



Little Poppets  
Nursery

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## Winter Newsletter ~ 2023

As I was driving home yesterday evening the temperature gauge in the car was telling me it was a very chilly -0.5... winter is definitely here!! I also found myself smiling as I recalled events of the day...

The children had been watching in excited anticipation as just a few sprinkles of snow began to fall at intervals during the day and we collected ice from the garden and watched in awe and wonder as it melted and created a pool of water to splash about in. Abi chose our story before lunch with a very appropriate 'Frosty the Snowman' and we finished singing 'Thumpety thump thump, look at Frosty go, thumpity, thump, thump over the hills of snow...' Smiley happy children all singing and tapping their legs in beat with the jolly tune! Kim served us all a very yummy Lasagne with peas and sweetcorn for lunch and then some of our little poppets settled down on a comfy mat with a cosy blanket and had a nap – I was very tempted!!! There was a buzz about nursery all day with children and staff engaged in a range of play-based learning activities that supported children's interests and scaffolded learning – it was a lovely place to be and a privilege to be part of!

One of our lovely parents recently shared feedback to share with Ofsted and said that "Little Poppets is a magical place" and it certainly felt magical yesterday!



As I write we are still awaiting the initial draft report and as soon as I am able, I will share the outcome and send you all a copy of it – we should receive a copy by the end of this week!



to help busy  
parents like you  
with the cost  
of childcare.



Please make sure you are claiming whatever you can to help pay for your **childcare costs**. Everything you need to know can be found at [Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

Everything from 15 hours for 2 year olds, tax free childcare for all children and even help paying your childcare costs through tax credits or universal credits. Just take a moment to have a look and make sure you claim!!

Childcare  
Choices

There is also some help towards **food and milk costs** for anyone who is already claiming Universal Credit – I do hate to quote Tesco at you but 'Every Little Helps' especially right now!!

[How to apply – Get help to buy food and milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)



Thank you all for your generous donations to our Nativity performance for Hope House Children's Hospice – Together we raised **£300.00** which is amazing for our small nursery – Thank you all very much!!



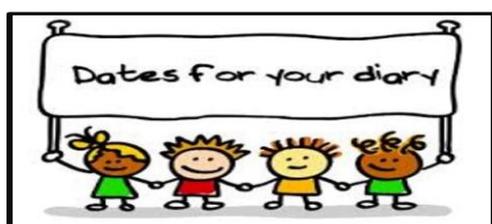
Sadly, the new cook we took on before christmas was not to be for Little Poppets and we had to let her go but on a positive note Kim is still here and has stepped straight back into the role. For now this works for nursery and we will not be advertising the post. Please share any feedback about our menus and the provision of food we offer and if you have any favourite recipies Kim would love to feature them on our menu. Let us know via dojo or email me some details – thank you x



**Great News!** Pyjams Drama (Dew drops class) and Diddi Dance are back! Post Covid restrictions we have managed to secure slots for Pyjama Drama and Diddi dance to join us again and be part of the extended curriculum we offer the children at Little Poppets. Pyjama Drama will join us in Little room on a Thursday from 9.30am and Didi Dance will join us 9.45am on a Wednesday in Big Room. This half term our children will be learning 'The Charleston' followed by 'Rock and Roll' in the run up to Easter. This service is free at the point of delivery for all of our Little Poppets. If this is not your child's day then you are welcome to join us with them for the session. Please let us know if this is something you would like to do and we will do our best to facillitate this on a first come first serve basis.



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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January** – Chinese New Year – Year of the Rabbit - Kim will be making us a Chinese meal finished off with fortune cookies...

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – **'Story Telling Week'** – 'A week for the promotion of the oral tradition of storytelling, the very first way of communicating life experiences and the creative imagination'. We would love to welcome a different parent/grandparent each day this week to read or tell the children a story. We're happy to be flexible with our timetable to accommodate you joining us – please let us know if you are able and would like to join us.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – **Children's mental Health Week!** A week focused on talking about, recognising and naming our feelings, whilst we learn to manage our emotions appropriately – The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas is sure to feature this week and is a great book to share with your children at home.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** – **St Valentine's day!** A day to talk about and celebrate the people we love!

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** – **Random Acts of Kindness Day.** We will be encouraging the children to talk and think about being kind to others and what this means. Throughout the day we will pause to share and celebrate 'Radom Acts of Kindness' that we see and can share in nursery.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** – **Pancake Day!** Yummy!! Miss Kim will be treating us to pancakes for snack time!!



Please collect you children on time and if you know you need to have a chat with staff then allow time for this and arrive early. Our staff team are very good and will often stay late to cover but they also sometimes have plans and arrangements that mean they need to leave on time too and have to leave which can leave nursery out of ratio and puts children at risk and increased pressure on our lovely staff. Occasionally, things happen unexpectedly and if you let us know we are more than happy to help in these situations but day-to-day please arrive on time!

Thank you xxx



**W**e are getting an increasing amount of children in Big Room bringing in **toys from home**. We are trying to discourage this because of the complications and confusion this causes many children who are often reluctant to share their special items with others which is obviously something encouraged in nursery. Special toys can also get lost which again causes upset and can be very time consuming as we search for these things. We are also trying too see this as a transitional learning opportunity in preparation for our older Poppets who will be moving onto school; However; we recognise that the children clearly want to show us things that they regard as special or important to them and so we

will be introducing a specific **'show and tell'** slot to our timetable where individual children are invited to bring something from home to show us and tell us about. Of course this doesn't always have to be a toy, it could be a photograph, a book or anything at all from home that inspires the children to open up, talk and share something special with us. Look out on DOJO for you child's 'show and tell' invitation and thank you for your support.

**And Finally ...** A couple of thoughts to share;

**According to** Anamika Mishra "Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."

And it may feel cold outside now but the met office tells us that 'The coldest temperature ever recorded during a UK winter was -27.2 °C ...' Brrrrr that is cold!! (Don't worry too much it was in Braemar, Scotland!)

Wrap up warm everyone and stay safe! xxx