



North Star Nursery Parent Newsletter July 2021

Dear parents,

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Staffing updates

- Nicky will be moving to a Bank staff contract at the end of her maternity leave.

New UKRI signage has been installed on site, which includes the nursery. We are hopeful this will help potential clients, visitors and deliveries to find us easier.

Focus – Communication

We are currently in the process of studying the revised EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) document that we need to follow from 1st September 2021.

We will keep you up to date with the impact of any changes over the coming months.

Due to covid 19 secure working we minimised the personal items being brought into nursery by the children for the “must have” such as change of clothes and sleep toy. We very much want to keep this minimum but do welcome books for sharing and talking about. A book that becomes a favourite, one a child finds funny, they join in with and want to share with nursery friends is welcome. It will be kept in their tray or pigeonhole and so needs to be small enough for this.

The sharing of books, even when you just talk about the illustrations and don't even finish the actual book are important factors in supporting communication, comprehension and literacy. A range of reading material is also important: - factual, fiction, comics, catalogue, poems, rhymes, repetition, alliteration, dual language, counting, board books, cloth books, hardback, paperback.

Footnote

Opening Hours: Due to COVID 19 are 8.00am – 5.45pm (Last pick up 5.45pm) timeslots are issued during Covid
Contact: 01793 411994 Email: info@northstarnursery.co.uk

Dates for your diary

15th July – Graduation Day for school Risers

Week of 19th July 2021 Eid celebrations

23rd July- sing and sign day

30th July – International Friendship Day

26th July – 27th August 2021

Holiday club operating.

During week 9th August – Nigerian Yam Festival (Igu Aro)

10th August 2021 – Circus skills workshop for Holiday Club and Discovers

13th Aug – international Left Handers Day

19th August – No pens day (staff will be keeping writing to a minimum and enjoying more play time)

26th August – European languages day.

30th August BANK HOLIDAY - NURSERY CLOSED

10th September – Garden day

North Star Nursery – Where every child can shine.

The revised EYFS has a real focus on communication threading through all seven areas of learning.

EYFS -Snapshot of changes to the 7 areas of learning

Area of learning	Changes	Changes
Communication and Language (C&L)	More focus on extending vocabulary	
Personal, Social, and emotional Development (PSED)	Self-Regulation	Self-care (Moved from PD)
Physical Development (PD)	Motor skills (Fine motor and gross motor) and control co-ordination	Physiological and cardiovascular
Literacy (L)	Comprehension	
Mathematics (M)	Deep understanding of numbers to 10	SSM not an ELG but needs teaching along with patterns
Understanding the World (UTW)	Technology no longer separate but still needs covering alongside history, geography, and science	Emphasis on Past events.
Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)	Clarity and focus on developing language through this area.	

Communication, Communication, Communication, chat, play, read, love.

As part of the revised EYFS welfare requirements for food and drink, we have carried out a review of our menus using the document provided by the government “*example menus for early years settings in England Part1: guidance.*”

We have identified 3 actions to implement: -

- Cease using dried fruit as a single serving. It must be served within a dish to prevent sticking to the teeth for extended time periods. E.g., can use raisins in spotted dick or apple strudel, but not has a handful of raisins at snack time.
- Increase protein in vegan and vegetarian dishes. We will be adding pulses and lentils.
- Provide finger foods as part of each meal to encourage infants (6-10 months) to feed themselves, develop hand eye co-ordination and learn to bite off, chew and swallow pieces of soft food. Snack and tea already provide daily opportunities. We will be adding items such as baby corn, carrot sticks, toast to main meals to support this.

In addition to the finger foods being art of main meals, we share with you further guidance on current weaning practice: -

At about six months many infants will be able to manage a range of blended and mashed foods as well as being able to hold food and feed themselves. To help infants progress to a range of textures and tastes quickly and encourage them to move lumps around their mouths and chew, try to move on from purees to mashed foods as soon as infants can manage them. From six months of age, infants can be encouraged to drink water from a cup (or beaker with a free-flowing valve).

The ability to bite, chew and swallow foods it key in developing the mouth muscles, which in turn support the formation of speech sounds and early language development.

Footnote

Opening Hours: Due to COVID 19 are 8.00am – 5.45pm (Last pick up 5.45pm) timeslots are issued during Covid
 Contact: 01793 411994 Email: info@northstarnursery.co.uk

UKRI Parenting Staff Network

In April 2021, UKRI launched a number of [staff networks](#) as an important channel for improving and championing diversity and inclusion across the organisation. This included the UKRI Parenting Network: a voluntary, employee-run group set up as a forum for colleagues with childcare responsibilities to connect, socialise and support one another, with the aim of driving positive change within UKRI as a family-friendly employer. The Parenting Network is open to all UKRI colleagues with a focus on those with parenting and guardianship responsibilities, as well as line managers and colleagues looking for guidance on parenting matters.

If you would like to sign up or find out more, you can visit the [Parenting Network on The Source](#), or email at parentingnetwork@ukri.org.

Introduction to the Management Committee

As you probably know, Julie Jones is the Nursery Manager and does a fantastic job running the nursery. What you might not know, is there is also a Management Committee – formed of parents and/or UKRI employees who provide advice and direction to Julie regarding the management of the nursery. Above the Management Committee, there is a Board of Directors.

As Chair of the Management Committee I wanted to make you aware of our existence and let you know that at any time you can contact me (or any other member of the committee), if you have questions, ideas, or feedback you would like the committee to consider. You can also contact me if you would like to become a member! More details, including member profiles, can be found at: [North Star Nursery Ltd - Management Committee](#).

As things start to return to normal, we hope to include a brief update in the parent newsletters about the latest issues the committee have been discussing, including investment ideas, fund raisers and the direction the nursery is taking. If you'd like to know about a particular issue, please do let me know.

Michal Williams (nee Filtness) – Committee Chair (and mother of Chloe Williams in Discoverers)

COVID 19

Each week we could email out how many children and staff have been absent due to displaying possible Covid symptoms, as we continue to send children home with raised temperatures and or coughs. It is not a decision we make lightly, even though we know we are following the Government instructions. We know generally, children just need a little down time at home with parents or grandparents and will bounce back, but currently they are absent from nursery longer whilst PCR tests are booked, and results awaited.

We are aware that several families have undergone this process in excess of 6 times and the children are aware of what is going to happen and become distressed.

Absence from nursery also hinders their personal social and emotional development, their friendships and particularly for new children their settling into nursery.

If you have one or more symptoms, then a PCR test must be booked.

Should any LFT or PCR tests results be positive please ring the nursery as soon as possible. If results come in over the weekend, please contact the nursery via info@northstarnursery.co.uk giving details of the person and the start date of symptoms.

Thank you for your on-going support.
Take care of each other and those you love.

Footnote

Opening Hours: Due to COVID 19 are 8.00am – 5.45pm (Last pick up 5.45pm) timeslots are issued during Covid
Contact: 01793 411994 Email: info@northstarnursery.co.uk