

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term. We would like to welcome all our new children and parents to Gingerbread 2 Nursery.

We hope it will be a fun filled exciting time for both the parents and the children in our care.

Events Planned (This Term)

- Mother's week for all children in all the room's week commencing 9th October 2017
- Diwali party – Friday 13th October 2017
- Father's week for all children in all of the room's week commencing 23rd October 2017
- Photographers – Wednesday 25th October 2017
- Parents evening Baby/Toddler – Wednesday 8th November
- Parents evening Pre-School – Thursday 9th November
- Children In Need – Friday 17th November 2017
- Christmas party at Goals for children and families – Saturday 9th December 2017
- Christmas party for children at nursery – Wednesday 20th December 2017

Gingerbread Events (Last Term)

- Barnado's Big Toddle – All of our children dressed up in their bright colours for the Big Toddle which they all took part in and raised lots of money for Barnardo's!
- Thank you to everyone who attended our fun day at Gingerbread
- The children who went to Twinlakes on the last day of term all had a fantastic time.

A story we would like to share with you

In this terms newsletter we would like to share with you views from one of our parents who's children left us to go to "big school".

As well as the people mentioned by the parent – we would like to thank both Meg Cluley (who is no longer with us) and Ruth Tipler who carried out extensive training to support both the boys whilst they were in our care.

Gokani Twins



Hey I'm Kal I have three children my eldest is 8 and I have twins who are 4, all boys so I'm totally have no say!

When pregnant with the twins I had a very traumatic pregnancy, I'd given birth at 27 weeks so was just an emotional journey to start for us as a family! My oldest was only 3 then so was very challenging for us as well!

Sai & Taran known as the Gokani Twins had numerous complications, Sai came home at 6 months old and Taran came home after 19 months in hospital! My time was stretched as I had my three year old, Sai who was on 24 hour oxygen as of his poorly lungs and Taran who had a Tracheotomy to support his lungs and breathing! The training for the tracheostomy takes three months so going into hospital with Sai was becoming more challenging I couldn't train myself up as Sai would just demand myself!

I decided to get Taran home I would need to look at Nursery's for Sai I had no idea the challenge I would face as Sai was classed with a disability and on oxygen! I thought Nursery's would welcome a child with special needs and there would be no discrimination but I was totally shocked!

I made several calls just before Sai's first birthday to various Nursery's ones where they had high reputations and ones where I thought the places were so so good however I started to find a pattern as soon as I mentioned that Sai was on 24 hour oxygen suddenly spaces were a problem at the establishment or I would literally be told he would need one to one and they can't help! I then through a friends recommendation came across Gingerbread Nursery! This is where my life totally changed, I met with Mrs. Singh and Tahira whom before the visit called me several times to make sure I bought Sai into the nursery as he was with the oxygen, on arrival to the nursery I couldn't feel anything more but love! The nurse wanted to learn and be trained on the oxygen they wanted to learn about his history, nothing was an issue Sai was given one to one, relevant staff were trained for oxygen handling on Sai plus he was on a saturations monitor so training was needed as well for that purpose!

Sai was soon settled and I could concentrate on Taran at the hospital and get myself trained! Taran came home at 19 months and when he turned 2.5 years I wanted him to start at nursery but again Gingerbread showed no hesitation however Taran was much more complex, a tracheotomy, life support machine, stats monitor, oxygen, peg feed through the stomach and a humidifier! The relevant staff would need training before they could look after Taran on his own when Taran did start he had a nurse for several months until the staff were trained and comfortable, I can honestly say the staff and management were amazing in ensuring both my boys were safe and all training was completed to the correct standard!

Gingerbread has been a huge part in our lives with staff literally running around our boys, getting excited when Taran started to talk which was only this year! watching Taran eat as well was a huge part for the team they celebrated the milestones with us and we can't even say thank you enough to this establishment, there's always teething problems but you ride past them and talk things through so we learn from each other!

Thank you to an amazing team and Mrs. Singh for supporting our boys and making them grow!
Xxx

We are so proud of all the team and Gokani family in the way that everyone has worked together to give the twins a fantastic start in life.

Good luck to you all.



School Admissions

Before we plunge into our newsletter may we take this opportunity to remind you if your child turns 4 years of age before 31st August 2018 you will need to apply online for school, the closing date for first time applications is the 15th January 2018 for the September 2018 intake. Please find the link for Leicestershire County Council -

http://www.leics.gov.uk/online_application

And the link for Leicester City Council -

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/starting-school>

Personal information

As the new term begins can we remind parents the importance of updating us of any of their personal details.

If there are any changes in your circumstances;

- Home address/ your mobile phone number
- Your child's health/diet
- G.P. details
- Emergency contact numbers

Please notify Mrs. Singh or Mrs Bains as soon as possible, as we have had incidents in the past where we have been unable to get hold of some parents due to incorrect phone numbers.

Our Suggestion Box

We would like to thank the parents who have made suggestions to us.

Parking

Due to issues we have had in the past in our car park the committee have decided to put into place a three step procedure for inappropriate use of the car parking facility.

If we are informed of discourteous use or verbal abuse to either parents or members of staff a warning letter will be issued. If this behaviour continues a second letter will be issued banning your use of the car park indefinitely. If this behaviour further continues then your child's place at Gingerbread 2 Nursery will be withdrawn.

May we remind ALL parents to use ALL the parking bays including the one's marked Staff Only, please be considerate to others. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

May we remind you that we do have an agreement with Waitrose you are more than welcome to park there for pick-ups and drop offs.

In the past, parents have left children unattended in their cars while they go to Launde School to pick up/drop off their older children.

We would like to point out that at this point your children are YOUR responsibility. We at Gingerbread 2 Nursery cannot be held responsible if a situation arises.

Holiday Care

Gingerbread 2 Nursery remains open during school holidays. We can only accommodate children under eight. If you are interested in joining then please come and talk to Mrs. Singh and once again may we remind you that we require six weeks' notice for holiday period bookings too.



After School Clubs – Literacy and Numeracy & French

May we take this opportunity to remind you of our Literacy and Numeracy and French clubs running this term, which children can join, we do have spaces available.

For those of you who are not familiar with these clubs, they are aimed at our Pre-School children and designed to help children with phonics, number and letter recognition, rhyming and general concentration.

Our popular French club will be continuing this term with our qualified French teacher, Madame Sophie. Madame Sophie is a parent who has joined us to deliver the French clubs. Details of the term are attached to this newsletter from Madame Sophie for your information.

Fees and 30 Hours FEEE

Invoices are sent out via email at the end of every month.

If fees are being paid later than the seven day period stated on invoices, a surcharge of **10% WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR BILL AND A FURTHER 10% FOR EVERY WEEK YOUR PAYMENT IS DELAYED.**

Any bookings made with less than six weeks' notice will be charged at the hourly rate of £4.84, if we can accommodate your child.

We do not have a card machine at Gingerbread so all fees will need to be paid by either cash, cheque or online. Our account details can be found at the bottom of your invoices.

All children who are in receipt of funding will be charged £3 for lunch and £1.50 for tea (depending on the session your child attends).

ARRIVING/COLLECTING CHILDREN.

Can we take this opportunity to remind you that it is very important that your child ARRIVES and is COLLECTED on time. This is valuable time when your child can be forming friendships and interacting with others.

We have noticed an increasing number of children arriving later than their start time, this takes the staff in the rooms away from their duties and children already in their care and disrupts the routine of the room. This is apparent in Pre-School, this is when one should be teaching young children the value of timekeeping.

Please see the link for more information – www.kidskids.com/expert-parent-advice/top-five-things-your-childs-teacher-wants-you-to-know

Please ensure that your child arrives at the allocated time and is picked up on time as late collections may upset your child.

A CHARGE OF £4.84 WILL BE LEVIED FOR EVERY FIVE MINUTES THAT YOU ARE LATE COLLECTING YOUR CHILDREN.

Sickness and absence

If your child is away from the nursery for any reason you will need to come in and sign an absence record.

It is important that you do this the next time your child attends the nursery.

Parents/carers of children who are in receipt of 15 or 30 hours of funding please be aware that failure to do so will affect your child's funding.

If you are going to be away from the nursery for a long period of time, you will need to give this information in writing explaining the reason for the absence.



This information is required for auditing purposes by the LEA which is where your child receives the funding from.

Over the last term we have been inundated with children attending Gingerbread with high temperatures where they are requiring continuous amounts of Calpol to be administered.

From now we will be asking parents to seek doctors' advice if we find their child has been taking Calpol more than 3 consecutive days before being allowed back into nursery.

May we also remind parents if their child has had sickness/diarrhoea they must be kept away for 48 hours from the last episode.

This is clearly stated in our medication policy if your child has been prescribed antibiotics or medication of an oral or cream form it is a requirement that the parent keeps the child at home for the first 24 hours.

This procedure is written in line with current guidance in 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings'.

Outdoor Play

We have been increasingly asked by parents not to send children out to play due to illnesses, however we do go outside every day with the children so please send your child with appropriate clothing. Now that the weather is getting warmer can appropriate sun cream and hats please be provided (clearly labelled with your child's name).

We have found some articles for you to read as to the benefits of young children playing outdoors in all kinds of weather.

<http://www.kidsexercise.co.uk/can-be-too-cold-for-children-play-outside.html>

Parents as Partners/Learning Journey.

Early years learning is a very important time in a child's life and we as child care practitioners have a key role to play in working with you to support your child's learning and development.

In order for us to plan for your child's needs, there has to be constant dialogue between the setting and the home. We welcome and expect you to have an input in your child's Learning Journeys.

Gingerbread Cottage Playgroup and Gingerbread 2 Nursery are still using paperless forms of Learning Journeys. We are continuing to use Tapestry to keep a record of your child's development and next steps electronically, if you wish to learn more about it please click on the link <http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction#overview>

This saves a lot of valuable time writing observations, taking pictures, cutting them out and sticking them into folders!!! Pictures of observations and art work will be taken electronically and saved immediately into your child's folder.

If you have information or pictures that you have at home – please send them in electronically to veenybains@gingerbreadnursery.co.uk to add them to your child's Learning Journey.

Daily Diaries (Baby and Toddler Rooms)

We have noticed lots of diaries are not being returned, this leads to us giving new diaries out on a regular basis which we cannot continue to do. Therefore we have introduced new diaries. If your child's diary is lost we will charge a fee of £1 for a replacement.



Nappies (Baby and Toddler Rooms)

Parents continually failing to bring in nappies for their children will be charged £1 for every nursery nappy used. This will be added to your invoice.

Children's clothing – Uniforms for Toddler Room

Due to the popularity of our pre-school uniforms many parents have enquired for uniforms for their toddlers, we welcome this change as it greatly helps our toddlers whilst toilet training and makes life easier for toddler room staff.

We are pleased to inform you that we have smaller sizes in stock and would like all of our toddlers to attend in uniforms. These can be purchased from us, please ask Mrs Singh. Shoes should be practical and safe.

PLEASE COULD YOU ENSURE THAT ALL YOUR CHILDRENS CLOTHING IS CLEARLY LABELLED AS UN-LABELLED ITEMS OFTEN GO MISSING AND YOUNG CHILDREN MAY NOT RECOGNISE THEIR OWN CLOTHING.

If your child's clothes are changed for any reason at the nursery, please could you return them to us washed and ironed ready to be used again. If you have unwanted spare clothing, we would be very grateful if you could donate these to the nursery.

Please ensure your child's gloves are on a string as again valuable time is wasted looking for gloves, hats and scarves.

Photographs

We do take photographs of the children at various activities to keep as evidence for OFSTED and for the children's learning journeys.

Sweets and Nuts/Toys/Bags from Home

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Gingerbread 2 Nursery is a sweet free zone. This means both inside the building and on the grounds.

For children's birthdays we recommend that you send in fresh fruit or little boxes of raisins. We cannot have homemade cakes either as we have children in the nursery with various allergies.

However we will accept cakes from Cake Box, as they are egg free and suitable for vegetarians, leaflets in our porch, please see Mrs Singh or Mrs Bains regarding the size of cake required.

Please discourage your children from bringing toys and bags from home to the nursery, often these get mixed up with nursery toys and other children take them home mistaking them for their own.

Fathers week/Mothers week/Careers week

This is your chance to get involved in our day to day activities. If there is anything in particular that you would like to do or any activities that you may think are beneficial to the children's learning, talk to a member of staff so that we can add it to our planning.

This is an important aspect of parents as partners and beneficial for your child and your child's key person at the nursery. Dates for these weeks are listed in dates for your diary.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear looped earrings, beaded necklaces and bracelets. May we remind you of the dangers of jewellery being caught on play equipment which may cause a severe injury.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

If you would like to know more about the changes, please see the information in our porch. There is literature available that you can download at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk or www.foundationyears.org.uk.

Policies and Procedures

May we remind all our parents and carers that all our policies and procedures are kept in the porch. Please take time to familiarise yourself with these.

Free Early Years Education Entitlement (FEEE) for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

The first term after your child's third birthday, entitles your child to receive fifteen hours of Free Early Years Education Entitlement.

Please be aware that the Free Early Years Education Entitlement is only available during school term time only.

Parents of pre-school children who access the fifteen hours funded sessions, need to bring in a copy of their child's birth certificate as this is essential for the nursery to claim the funding on your behalf. If a copy of the birth certificate is unavailable then issues may arise and funding may be withdrawn.

We also free childcare for 2 year olds, if you feel your child will be eligible, please check your eligibility using the following link <https://www.myearlylearning.co.uk/EarlyYears/Apply>

Holiday Closure

We close nursery during the first week Christmas, Easter and summer for a period of one week only. This will give staff a chance to catch up with essential paper work and carry out maintenance and deep cleaning of the nursery. These are listed in the dates for your diary

Placements

From time to time we have placements that come to us and will make observations on children for their course.

No pictures will be taken of your children for their coursework. We will keep you updated with names and photographs of placements in the porch area.

Changes in Attendance Pattern

If your child is not going to attend the nursery for any reason than please could you let Mrs. Singh or Mrs Bains know six weeks in advance, in writing, so that the relevant adjustments can be made.

If adequate notice is not given for any absence than the fees due will be administered.

Pre-School Children

Pre-School children should not arrive any earlier than 5 minutes prior to their session time. Pre-School children collected at 12, 1 and 3pm will be ready and brought downstairs ready for collection at the appropriate times.

Thank you for your continued support
Nursery Staff



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(It is important that you keep this news letter in a safe place as it contains important dates for your diary)

Mothers Week for ALL rooms

Week Commencing 9th October 2017

This will take place during the mornings between **9.30am and 11am in all rooms** and during the afternoons between **1pm and 2.30pm in the Pre-School room only.**

Half term – For term time children 16th – 20th October 2017

Fathers Week for ALL rooms

Week Commencing 23rd October 2017

This will take place during the mornings between **9.30am and 11am in all rooms** and during the afternoons between **1pm and 2.30pm in the Pre-School room only.**

OTHER EVENTS

Friday 13th October – Diwali party, all rooms

Wednesday 25th October 2017 – PSP Photography – All Rooms

Wednesday 8th November 2017 – Parents Evening Babies/Toddlers

Thursday 9th November 2017 – Parents Evening – Pre-School

Friday 17th November 2017 – Children In Need

Saturday 9th December 2017 - Family Christmas Party at Goals

Wednesday 20th December 2017 – Christmas party in all rooms

Wednesday 20th December 2017 – Last day for children who attend term time only

Friday 22nd December 2017 – Last day for children who attend all year round

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 – Gingerbread re-opens for children who attend all year round

Tuesday 9th January 2018 – All term time children to return

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB DATES

Gingerbread 2 Nursery Children:

Literacy & Numeracy Club Autumn term 2017

5th 12th 19th 26th September 3rd and 10th October

Half Term: 16th – 20th October – NO CLUBS

24th 31st October 7th 14th 21st 28th November 5th and 12th December last session of the term.

French Club

4th 11th 18th 25th September 2nd and 9th October

Half term 16th – 20th October NO CLUBS

23rd 30th October 13th 20th 27th November and 11th December.



Please find a term plan from the French teacher below –

French Club

term plan (Autumn term)

1. 4th Sept: Greetings, who are you ? French cognates
2. 11th Sept: Revisit greetings + how are you ? phonic [ah]
3. 18th Sept: Understanding French instructions phonic [bay]
4. 25th Sept: extend/practise French instructions + numbers 1 to 5 phonic [say]
5. 2nd Oct: song : ‘tourne tourne petit moulin’
6. 9th Oct: numbers 1 to 10 + asking for / say your age phonic [day]
- 16th October: ½ term, NO CLUB.
7. 23rd Oct: Food with numbers and colours phonic [euh]
8. 30th Oct: food + express likes/dislikes phonic [eff]
- 6th November : NO CLUB
9. 13th Nov: food + giving out and thanking phonic [jay]
10. 20th Nov: design my favourite sandwich phonic [ash]
11. 27th Nov: song : ‘frère Jacques’
- 4th December: NO CLUB
12. 11th Dec: Christmas + design a Christmas decoration

The sessions will usually include the 4 skills which are needed for the learning of a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Where appropriate, the activities will be differentiated to suit the needs of the different ages so that your child can benefit from all activities.

There will be a lot of speaking and listening work, which will suit all ages. When listening activities take place, the younger children will mainly associate sounds to pictures, whilst older ones will try to associate the word they hear to the French written version.

When working at the table on writing activities, the younger ones will focus on pen control / colouring activities related to the learning topic, whilst the more advanced children who can already read and write will practise recognising and writing French words as well.

Each session will include a variety of activities and games to develop the different skills. Most sessions will focus on a particular phonic to familiarise your child with French sounds and all sessions will include a short song or story, once again, to familiarise their hearing with the French language. Sometimes, songs or stories will be practised in more depth, and sometimes they will be used for familiarisation only.

This term plan is designed to help you to follow your child’s learning of French. However, depending on the learning pace of the group, it may be subject to changes.

