



## Message from the Management team

Welcome to this month's newsletter. It has been an eventful month. Children have transitioned to pre-prep; new children have started with us and some have returned after summer. Our routines are running well and stringent hygiene and cleaning procedures are carried out. Our children have had many trips out in the fresh air in our local park again always ensuring that hygiene procedure are maintained at all times. This year we took part in jeans for genes day. This is a charity close to our heart as we continue to support Sam who has a rare genetic condition called 'Cri-du-chat'. I would like to thank all for your kind donations and we made a whopping £203,33. This is a fantastic amount for us, we will be liaising with his parents to agree the best suited resources to buy. I will keep you all informed when we have purchased the resources. Our new system of 'in the moment' planning is proving highly successful; you may have noticed an increase in the amount of observations being sent out. Our aim is to have at least one sent out every time your child attends the nursery. In turn we have an increased amount of parent observations that are being sent into us via eylog, this has helped us to continue to support your child's learning and further their interests while at nursery. In addition to this, we have had a lot of positive feedback regarding the increased information on the daily diary sheets, giving you a greater insight of how your child has spent their day. It is always our aim to keep the level of communication with yourselves to an excellent standard as I am aware face to face conversations with your child's key person is limited at the moment. To ensure that we continue to share your child's learning and development we are looking into holding parent's meetings next month via Zoom, the logistics of this is still to be organised but further information will be shared with you shortly. Furthermore, we would also like to remind parents that we also share activities and updates on our nursery Facebook page. This is just another additional way in which you get to see your children in action and see the wide range of variety of activities your child is involved in whilst at nursery. We continue to pride ourselves with us achieving the quality counts platinum award (the only nursery in Liverpool) back in March. This seems such a long time ago now but still maintain and focus on delivering the highest standards of learning and developing and care to yourselves and our children. In current times this may not always be our usual way but we will always adapt systems to maintain such levels. This includes, maintaining partnerships, continually sharing best practice and liaising with our connecting Auckland college and sister nursery Pepperberry day nursery.

Thank you all for your continued support

Kellie and Amy

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My name is **Sophia Swindells** and I will be your child's key worker. I am an Early Years Practitioner in Sunflower Room.

I have joined Auckland House team in July 2017, and I am a qualified Level 2 Practitioner.

In my spare time I love spending time with my family and friends and my niece and nephew.

### **Important messages**

- **Reminder for parents to bring in nappy and wipes daily.**
- **Masks must be worn for drop off and pick up**
- **Alder Hey PJ day – charity event for the local children's hospital – Tue 20<sup>th</sup> oct**
- **Harvest Hamper** – collecting food for local Food Bank throughout Oct
- **National Grandparents Day -5<sup>th</sup> oct**
- Halloween celebrations –activities w/c 26 oct, dress in costumes fri 30<sup>th</sup> oct

## Buttercups

This month in Buttercup has been super busy! We have welcomed lots of new friends as well as Lyndsey and Hazel to the team. Our main focus this month has been animals, both big and small. We have focused on a range of songs and stories around this theme. We have taken many strolls to the park, looking for animals, spotting dogs, squirrels and ducks. We have practiced our use of imitating sounds, words and exploring simple single words. The room has enjoyed exploring our new sensory area, exploring colours and watching the lights. We have focused on playing alongside others, creating secure bonds and friendships amongst the children. We have watched many of our children meet their milestones, encouraging first words, steps and crawling independently. We have taken part in a range of messy play activities, creating 3D frogs, mirrored moons and even a 3D Bear hunt picture. Next month we are focusing on Halloween songs, stories and creating 3D scary pictures.

## Daisy

Daisy have had a busy month this month. The children have engaged with 'Leo the Lion' through an animal tuff tray. Children created their own lion through gluing and sticking and mark making activities. We explored the Hey Dudley book and the children created their own monsters through hand painting. We also explored the song glub glub the children enjoyed singing along to this and engaging in water play activities. Giraffes can't dance was also a book we explored, looking at and learning about big and small animals. For week 3 we chose to look at autumn, we looked at the weather and the children created their own leaf printing. During our trips to the park, we spoke about the weather and the colours of the leave. Week 4 our story was Cinderella, we explored lots of creative and colourful tuff trays and gluing and sticking activities. Our song was wheels on the bus, the children created their own busses and traffic lights through mark making activities and we encouraged children to recognize cars and busses during our trips to the park.

## Bluebell

This month in bluebell room our songs of the month have been baby shark, miss polly, 5 cheeky monkeys and I had a little turtle. The children explored different textures and used recycled materials. All children enjoyed singing our songs and joining in with the actions. Our stories this month have been playful pets, oh deer, the storm whale and hands are not for hitting. The children explored different animals such as sea animals and farm animals, children were able to name the different animals and have also learnt some new ones. The children used a variety of different materials to create their own interpretation of different animals. We have also been teaching the children about having kind hands and how we must share with our friends.

## Snowdrop

This month our theme was animals, we have been busy exploring lots of different materials and colours. The stories we have looked at were A Squash and A Squeeze, The Gruffalo, Snail and the whale and How to care for your dinosaurs. The songs we have looked at were Old McDonald, Alphabet, Bank shark and Dinky the Dinosaur. We have loved singing all these songs and joining in with the actions. We have explored numerous tuff trays including farm animals, zoos and dinosaur worlds. Also we have participated in doing our phonics. We love to repeat the sounds to the letters. While it has still been nice we have even taken part in exercises in the garden. We have even had some sensory play this month from the light table and looking at shapes and colours to looking at the light tube watching the colours change. Outside we have also built and created towers and structures using our large outside blocks. We have been looking after the plants and watering them. We have also participated in a variety of mark making activities allowing us to develop our imagination when drawing.

## Daffodil

This month in Daffodil we have visited the park, which the children loved, they explored the environment around them and enjoyed looking for different animals, we went looking for squirrels and rabbits. We then went back to nursery and drew our own rabbits. We use our handprints to do the rabbit ears. We also looked at baa baa woolly sheep, where we created sheep out of wool and glue. We demonstrated how to use tripod grip when participating in mark making activities. We created monsters using tissue paper and pipe cleaners. We enjoyed exploring our garden area and have shown a big interest in insects. We went on a bug hunt using magnifying glasses as we moved logs in the garden.

## Sunflower

This month in Sunflower room, we have had lots of fun taking part in a wide range of activities. Throughout the month, we have enjoyed looking at the story 'The hungry caterpillar' and the human body. We have really enjoyed taking part in food tasting activities and looking at different exercises and the effects they have on our bodies. The children have loved using a range of resources and exploring different textures to create props and characters for the children to use to create their own stories. The children have shown a can do attitude when trying to learn the signs to Mr. tumbles song hello hello. This month the children have been happy to welcome lots of new friends into our room and have all been very helpful with helping to settle them in.

## Mobile phone and electronic device use policy

Mobile phones and other devices that accept calls, messages and video calling

At Auckland House Day Nursery we promote the safety and welfare of all children in our care. We believe our staff should be completely attentive during their hours of working to ensure all children in the nursery receive good quality care and education. To ensure the safety and well-being of children we do not allow staff to use personal mobile phones, smartwatches and/or fit bits during working hours. We use mobile phones supplied by the nursery to provide a means of contact in certain circumstances, such as outings. This policy should be used in conjunction with our online safety policy to ensure children are kept safe when using the nursery devices online

### **Staff must adhere to the following:**

- Mobile phones/smartwatches/fit bits are either turned off or on silent and not accessed during your working hours
- Mobile phones/smartwatches/fit bits can only be used on a designated break and then this must be away from the children
- Mobile phones/smartwatches/fit bits should always be stored safely in staff lockers or Managers office during the hours of your working day
- No personal device is allowed to be connected to the nursery WIFI at any time
- The use of nursery devices, such as tablets, must only be used for nursery purposes
- The nursery devices will not have any social media or messaging apps on them
- Any apps downloaded onto nursery devices must be done only by management. This will ensure only age appropriate and safe apps will be accessible to staff or children using them
- Passwords / passcodes for nursery devices must not be shared or written down
- During outings, staff will use mobile phones belonging to the nursery wherever possible. Photographs must not be taken of the children on any personal phones or any other personal information storage device. Only nursery owned devices will be used to take photographs or film videos
- Nursery devices will not be taken home with staff and will remain secure at the setting when not in use. If a device is needed to be taken home due to unforeseen circumstances, then the person taking this device home must ensure it is securely stored and not accessed by another other individual and returned to nursery as soon as practically possible

### **Parents' and visitors' use of mobile phones and smartwatches**

Whilst we recognise that there may be emergency situations which necessitate the use of a mobile telephone, in order to ensure the safety and welfare of children in our care and share information about the child's day. However, parents and visitors are kindly asked to refrain from using their mobile telephones whilst in the nursery or when collecting or dropping off their children. If you are found to be using your phone inside the nursery premises you will be asked to finish the call or take the call outside. We do this to ensure all children are safeguarded and the time for dropping off and picking up is a quality handover opportunity where we can share details about your child. Visitors are requested to leave their mobile phones or smart watches in the safety of the office where they will be locked away safely. Parents are requested not to allow their child to wear or bring in devices that may take photographs or record videos or voices. This includes smart watches with these capabilities, such as Vtech. This ensures all children are safeguarded and also protects their property as it may get damaged or misplaced at the nursery.

### **Photographs and videos**

At Auckland House Day Nursery we recognise that photographs, and video recordings play a part in the life of the nursery. We ensure that any photographs or recordings (including CCTV) taken of children in our nursery are only done with prior written permission from each child's parent and only share photos with parents in a secure manner. We obtain this when each child is registered, and we update it on a regular basis to ensure that this permission still stands. We ask for individual permissions for photographs and video recordings for a range of purposes including: use in the child's learning journey; for display purposes; for promotion materials including our nursery website, brochure and the local press; and for security in relation to CCTV and the different social media platforms we use. We ensure that parents understand that where their child is also on another child's photograph, but not as the primary person, that may be used in another child's learning journey. If a parent is not happy about one or more of these uses, we will respect their wishes and find alternative ways of recording their child's play or learning. Staff are not permitted to take any photographs or recordings of a child on their own information storage devices e.g. cameras, mobiles, tablets or smartwatches and may only use those provided by the nursery. The nursery manager will monitor all photographs and recordings to ensure that the parents' wishes are met, and children are safeguarded. Photographs or videos recorded on nursery mobile devices will be transferred to the correct storage device to ensure no images are left on these mobile devices. Parents, and children, are not permitted to use any recording device or camera (including those on mobile phones or smartwatches) on the nursery premises without the prior consent of the manager. During special events, e.g. Christmas or leaving parties, staff may produce group photographs to distribute to parents on request. In this case we will gain individual permission for each child before the event. This will ensure all photographs taken are in line with parental choice. We ask that photos of events such as Christmas parties are not posted on any social media websites/areas without permission from parents of all the children included in the picture. Applicable for settings using Online Learning Journals Only at Auckland House day Nursery we use tablets in the rooms to take photos of the children and record these directly on to their electronic learning journeys. We ensure that these devices are used for this purpose only and do not install applications such as social media or messaging sites on to these devices. We also do routine checks to ensure that emails and text messages (where applicable) have not been sent from these devices and remind staff of the whistleblowing policy if they observe staff not following these safeguarding procedures.

## Recipe of the month – Spaghetti Bolognese



Cooked by our  
Chef Claire

### Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil 400g/14oz beef mince
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 100g/3½oz carrot, grated
- 2 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 400ml/14fl oz stock (made from stock cube. Ideally beef, but any will do)
- 400g/14oz dried spaghetti
- salt and pepper

### Method

1. Heat a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add a tablespoon of olive oil and once hot add the beef mince and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook the mince until well browned over a medium-high heat (be careful not to burn the mince. It just needs to be a dark brown colour). Once browned, transfer the mince to a bowl and set aside.
2. Add another tablespoon of oil to the saucepan you browned the mince in and turn the heat to medium. Add the onions and a pinch of salt and fry gently for 5-6 minutes, or until softened and translucent. Add the garlic and cook for another 2 minutes. Add the grated carrot then pour the mince and any juices in the bowl back into the saucepan.
3. Add the tomatoes to the pan and stir well to mix. Pour in the stock, bring to a simmer and then reduce the temperature to simmer gently for 45 minutes, or until the sauce is thick and rich. Taste and adjust the seasoning as necessary.
4. When ready to cook the spaghetti, heat a large saucepan of water and add a pinch of salt. Cook according to the packet instructions. Once the spaghetti is cooked through, drain and add to the pan with the Bolognese sauce. Mix well and serve.



## Photos