

Autumn/Winter 2020 Newsletter

Black History Month!

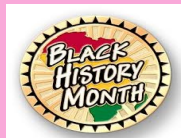
October was Black History Month and the children enjoyed a variety of fun and educational activities.

We celebrated this very important time of year by getting creative and making some fantastic African masks. The children from Erskine site also enjoyed a delicious African inspired lunch of rice, peas and chickpeas, as well as some amazing African drumming. The children played the drums to learn some traditional African music.

Unfortunately, Greenleaf site had to temporarily close for a short period, but the children have still been able to enjoy some Black History activities now that they are back in the setting.

However, we would like to encourage parents and carers to continue with the theme at home, and we have included a fun African mask activity that you can enjoy at home with your child!

Celebrating Black History at Home



CBeebies have a range of videos and resources available online that can help you and your child explore and celebrate Black History Month together at home. Copy and paste the link below or search Black History Month Cbeebies

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/black-history-month>

Dates for your diary

Opening Hours

We will be returning to normal opening hours as of Monday 2nd November 2020. The nursery will open at 7.30am and close at 6.30pm

Christmas & New Year Closure:

The nursery will close for the Christmas and New Year period on **Wednesday 23rd December at 4:30pm** and reopen on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Annual Summer Closure

We have decided to implement an annual closure during the summer term each year, as this will enable us to close for a shorter period of time over Christmas and New Year. This will be effective as of January 2021. Therefore, the nursery will be closed for one week from **Monday 2nd August 2021 to Friday 6th August 2021**. Please note that full fees remain payable over all setting closures.

Home Activity Idea Make an African Mask

Have fun with your child by making an African mask together. This is a great opportunity for you to celebrate Black History Month and an opportunity to explore black history in more depth.

You will need:

- Paper plate
- Paints
- Ice lolly stick
- String, wool or feathers
- PVA glue
- Sticky tape
- Scissors

Method:

Pre-draw very simple African inspired patterns on each paper plate, cut out eye-holes. Show your child how to decorate their mask by dipping a cotton bud into the paints and making dot designs. Next add some hair made from feathers or coloured paper, string, or wool. Finish off by using sticky tape to fix a lolly stick to the back of each mask for holding on to.



Children's Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day



The children will have their Christmas dinner on **Thursday 10th December**. We will provide you with our menu and alternative options nearer the time. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 parents and carers cannot attend.

We would also like the children to come wearing their Christmas jumpers or other clothes which have Christmas colours or designs on.

Socially distanced tea party



Owing to current COVID 19 pandemic, we are unable to host our annual tea party. As a result we would like to invite you to our socially distanced teddy bear's picnic! Please take part by having your own teddy bear's picnic at home on **Saturday 14th November** from 12-2pm. Please take some photos and bring them into us in the setting and we will create a wonderful display for all our children and families to enjoy!

REALLY INTERESTING READ

Small Talk, Big Benefits: Adding Conversations to Reading and Everyday Moments

This is a really interesting article all about the importance of having conversations with your child during reading time. It explores how everyday reading helps to develop and expand language development and vocabulary building.

Copy and paste this link below to access the article:
<https://www.gettingsmart.com/2019/10/small-talk-big-benefits-adding-conversations-to-reading-and-every-day-moments>

Fun Idea!!!

Why not build your own little reading den with your child at home. You can use blankets, pillows and cushions, soft toys, teddies and books to create a comfortable and inviting space to enjoy reading together. Activities such as these, help to encourage children to develop and nurture an interest in books and stories which is very important for early literacy development.



Continuation of children's learning & development at home

Waltham Forest's Early Years and Childcare Team, have launched the 'Learning Together' programme which has been developed by qualified teachers and speech and language therapists in partnership with Chit Chat Pitter Pat. This programme includes top tips on how parents and carers can help their children with their development through fun activities at home. If you are interest please join and follow their two existing Facebook groups below:

<https://www.facebook.com/chitchatpitterpatLBWF/>

<https://www.facebook.com/alltalkcommunicationproject/>



Home Learning Packs

Throughout the first March lockdown and during the recent temporary closure of Greenleaf site, we provided parents and carers with Home Learning Packs to support their children's learning and development at home. We hope that you found these helpful and easy to use. We will soon be asking all parents and carers for some feedback about these and we would be grateful if you would kindly complete the feedback and return it to us

Greenleaf Site Reopened

Due to a member of staff testing positive for COVID, it was necessary to close Greenleaf site temporarily. During this closure we worked closely with Public Health England to ensure that we followed all procedures correctly. Following a deep clean of the setting and no other confirmed cases, we reopened on Friday 30th October 2020. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support during these difficult times .

November to December 2020 Lockdown

As you are aware, on Saturday 31st October, the Government announced another national lockdown commencing from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December 2020. The Government's intention is that all early years provisions, schools, colleges and universities will remain open, we will therefore continue to operate as we currently have been, still following the same procedures as outlined in the column opposite. We will update you with any changes that we will make to our service as per Government or Local Authority guidance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID 19 Procedures

As of July 2020, early years settings are no longer required to keep children in "bubbles" as per Government guidance. We are therefore working with children in smaller groups as recommended. We are continuing with our thorough infection control measures which include; checking your child's temperature upon arrival and on departure, using the hand sanitiser, regular handwashing, shoe disinfecting and cleaning the setting regularly throughout the day.

We will continue to provide you with verbal feedback over the phone regarding your child's day in the nursery.

In order to ensure that we minimise the risk of COVID 19 infection within the setting, and to ensure that children who have been unwell are able to return to the nursery, you will be required to complete a Health Declaration Form. This form will ask you share what symptoms your child had when they were unwell, the action you took and the result of the COVID 19 test if one is performed. You will be asked to confirm that your child is COVID symptom free and well enough to return to the nursery.

Please beware that if your child displays any of the COVID 19 signs and symptoms whilst at the nursery, you must take them home. Your child cannot return until a COVID 19 test has been performed and the result received. You must adhere to Government guidelines with regards to isolation if required.

The setting returned to normal hours as of Monday 2nd November. We respectfully ask all parents/carers to adhere to their allocated drop off and collection times, in order to minimise children and parents/carers arriving/leaving at the same time..

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support
Thank you!



Nursery Calendar - Dec 2020 to Jan 2022

Key:		December 2020							January 2021											
Normal Nursery Day		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S					
National Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)			1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3					
Christmas/New Year Break (Nursery Closed)		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Annual Summer Break (Nursery Closed)		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
Staff Inset Day (Nursery Closed)		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
		28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
February 2021		March 2021							April 2021											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
May 2021		June 2021							July 2021											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				
August 2021		September 2021							October 2021											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31																			
November 2021		December 2021							January 2022											
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

Other important dates:

Socially Distanced Tea Party - Saturday 14th November 2020 from 12-2 pm

Children's Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 10th December 2020