



The Little Lighthouse Nursery • Newsletter

We can hardly believe that we are now well into our summer term and will be saying goodbye to our first cohort of children very soon. We have witnessed so much positive change, as well as personal and academic growth with each and every child. We are so proud of them all. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure each child has a smooth transition into 'big

school'. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the nursery manager.

*We have
Winner!*

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the Book Challenge Competition in Aid of the Turkish Earthquake was Zarina! We hope you enjoyed your hamper of goodies.

Diary Dates: Nursery Closed for Bank Holiday 1st 8th 29th of May (There is an additional closure day of 8th of June for Polling Day)

Topic This Term

The topic this term is 'Life Cycles'. We have had caterpillars, and the children have watched them turn into their chrysalis and now we have four beautiful Painted Lady butterflies, which we shall be releasing this week.

The children have planted their own bean plants and watched them grow. Some have been more successful than others, but it has been a great source of hands-on learning. We have had discussions around what plants need to grow and have observed the lifecycle of a bean.

Children will also talk about their own personal daily life cycles e.g., wake up, brush teeth, have breakfast etc. It would be great if parents could mirror this conversation with children at home. Why not try and see if your child can include the words, *First, Next, Then, After that, Finally, etc* when talking about routines.

We have also had discussions about the life cycle of nocturnal animals and were delighted for the children to enjoy a visit from **The Raptor Foundation!** This truly was a memorable experience, and we are pleased to learn that some of the children are still talking about it at home.

Phonics

As you all know we do 1:1 reading here at the nursery. During these sessions we reinforce the phonics taught. We can never over emphasise the importance of reading with your child everyday to get them into a healthy reading culture. There will be times of course where you may not be able to fulfil this request, but even if you are not able to physically sit with your child and read, it is still of much value to give them a book to have a look at. They will begin to independently notice sounds and words they have learnt at the nursery and will be able to begin to anticipate the next part of the story using the illustrations, which is all a very valuable part of the reading process. We ask that you continue to look after the nursery phonics books so that all children are able to enjoy. If you do not return a nursery book, we cannot issue you another one until returned. Please remember that we have signed up to Oxford Owl which has a fantastic collection of phonics books that you can read with your child alongside the books given at the nursery. Please click on the following link to the *students login* homepage: [Login \(oxfordowl.co.uk\)](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) and the username and password are as follows: Please let us know if this is useful for you.

Username: thelittlighthouse Password:littlelights2023

Diary Dates: Nursery Closed for Bank Holiday 1st 8th 29th of May (There is an additional closure day of 8th of June for Polling Day)

Please remember that we teach the 'pure sounds'. For example, 's' would be 'sss' and not 'ser' etc. The following link includes a video that teaches you the pure sounds. [What is Letters and Sounds? - Oxford Owl for Home](#) We continue to learn how to segment and blend simple two and three lettered words such as, **at, an, as, it, in, sat, pat, pin, tin, etc.** We also teach phase 1-5 Tricky Words. Each child is awarded a certificate as they work through the phases. Please do not be alarmed if your child has not yet received a certificate, we have a variety of children all of different ages and levels of development and there is absolutely no rush, but please rest assured that each child accesses the same opportunities. You can help your child at home with their phonics using your child's tin.

Mathematics: Maths mastery continues to be our focus at the nursery, a deep-rooted appreciation for what each number stands for. Getting a good grasp of numbers 0-10 remains our primary focus. Children will continue to have a hands-on approach to maths. We are really pleased that almost all children have subscribed to nursery snacks. This is an opportunity for children to prepare their own snack. Much maths and chopping skills are learnt during this activity. Basic addition, subtraction, halving and doubling etc. In addition to this, children are encouraged to try fruits outside of their comfort zone. We adopt a (smell, lick, bite approach) for children who are a little unsure. With peers trying the same fruits at the same time children are often encouraged by themselves to try. During this session we also encourage conversations to extend language, such as the use of adjectives to describe fruit, e.g., juicy, hairy, round, crunchy etc. We have discussions about where in the world the different fruit grow.

Enterances and Exits: At the end of the day we will now be placing each child's belongings outside under the veranda. We hope this will help to calm the end of day rush. We are also in the process of creating two entrances at the beginning of the day, where some children will enter at the front as usual and then the other children at the side of the building. We will keep you updated about this.

Daily Diaries: Please ensure you bring them and put it in your child's blue book bag. We hope the daily diaries are enough to give you a taster of your child's day, but if you have any further queries please feel free to send an email. If you would like to speak to a member of staff in more detail about anything concerning your child then we are now opening up every Friday afternoon as your chance to do this by appointment only, from 3:30pm.

Diary Dates: Nursery Closed for Bank Holiday 1st 8th 29th of May (There is an additional closure day of 8th of June for Polling Day)

French: We are delighted that Tonton has become a well-loved and cheeky member of nursery now and has helped children to learn some French Vocabulary. Children have learnt basic greetings, colours, numbers 1-10, days of the week and body parts. We are blown away by how much the children have retained and are always so proud to hear reports of them using their French knowledge at home.

Weather Advisory: As the weather begins to get hotter please remember to put sunscreen in your children's bags alongside the necessary clothing items such as sunhats and sunglasses. Please note that we do not allow hooped earrings at the nursery as it is a health and safety risk.

Nursery News

Home Super Stars: We will be giving each child a sheet with star templates. This is for you to write down any superstar things that your child has done at home. Have they achieved something in an extracurricular activity, did they help tidy their room, did they learn to ride a bike, did they tell you a new French word they learnt. Whatever it is, we want to know all about it and celebrate it.

Absences: If your child is not going to be in nursery, we ask that you send us an email in the morning explaining your child's absence, and we will confirm we have received your email.

Staff: We are excited to announce that we have finally recruited two new members of staff. This was not an easy process with so many applicants. We really wanted to make sure we got the right people for your children, but we are fully convinced that we now do. We are not permitted

at this point to reveal one of the new members of staff for very good reasons, which you will come to learn, but it will be announced in due course. I am however, delighted to introduce our other new member of staff. Emily Jones (pictured in the photo) who will be joining the team in the beginning of June 2023. She will hold the title of Lead Practitioner and will take on an early shift to greet all the children who are enrolled for breakfast club.



Parents Evening: This is coming up and will be an opportunity for you to find out more about your child. We shall keep you updated with this.

Diary Dates: Nursery Closed for Bank Holiday 1st 8th 29th of May (There is an additional closure day of 8th of June for Polling Day)

Diary Dates: Nursery Closed for Bank Holiday 1st 8th 29th of May (There is an additional closure day of 8th of June for Polling Day)