



Hartley Wintney  
February/March 2018

## Monkey Puzzle Nursery News

### What have we been up to?

Since returning to nursery after Christmas, the children have been busy settling back in, making new friends and getting back into the nursery routine.

It has been lovely to see how the children have grown over the last few weeks, and we are excited to continue supporting their development.

The children in Hedgehogs have been developing their physical skills recently, including rolling over, standing up and walking. Even some of the youngest children have suddenly started to move!



Squirrels have been practicing turn taking. They have been playing lots of cooperative games such as rolling a ball between friends and simple board games with each other. With their ever-growing vocabulary, they are beginning

to tell each other what they would like, and making up their own games.



In Owls, the children have been enjoying lots of role-play. Nearly every week, they have found new role-play games to play, from superheroes to doctors and then astronauts. Every child gets involved, sharing their ideas and taking on a role in the games. Additionally, they have also been practicing their letters (i.e. writing and recognizing their names) and numbers.



### Staff News

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, we were delighted to welcome Mandy to our team. Mandy has been working with children for many years (15+!) and has joined us in Squirrels as our new Room Leader. Since coming on board, Mandy has been working hard with the existing team to make Squirrels work better than ever.

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, we were also delighted to welcome Charmaine to our Baby Room team. Charmaine has recently moved to the UK from South Africa. She had been studying Education whilst living in South Africa and hopes to gain UK qualifications with us.

We are sorry to share with you the news that Kirsty has decided to leave our team. Her last day will be Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Kirsty has been with us for 18 months now, supporting firstly our toddlers, and most recently our babies. She is a very valued member of our team and I know she will be missed by the children, parents and staff. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

Over the next few weeks you will see some more new faces appearing as we continue to recruit new staff to support the increasing numbers of children.



Please bear with us while we get our new team members settled.

Finally, please join us in congratulating Sarah on her exciting news that she and her fiancé are expecting their first child in August!

We'd like to reassure you that, while Sarah will be taking some time off to spend those valuable early months bonding with her baby, we have been busily planning cover to fully support you all as usual. If you have any queries or concerns, please let us know.

A full list of current staff is attached and a new staff list with photographs will be displayed in reception in due course.

## Reminders

With lots of new children and parents joining us, we would like to use this opportunity to ensure you all have up-to-date information about the nursery.

Therefore, we have listed a few points below:

We would like to remind you all that we are open from 7.30am only. If you arrive before 7.30am (even by just a few minutes), you will be asked to wait with your child as our insurance does not cover children to be in our care until 7.30am.

Breakfast is served from 7.30am to 8.30am only. If you arrive after 8.30am, please be mindful that we will no longer be serving breakfast and we would expect that your child would have had breakfast at home.

The nursery closes at 6.30pm. If you are going to be late collecting your child, we ask that you let us know as soon as

possible by calling 01252 444868. When a child remains at nursery past 6.30pm, we are required to have two members of staff on the premises until you arrive. Therefore, late collections will incur a fee of £1 per minute from 6.30pm to the time you or another designated individual arrives to collect your child.

We would also like to remind you that fees are payable on the first of every month unless otherwise agreed with Cherry. We are conscious that some payments, such as those coming from Tax Free Childcare, may take longer to process. However, any other fees paid after 15<sup>th</sup> of month incur a £25 administration fee.

If you require extra sessions for your child, we ask that you request these in writing (email is fine) with plenty of notice (where possible). Our staff rotas are determined by the number of children booked to attend each day, and accommodating short notice extra session can be challenging. Extra sessions booked are required to be paid for on booking (an invoice will be prepared for you) and are non-refundable even if your child is sick and cannot attend nursery. This is because we have already planned staffing based on your child's additional booked session.

## 30hrs Funding for Pre-schoolers

From 1st September 2017, the government extended funding for eligible pre-school children from 15 to 30 hours for 38 weeks of the year.

To check your eligibility – please follow this link:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Eligible parents must register on this site: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

**Please note:** to be eligible from 1st April 2018, your child must have turned 3 and you must have received your eligibility code by 31st March. Please complete your application **as soon as possible** to be sure that you will obtain your code

before the deadline, as some applications are subject to delay, and the volume of applications mount up towards the end of the application period causing a backlog.

## Parent Committee

As some of our committee members have left us, we are now looking for some new members to join us.

Our parent committee proved to be extremely valuable to us throughout last year and we are keen to reinstate a full committee.

Currently on our committee are:

- Tara (Henry's Mum – Owls)
- Tori (Will's Mum – Owls)
- Beth (Verity's Mum – Squirrels)
- David (Daisy's Grandad – Owls)

To ensure that we have representatives from across the nursery, we would ideally like new committee members who can represent Hedgehogs and Squirrels.

If you are interested, please speak to Cherry or Sarah, or with any of the current committee members.

## Dates for your Diary

**British Science Week – 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March**

**Go-Go Disco with the Go Jetters – 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March (Sport Relief)**

**Peppa Pig's Muddy Puddle Walk – 23-29<sup>th</sup> April (Save the Children)**

**The Giant Wiggle – 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May (Action for Children)**

**INSET day – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July:**

INSET days are an opportunity for us to provide our staff with valuable training about childcare and development. On these days, nursery will be closed to all children. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause you.

**Christmas closure – from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec, reopening on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019**