group Leader update – NURSERY

We had Parent/Nursery consultations in September and it was immediately apparent that more than the usual number of children were not toilet trained and were presenting with additional needs. In consultation with Karen and colleagues in the Children's Centre, targeted parent and child sessions are being delivered to help support parents in recognising and supporting their child's needs. It has also given us some extra time to consider if the child needs further referral to other professionals and services or if after some guidance, the children will be able to manage the transition into Nursery. We need to consider the impact of Covid-19 on children and their families, and how this also impacts on us as a setting and what we are able to provide in a safe and secure environment for all of the children.

Staff organisation

We welcome Sabah (NQT) in **Blue** Room who I am supporting through conversations, with planning and transition of children. Meena, who is an established member of staff and who has worked in **Green** Room, now also has an afternoon class in the **Red** Room. This is providing her with valuable CPD - she is coping with this change extremely well. I am also supporting Meena where needed, again with planning, transitions and managing the needs of children. I will be in the **Green** afternoon session with the 2-year olds and am looking forward to this new step in my career.

Settling-in

This year in the Nursery we have started the settling and admittance procedure on Wednesdays. We have found that this works really well as the children attend for a few days, they then have a break over the weekend and are ready to be re-settled on Monday. This has helped as the children are calm and happy when the new intake of children arrives on Wednesday. We had ten children start in each class for one week. Followed by another ten and then the final few, omitting the children that are currently attending the sessions at the Children's Centre.

The Morning classes seem to be quite active and some of their communication and language skills are better than previous years. This has enabled a chatty classroom quite early on in the term and is providing good role models to the other children, i.e., using your voice as a tool to make yourself understood, share views and build relationships quickly with staff and other children.



"I need more, lots more. Oh, thank you for sharing! I've got two bananas. I'm doing one at a time."



A model of "Iron man and this is Spider man. My mum's favourite is Spider man."

The afternoon children are a little quieter and the atmosphere is more chilled and laid back, even though the majority come in happy and settled. The children attending so far are settling really well and I think having their own area in which to play outside has really helped with this process. They are able to be independent within their own space and take ownership without the older children taking over. Currently, the sandpits are not able to be used as they need some repair work and new sand (this work is being undertaken over the half-term break).



A new member of staff joined the Nursery team on the 13th October and she has been able to fit into the Nursery team really quickly, following procedures and making good relationships with the children and staff.

Where we are settling-in, we are focusing on '*All About Me*' where we are encouraging independence, such as taking off and putting on coats, managing going to the toilet on their own and hand washing. The children are also learning to drink from cups and to eat and choose their fruit, placing it in the bin themselves when they have finished with it.

In a week's time, we will begin to sit in keyworker groups for snack time where the children will be responsible for handing out the fruit and passing out drinks themselves.

Green Room began their morning session on the 13th October with four children and this has started well. A further four will be attending once the first four are fully settled. As you can see, these children really enjoyed their first day!

