



Autumn/Winter 2022

Newsletter



Up and coming festivals and celebrations

There are a number of festivals and celebrations occurring throughout the autumn and winter periods. These include Black History Month, Diwali and Christmas. Here at nursery we will be planning lot of fun and exciting activities to celebrate these and will keep you updated with our plans.

To start off this very exciting season, we have included this delicious recipe for Caribbean carrot juice to make and enjoy at home.

Caribbean Carrot Juice

This is a classic drink from the Caribbean islands and is usually made on a Sunday to have with dinner.

Ingredients: Carrots, apples, 1 small tin condensed milk, 2 tablespoons vanilla, 2 teaspoons of nutmeg, ¾ pint of milk, Water.

Method: Grate the carrots, dice the apples into small cubes and add with the other ingredients into the food processor and mix. Add small amounts of water slowly until you reach the consistency you prefer. Chill in the fridge or add some ice and enjoy!



Important dates for your diary

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| <u>Bank Holiday Closures-</u> | Monday 26 th December 2022- Boxing Day. Tuesday 27 th December 2022- Christmas Substitute Day. Monday 2 nd January 2023- News Year Day (Substitute day). |
| <u>Staff Inset Days-</u> | Tuesday 3 rd January 2023. |
| <u>Christmas Closure-</u> | The nursery will be <u>closed</u> from Friday 23 rd December 2022 and <u>reopen</u> on Wednesday 4th January 2023. (This closure includes national bank holidays 26 th , 27 th Dec 2022, 2 nd Jan 2023 & 3 rd Jan 2023 (Inset day). |
| <u>Other Important Dates</u> | -The children enjoyed their Black History celebration lunch on Friday 21 st October 2022. -The children's Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 14 th December 2022. -Tuesday 30 th May 2023- Annual Parents Report Day. |

Please see end page for the nursery calendar. Please also be reminded that full fees remain payable over all nursery closures.



At Erskine Site, We're Good!

We are so excited to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection at Erskine Site. We are very pleased to say that we have been given a "Good" rating, and we are especially happy with this grade since it was Erskine Site's first ever inspection! The inspector commented on lots of areas where we are working to a very high standard, in particular with regards to supporting children's language and independence skills. The inspector also talked to various parents and received lots of great feedback in regards to our partnership working strategies. As part of the usual inspection process, some areas for further development were identified, and these are around teaching and learning. As a result, we have already started to make changes to improve in this area, including the way we plan activities, reviewing our planning processes and implementing staff training. The full inspection report is available at Erskine Site and on the Ofsted website at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>.

Fees Increase

As you are aware our nursery fees will increase as of 1st November 2022. We have decided to increase fees early due to the current economic climate. We have done this in order to try and maintain our sustainability as an early years provider. In doing so, we have made a great effort to stay below the average nursery rate for our local area. Details have been forwarded by email to all parents/carers. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Our new autumn/winter menu

Our autumn/winter menu has been updated and a copy will be emailed to parents/carers shortly. The children will enjoy a range of autumn/winter inspired meals. As usual, all our meals are designed with young tummies in mind and are healthy, freshly prepared using the best seasonal ingredients. Children's individual needs and dietary requirements will be considered and will be catered for. We are always interested in feedback and new ideas, so please do let us know if you have any meal ideas or recipes you would like to recommend for future menus.

Staff training and updates

We recognise the importance of continuous professional development in order to improving outcomes for all children. As result many members of the staff and management team have been busy with continuous study! Some of the staff based at Erskine Site staff have been studying courses focusing on the importance of play and understanding attachment theory. Asma and Beata are also both refreshing their SENCO qualifications and as an early years setting, we continue to support the next generation of early apprentices..

Free Course

We would like to recommend this free course to parents/carers which is provided by the Open University - **The family at the centre of early learning**. This course focuses on the importance of family for children's learning. (Copy and paste) <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/the-family-the-centre-early-learning/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

Automated Invoice System

As of the 1st November 2022, we will be introducing our new invoice software system. This will automatically generate monthly invoices, invoice reminders, late fees and arrears reminders. We believe that this new software will make the invoice and payment process more efficient for both parents and the setting. Further details will be emailed directly to parents/carers along with our updated finance policy.

Parenta Parent Portal

As you may already be aware, we have recently introduced the Parent Portal within the nursery. Here at Sugar Plum Tree Nursery, we have been using the Parenta online software system as a tool to observe, assess, plan and track each child's individual learning and development journey for some time. As part of our goal to promote partnership working with all parents and carers, to improve communication and to work together to help all children reach their fullest potential, we are giving parents access to the Parent Portal. This enables us to share information with parents about their child's daily activities and care needs in a more convenient way. We have created an information sheet and policy for the Parenta Parent Portal which has been shared with all parents. In order to access the portal, parents must first sign the portal consent and agreement form and then they will receive personally unique login details from the nursery site manager Beata or Asma. If you have any questions please contact Beata or Asma.

Parents/Carers' Picnic



Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent picnic at Greenleaf Site. This was a great opportunity to view Greenleaf Site and meet the staff based there, especially for those parents who have children that have just transitioned there. As usual it was great to have so many parents and carers attend and joins us in getting together to catch up and share news. One of the topics discussed was our plans to introduce the Parenta Parent Portal.



The Queen's Passing

As a setting we joined the rest of the nation in mourning the death of the Queen on the 8th September 2022. Now we celebrate the coronation and reign of King Charles III as we enter a new era. Learning about the Royal Family forms part our curriculum as the children learn about British Values. British Values are a set of four values introduced to help keep children safe and promote their welfare. British Values is firmly embedded in the learning opportunities that we provide in the nursery, The four values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs



Football Club

The children at Greenleaf Site have been enjoying weekly football sessions provided by a visiting coach from Super Star Sport. These sessions provide great opportunities for the children to learn to play as part of a team, take turns and follow game rules. The children are also developing their balance and coordination skills and spatial awareness.



Helping children to learn

Mark making is a term used for the creation of different patterns, lines and shapes that children draw or write. This may be on a piece of paper, on the floor, outside in the garden or on an object or surface. It could be a simple dot or a line across a paper, all of this contributes to developing early writing skills. **Why is mark-making important?** Mark-making is not just about early writing; it is a sensory and physical experience which can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. As well as early writing, mark-making can develop into mathematical representation and creative expression. Copy and paste the link below to find out more.
<https://playofthewild.com/2021/01/24/eyfs-mark-making-ideas-activities-that-help-children/>

COVID 19, Medication and unwell child Update

We acknowledge that there are times when children become unwell and it is the setting's intention to support children and families during these times as much as possible. However, the primary concern is for the welfare of all the children within the setting and for the staff team. Therefore, it is our policy that unwell children who are distressed by their symptoms or who have any infectious/contagious conditions must be cared for at home until they are fully recovered.

Children with symptoms of COVID 19 must follow current Government guidance and keep us fully informed. In order to minimise the risk of COVID 19, we will continue with our current drop off/pick up procedures and our rigorous cleaning regime.

If children are unwell, with symptoms other than those related to COVID 19, parents/carers need to consider if their child is well enough to attend the setting. The setting cannot care for children who have a raised temperature above 38 degrees celsius, diarrhoea, vomiting or are distressed by other symptoms. If parents/carers feel it is necessary to administer fever and/or pain reducing medication, such as Calpol at home to keep their child comfortable whilst in nursery, they should keep their child at home until their child is fully recovered. Parents/carers must inform the nursery management team of ANY medication given at home before they leave their child in the setting.

Contact information

For general enquiries and to share updates, please email us at info@sunbeamspt.co.uk and a member of the admin team will respond to you or pass your email on to the relevant person.

To speak to one of the Nursery Site Managers, please see below:

Asma (Greenleaf Site) call 020 8521 5524 and select option 1. Alternatively, you can email Asma@sunbeamspt.co.uk

Beata (Erskine Site) call 020 8521 5524 and select option 2. Alternatively, you can email Beata@sunbeamspt.co.uk

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| Key: | |
| Normal Nursery Day | |
| National Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed) | |
| Christmas/New Year Break (Nursery Closed) | |
| Annual Summer Break (Nursery Closed) | |
| Staff Inset Day (Nursery Closed) | |

| December 2022 | | | | | | |
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| January 2023 | | | | | | |
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| February 2023 | | | | | | |
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| April 2023 | | | | | | |
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| May 2023 | | | | | | |
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| June 2023 | | | | | | |
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| July 2023 | | | | | | |
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| August 2023 | | | | | | |
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| September 2023 | | | | | | |
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| October 2023 | | | | | | |
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| November 2023 | | | | | | |
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| December 2023 | | | | | | |
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| January 2024 | | | | | | |
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Annual Summer Break – The nursery will close for our annual summer break from Mon 31st July to Fri 4th August 2023. The children will return to nursery on Monday 7th August 2023.

Staff Inset Days- The nursery will close for staff inset days on: Tues 3rd Jan 2023, Mon 24th April 2023, Tues 30th May 2023 & Tues 2nd Jan 2024.

National Bank Holidays- The nursery will close for ALL national bank holidays (See next column).

Nursery Fees- Nursery fees remain payable for ALL closures.

National Bank Holidays

- Monday 26th December 2022- Boxing Day
- Tuesday 27th December 2022- Christmas (Substitute day)
- Monday 2nd January 2023- News Year (Substitute day)
- Friday 7th April 2023- Good Friday
- Monday 10th April 2023- Easter Monday
- Monday 1st May 2023- May Day Holiday
- Monday 29th May 2023- Spring Bank Holiday
- Monday 28th August 2023- Summer Bank Holiday
- Monday 25th December 2023- Christmas Day
- Tuesday 26th December 2023- Boxing Day
- Monday 1st January 2024- New Year's Day