

17th November 2023

# PARENT NEWSLETTER



## Key Information:

- **Monday 20th November—Ocean room cinema trip please look out for consent form**
- **Friday 8th December—Development session, school opens at 10am for all children**
- **Friday 8th December 2023—Fun Friday, Christmas Crafts, parents welcome between 10-11am**
- **Thursday 21st December 2023, Last day of term for all children, school closes at 1pm**

## HEADTEACHER'S SECTION by Sally Franklin

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Dear parents and carers,

November has been a very busy month in the nursery. The children have been learning about Diwali a Festival of Light where they have made Diya lamps and have been using bright colours in their art work. We will continue to focus on light and dark in the rooms in the coming weeks, before we begin our celebrations for Christmas.

Please remember that you can choose books to take home from the book lending library in the front garden. Take a book bag, borrow a book and return the book and swap for another one when you have finished.

You will soon be receiving dates to book for parent consultation meetings with your child's key person. For those of you that have children moving rooms, you will also be offered a transition meeting so that you can meet your child's new key person and visit the new classroom.

Can I please remind you to collect your child promptly at 6pm so that staff can lock the building and go home. If you need to speak to your child's key person or room leader, please arrive before 6pm.

### Staffing news

At the end of November, Veverley who currently works in the toddler room will be retiring. Veverley has worked at North Islington Nursery school for 23 years and has been a much loved staff member by children, parents and staff. We all wish Veverley well in her retirement and look forward to hearing about her next adventure.

### Governor news

Jack Kerr who is the parent of Marley in Ocean room has kindly agreed to take up the role of one of our parent governors. I'd like to thank Jack and our other parent governors, Mary and Ruxandra for all their time that they dedicate to leading our school.

Sally

## A note from Veverley

Thanking those staff and parents who took time in their day to check on me when I was extremely poorly for many months. All those who gave sincere kindness and encouragement via text, email or gave the lovely get-well gifts what a pleasant surprise I was so overwhelmed.

I got there, my road to recovery was slow and sometimes rocky but then became steady. It has not been easy nor was climbing "Kilimanjaro" but as you know I'm a very determined woman as I'm not easily defeated and try to remain positive and focused. I never give up in anything I do. I always find a way somehow. I don't let my illness define me as I'm more than that. I remained focused throughout. It was challenging at times for me with an unwavering faith in God and love of family and true friends I made it. I'm much better and thankful and reflective.

I have worked at North Islington Nursery School over 23yrs and have had many experiences I'm sure you will agree. I have known many of you for a long time. I have learnt a lot regarding teaching practices in childcare, working with other professionals, and learning skills. I have had opportunities to work and support children from various backgrounds and with special educational needs.

I will miss the children and friendly families whom I have been key worker to over years it's been a great honour seeing their children achieve.

I Remember the exciting school outings and International evenings (loved the vibrant music and food) I always looked forward to them yearly. It made me want to experience new things globally/travel. As Shelley would laugh, " Veverley you and your belly"

I'm extremely excited and looking forward to life, I'm not looking backwards I have no regrets. I remain optimistic.

Time for a new chapter & new lifestyle & journey. There's a world out there and I haven't seen it. I'm making my own sunshine.

I going to get my new beginning and adjust my crown.

I always say, "live life don't let life live you"  
You can all say "Veverley lived happily ever after."

Wishing a smooth transition after Christmas for children moving rooms.  
Goodbye everyone take care of yourselves remember your wellbeing is very important.

Enjoy life, God bless.

Veverley

## BABY ROOM by Becky Powell

Now that it is getting darker earlier in the day the children have been exploring light and shadows in the garden every evening using torches which has been very exciting. The staff have also been using other resources to further explore light such as our sensory phones that light up with different colours and make sounds and other lighting up and glowing sensory toys.

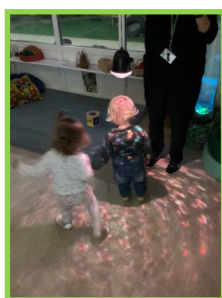
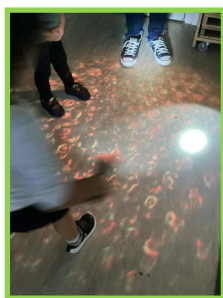
Sensory play has been a popular activity all this week and the children have been using their hands, fingers and small tools to explore cornflour mixed with water and other "messy" materials. This is a great opportunity to extend language, fine motor skills and explore and discover different materials.

Outdoors the children have been enjoying challenging themselves with climbing and balancing on low level blocks, rolling balls to one another and down slopes and throwing bean bags into a large target.

Many of the children have been exploring their interest in enveloping by using the dolls, wrapping them up in blankets and carrying them around the room or pretending to put them to sleep.

The staff continue to support the children with turn taking and sharing and during group times have been encouraging them to pass different objects to their friends and say whose turn it is next.

Popular stories this week have been "Whatever Next" and "Where is the Bear" in a large book format and even though these are quite long stories for this age group they have held the children's attention.



# TODDLER ROOM by Becky Powell

One of the core books in Toddler Room this term is "Whatever Next" and the children have loved playing in the space station that the staff have created. The children have been making 3D planets to hang up in the classroom by covering balloons with mod roc and then painting them. This has been a lovely collaborative activity and is also interesting for the children to be a part of a longer process. Many have been interested in retelling the story by acting out the story of "Whatever Next" using the props available and pretending to go to space to find some aliens. It has also been a great opportunity for the staff to extend their interest in space which has led to many of the children using language such as comet, astronaut and planet names.

The school have been celebrating the Festival of Diwali by looking at pictures, making paper lanterns and Diya pots with clay.

Many of the children have been requesting for music and so the staff have been playing our collection of CD's that they are all enjoying dancing and singing along to.

Outside in the garden the staff have been supporting and extending the children's interest in numerals and counting by writing the numerals on the floor with large chalks.

Following the INSET day training last week, the staff have been using some of the strategies to support children's self-regulation and ways to feel calmer if they become upset such as the 5-finger breathing technique.



This morning the children had the opportunity to take part in a cooking activity to make pizza. The children rolled out the dough, spread the tomato sauce and then added toppings of peppers and cheese. This activity supports so many areas of learning including fine motor skills, communication, turn taking and mathematical language of shape and size.

## Reminders

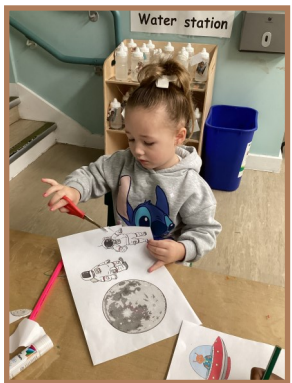
Please look at the notice board on the veranda for any information.

Please remember to check that your child has spare clothes in their bag.

Could you check the shelf above the pegs for any wet clothes that need to go home. The items should be in a small plastic bag with your child's name on a label.

We do understand that many children like to bring a toy from home with them in the morning, but this often becomes difficult as they can get lost, broken or create problems as other children want to play with them.







## OCEAN ROOM by Nikki Fuller

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We have had a wonderful and busy first 3 weeks since our half term break! We started off celebrating Guy Fawkes by creating spectacular firework art using glue, glitter, rice and sequins. Over the last 2 weeks we have been exploring Diwali – the festival of lights! We have made lanterns out of colourful paper and diyas for candles out of clay. We read books about the special holiday and watched a video of how a family in London celebrate Diwali with light decorations, colourful Rangoli patterns, traditional dress and delicious food! The festival has also linked up well with our current Art focus with Cath which is all about the exploration of light. Please take a look at our expanding Art with Cath display on the board near the sand tray.

We have said goodbye to *Owl Babies* and hello to our new core book, *We're going on a bear hunt* by Michael Rosen. We have enjoyed making our own bear hunt books and stick figure puppets, some of which are up on our core book display, not to mention lots of swishing, splashing, squelching, stumbling and tiptoeing around the garden!

We have also been enjoying making slime, digging in the garden for worms, mushroom hunting, role-playing in the small world area and building patterns with playdough, buttons and loose items to name a few.

Happy Friday!

### Ocean Room Reminders:

Please make a habit of checking the whiteboard outside the entrance to the room. This is where we note down items that are needed to restock your child's spare clothes. There are a number of bags that are fairly empty at the moment. Please be sure to have a look when you next come in.



## School Admissions

Please be reminded that children who turn 4 prior to 31st August 2023, need to apply for a reception class place before **15th January 2024**.

## Funded Childcare for 2 & 3 year olds

Please can we remind all parents who are currently accessing 30hrs funded childcare to renew your eligibility each term. HMRC will email you a reminder. If you do not renew then you risk losing the additional funded hours.

**3 year olds** If your child has turned 3 between 1 September and 31 December 2023 then you will automatically receive 15hr funded childcare from January. You are not required to do anything to receive the reduction in fees, we will issue you with a new contract in due course. Some families are entitled to 30hrs funded childcare. In order to receive 30hrs both parents need to be working more that 16hrs per week and earning under £100K per year as individuals. If you think you are eligible for 30hrs funded childcare you must complete an online form prior to the 31st December in order to receive the funding for January. If you are eligible you will be given a code and you will be required to complete a form which you can collect from reception.

To apply for 30hrs funded childcare or for further details please follow the link below:

### **30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

Please note if your child currently attends nursery less than 30hrs per week we can only extend to 30hrs subject to availability. Please ensure you let us know as soon as possible if you would like to increase your hours.

**2 year olds** If your child has turned 2 between 1 September and 31 December 2023 then you might be eligible for 15hrs funded childcare from September. Families who are non working or those who are working but the family income is less than £16K per year might be eligible for the funded hours. You will be required to complete an online form and provide us the code if you are eligible. To apply or for further details please follow the link below:

### **Free early learning for 2 year olds | Islington Council**



## Christmas Dates

**Friday 8th December 2023, Fun Friday, Christmas Crafts 10-11am** all parents welcome

**Wednesday 20th December 2023, Christmas Dinner for children**

**Thursday 21st December 2023, Christmas party and visit from Father Christmas.** Children to be collected at 1pm

# DIARY DATES Autumn Term

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## **IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE**

Due to the availability of the training provider our January INSET has been rearranged. The INSET will now take place on **Thursday 11th January** and not Monday 8th January as originally planned.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## **Autumn Term**

**Monday 20th November 2023**, Ocean room cinema trip

**Friday 8th December 2023**, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

**Friday 8th December 2023**, Fun Friday, Christmas Crafts, parents welcome between 10-11am

**Thursday 21st December 2023**, Last day of term for all children, **school closes at 1pm**

## **Spring Term**

**Wednesday 3rd January 2024**, School reopens for AYR children only

**Monday 8th January 2024, INSET CANCELLED**

**Monday 8th January 2024**, School reopens for TTO children

**REARRANGED DATE Thursday 11th January 2024**, INSET, school closed for all children

**Monday 22nd January 2024**, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

**Monday 12 - 16th February 2024**, Half term, school closed for TTO children

**Friday 8th March 2024**, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

**Thursday 28th March 2024**, INSET, school closed for all children

**Friday 29th March 2024—Monday 1 April 2024**, Bank Holiday, school closed for all children

*Happy to be here.....*