



The White House Nursery Borrowwash Parent Newsletter – March 2021

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their continued support and understanding throughout these challenging times. We understand that the weather is sometimes unpredictable and there may be a slight wait when getting children into and out of the building during drop off and collection times. Thank you for your patience.

Parent Memos:

- Please ensure your child is well enough to be at nursery. We understand that as the weather is changing colds are more common, however when your child is ill they may need to be at home to avoid spreading illness to other children
- Please ensure no medication is stored in children's bags. Children can access their own belongings whilst at nursery and this is to ensure we are keeping all children safe. If a child does require prescribed medication whilst at nursery this needs to be handed over to the staff member on arrival and the required forms to be filled out.
- Please discourage children from bringing toys in from home, unless this is used as a comforter. Also, no foods to be brought in from home as we have children on site with severe allergies.
- Please ensure that your child has a nursery bag with enough spare clothes in for the day and that they are suitable for the changes in weather. Please also ensure and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. We do have some nursery clothes for emergencies, but these are also running low. If you have any nursery clothes at home, please can you return them.
- We appreciate some of our parents may be exempt from wearing a face covering, so please ensure you are maintaining social distancing at all times when dropping off and collecting children.
- Can you please ensure that you have collected your child in time to receive feedback before their session finishes. We are trying to put as much information as possible on parent zone to support smooth collection times but if there is anything you want to know please ask.
- We want to remind all parents that nursery closes at 6.00pm, all children need to be collected and feedback given by 6.00pm in order to give staff the time to complete health and safety and close down checks before their shift finishes.
- It is imperative that you let us know if any of your emergency details change. This includes your secure passwords, caregiver names, home address, telephone numbers and email addresses. This information must be up to date at all times in the event of an emergency and we need to contact you.



What to pack in your nursery bag...

- ☒ A supply of wipes *(All children)*
- ☒ A supply of nappies
- ☒ Changes of clean clothes
- ☒ Nappy Cream
- ☒ Child's Medication
(To be handed over to unit staff and documents signed)
- ☒ Seasonal items
(Wellies, hat, gloves, coat or snow suit, sun hat)
- ☒ Spare underwear
- ☒ Comforter *(If applicable)*

Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid any mix ups!



What NOT to pack in your nursery bag...

- ☒ Adults Medication
- ☒ Snacks/ Sweets
- ☒ Drinks
- ☒ Nappy Sacks
- ☒ Plastic Bags
- ☒ Cigarettes
- ☒ Money



Some of these items could be a health and safety risk for children, please ensure they are not left in nursery bags.
Thank you.

Outdoor Play:

The children continue to spend a large part of the day outside, so please can we ask all parents to provide suitable footwear and clothing for outdoor play such as - wellies, a warm waterproof coat and/or a puddle suit. This includes babies who are cruising/ crawling. These can be left at nursery if needed.

Starting School September 2021:

If your child is starting school in September 2021 you will be informed of your child's allocated school on 16th April 2021. Can we ask all parents and carers to **inform us of your child's place as soon as you know** so we can start their transition process.

Direct Debits:

You can now sign up to our direct debit system to make paying your nursery fees so much easier. If you would like more information, please ask management and we will be able to send this across to you.







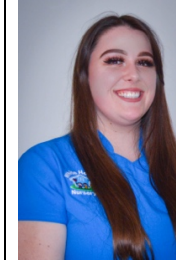
Staff Updates:

Congratulations to Shelley on working for the nursery for 30 years!

Congratulations to Sharna and her partner on the birth of their son!

Congratulations to Luke and Lorna on the birth of their daughter!

We would also like to welcome Tanya, Mary and Ashleigh to the team.

						
Shelley	Sharna	Luke	Lorna	Tanya	Mary	Ashleigh

Safeguarding:

Can we please ask that when you are driving in or out of the nursery car park you keep your speed to a minimum and drive with caution.

We ask all parents and carers to inform us if and when your child has had an injury at home, no matter how small it may seem. You will need to complete a pre-existing injury form on drop off with the details of the injury, so the staff are aware.

Parent Zone:

If you are having problems accessing Parent Zone please let a member of nursery management know so this can be rectified. We are using the Parent Zone app more and more in order to keep parents up to date on how their child is getting on at nursery, and we'd hate for any parents to miss out on this. Providing updates via Parent Zone also helps us to keep handovers at the main door safe and quick to a minimum by not keeping parents stood for too long.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday) and Monday 5th April (Easter Monday) Nursery will be closed to all children.

Easter Holiday - Children on a 44 week or 38 week contract will break up on Thursday 1st April and will return on Monday 19th April.

Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday, nursery closed

Monday 31st May - Bank Holiday, nursery closed

May Half Term - Children on a 38 week contract will break up on Friday 28th May and will return on Monday 7th June

Play, Learning and Development:

On Parent Zone you will have received your child's December assessment and this information will have been used to plan for your child's next step in learning. Please continue to help and support us by sending in your observations from home. The information we have about your child the better.

Children from the Toddler unit upwards will plan 3 next steps for the following term. We try use the information to plan for.

1. Activities linked to your child's interests.
2. A next step to scaffold on your child's strength in an area
3. A next step to cover a gap in children's learning and development.

Why do we plan for children's interests?

Planning around a child's interest will encourage and support learning, and children are more likely to thrive when activities are provided around their interests. Please keep your key worker updated when your child's interest changes.

Why do we plan for and scaffold a child's strength?

Planning for a child's strength is important to scaffold on something a child is already good at to develop their skill set further. We recognize and celebrate the skills children have by continually supporting their knowledge and broadening their opportunities in the areas they excel in.

Why do we plan for a gap in children's development?

Gaps in children's learning can appear for many reasons, it maybe that children do not use those skills at nursery but do at home which are why observations from home are important. It maybe that we have not covered those areas in our observations, it could be an area in learning that children naturally are not as interested in or it could be a development delay. We plan for gaps in learning to prevent long term delays in development, prime areas in learning will be priority which included Communication and Language, Personal and Social Development and Physical development.

If you have any questions, please ring nursery to speak to your child's key person.

When will my child write their name?

This is one of the most common questions we are asked. The answer is that when they are physically ready to do so, and we advise that we do push the children to write their name until they start taking an interest.

Pointers for Supporting Handwriting:

Are they ready?

It is not unusual to hear children who are taking part in mark-making activities complaining that they can't/do not want to do it. This is because the muscles have not developed enough to support gripping the pencil or crayon. As a result, this is a painful experience, and the brain decides to do as little as possible.

The wrist bones in girls are usually fully developed by age four years five months whereas in boys it is generally not until five years six months.

We therefore must ensure that children who are not physically ready to write are provided with lots of opportunities to strengthen their shoulders, elbows, wrists and hands for example, painting with mops, decorator brushes and rollers, air writing with wands and light sabres, laying on the floor, climbing and mark making underneath tables.

The development of hand dominance:

Children 'may be beginning to show a preference' at 22- 36 months; children should be reaching and holding more with one hand.

A child 'shows a preference' at 40 – 60 months; hand dominance should be pretty firmly established by 5½ years of age;

Warning: Children may become frustrated or restless as a result of not being able to master fine motor movement these children require more time and space to foster gross motor movement in developing the strength in their shoulders, elbows, wrists and hands.

When children start to show an interest in writing their name it is important that **adults should not guide the hands of children** that are writing. If they cannot do it on their own, they are not ready to do it and we do not encourage children writing over dots as this is a very different movement to writing fluently.

Supporting Awareness

Let your child watch as you write to see how letters are formed

Write your child's name and allow them to copy the letters (it does not matter if these marks do not look like letters to begin with)

If they make a picture scribe what the child tells you about the picture so they understand that those letters have a purpose

Write shopping lists together

Point out writing in the environment for example signs giving messages

Children need to practice making vertical lines and circles before forming letter shapes

Developing Core Strength

Children also need to develop core strength to be able to sit on a chair at a table to be able to write. Developing core strength is important at all ages and you can provide many opportunities including:

- Tummy time – such reading books, or mark making on the floor
- Crawling activities – through tunnels
- Kneeling – completing jigsaws on the floor
- Jumping and hopping
- Climbing – on ladders and over rocks
- Hanging – from monkey bars
- Rolling – up and down hills
- Balancing – on beams or walking along logs

Have fun with your child building and developing their gross motor and fine motor strength and skills with some of the activities below...

Supporting Handwriting with lots of large physical movement activities:



Fine motor activities to support the development of hand and fingers:



National Lockdown:

As this is our third National Lockdown since the pandemic started in March 2020, and nearly a year on many of us are facing many difficulties, challenges and anxieties from this situation.

At present, the majority of our children and families are accessing the nursery but some families are deciding to keep their children at home.

Whatever your individual circumstances may be, if you require further help and support with your child's learning and development at home please let us know.

Our staff continue to update and communicate with parents via the Parent Zone app to inform you of what your child will be learning and experiencing at nursery along with ideas and activities you can do at home.

We love to see what you have been busy doing at home so please continue to send us photos, videos and observations of your child to support what we do at nursery.

We have included some resources on our website which we hope will be useful in supporting you and your child during this time. Please visit www.thewhitehousenursery.co.uk/blog

