

Parents Newsletter

Spring Term 2



Asalam Alaikum / Hello to all Parents and Carers,

Collection for Food Bank

We would like to thank all parents and children who have contributed to the food collection. We will be delivering the food this week, so if you would still like to contribute you can leave food in the basket outside of the nursery entrance or hand it directly to staff. Please note that a group photograph of the children and staff may be taken during our trip to the food bank. Such a photograph may appear on Quilliam mosque's web site and in the local press. If you would like your children to opt out of this, please let the nursery manager know.

Newsletter

We are hoping to move from paper copies to electronic copies of the newsletter. If you would still prefer to receive the newsletter in paper form, please let the nursery manager know.

Messy Play

Mess is an essential part of childhood. Play that incorporates rich textural experiences allows children to express their emotions through manipulating materials (clay, paint, sand) and refines their sense of touch. The richer the textural experiences, the richer their cognitive and language development will be – how can a three year old grasp the concept of “slimy” if he/she has never touched anything “slimy”? They also learn about cause and effect (mixing colours, pressing too hard on a play dough sculpture) as well as size, shape and many other concepts. Messy play materials should encompass different temperatures (cold, warm, tepid), textures (rough, smooth, wet, dry), scents, appearances and locations. Living in urban homes or properties without gardens – as is the case for many city dwellers – can make messy play stressful and cause it to be avoided. Also, it is easy for parents to feel that people will criticize or judge if a child is seen wearing dirty clothes, or if our homes are less than pristine and spotless. Fear of bacteria can also contribute to a degree of fear about dirt. Nursery provides an enabling environment for children to create mess and enjoy sensory experiences in a controlled manner. When we talk about messy play, we are not referring to unhygienic living standards or toys strewn all over the house. We're talking about activities such as jumping in puddles, making mud pies, painting, sand play, clay moulding and play dough.

Children, especially young children, need to explore their environment with all their senses. Children learn primarily through play, so combining their need to play and their need to explore often results in a mess. This can't be avoided, especially with small children, as they see no line between “play time” and the rest of life. For an infant, every waking moment is dedicated to exploring and learning. Babies and toddlers love to make food and eating a whole body experience at times, smelling, tasting, squashing and throwing their food. While it can be inconvenient to clean up, and discouraging if you have spent time lovingly cooking a meal, this food play is a normal and important part of childhood. If mess is always discouraged, a stressful relationship can develop between parent and child as well as a future avoidance of messy play (even when it is offered), which can lead to a diminished sense of touch and potentially limit cognitive

development. In the nursery, messy play is part of our daily activities, even though paints, play dough and other such materials wash off and are child friendly, at times they do leave stains on clothes due to the fabric, therefore can we please ask parents not to put expensive clothing on their child. We recommend clothes specifically for the nursery so that there are no worries concerning coats or clothes getting dirty. We as adults can become a barrier to children's learning. If we are worried about mess or a child being dirty, they themselves can become anxious about mess and lose out on essential learning experiences that will enhance their future development.

Clothes

If your child takes nursery clothes home, please can we ask you to return them to the nursery and to wash them before doing so. To save your child having to wear nursery clothes, can we request that he/she brings plenty of spare clothes of their own to nursery especially if your child is potty training or enjoys playing in water. When dressing your child for nursery, can you please ensure that the clothes and shoes they wear are suitable for independence so your child is able to dress and undress themselves when going to the toilet or taking shoes off/putting them on. We have noticed an increase in laced shoes that children cannot tie without adult help. This means they do not learn the vital skills of becoming independent before school.

Parent Practitioner Association (PPA)

Our 'Parent Practitioner Association' was initiated to offer parents an opportunity to meet with nursery staff over tea and cake to discuss and make suggestions on how to shape the future of the nursery. In the past we have organised family fun days and Eid parties. Our next PPA will be held on Wednesday 28th February 4pm-6pm. Agenda for this PPA will be EyLog training (any issue you might be facing) and future events at the nursery.

Snacks

If your child attends nursery with a free place through funding from the council, we would like to remind you that there is a 50p per day charge for snacks, which the children have in the afternoon.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

From all the staff at Happy Children Nursery

Dates for your Diary

PPA 28th February 4pm-6pm

Nursery Closed for Easter Break- starts 23rd March 2018- ends 9th April

Nursery fees will be increasing from September 2018