



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy, exciting, and rewarding few months here at Little Explorers Nursery and Preschool.

This term, we have successfully established our weekly Forest School sessions, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed at Bedelands Nature Reserve. These sessions have provided wonderful opportunities for outdoor learning and exploration, including woodland adventures, bear hunts, tree climbing, and den building. It has been a joy to see the children grow in confidence, teamwork, and curiosity as they connect with the natural environment.

We have also introduced Bucket Time sessions into our weekly routine. These have been very well received and are supporting the children's attention, communication, and engagement skills in a fun and structured way.

To help broaden the children's understanding of the world around them, we were delighted to welcome visits from a scientist and a dentist this term. These experiences sparked lots of interest and discussion and gave the children valuable insights into different professions, as well as how we can stay healthy.

I am also pleased to share that we have welcomed a new team member, Natasha, who has settled in brilliantly. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge and has already become a valued member of our team.

Building strong relationships with our families remains a priority for us, and we have loved celebrating this through our Halloween and Christmas parties. We have also been proud to take part in charity events such as the Macmillan Coffee Morning and donating to the Wishing Tree Toy Appeal. Thank you for your continued support with these events—it truly makes a difference.

We look forward to continuing all the fun, learning, and adventures next term and would like to thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,
Lucy

Dates for your diary

January

- **Thursday 1st** – New Year's Day (Nursery Closed)
- **Monday 19th** – Dawn's Birthday
- **Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th** – RSPB Big Bird Watch
- **Thursday 29th** – RNLI Day

February

- **Monday 1st – Friday 6th** – National Storytelling Week
- **Tuesday 3rd** – Lizzie's Birthday
- **Friday 6th** – National Wear Red Day
- **Wednesday 11th** – Grandparents Stay and Play 3pm until 530pm
- **Sunday 15th** – Spring Funding Deadline
- **Tuesday 17th** – Random Act of Kindness Day
- **Tuesday 17th** – Pancake Day
- **Tuesday 17th – Tuesday 3rd March** – Chinese New Year celebrations

March

- **Tuesday 3rd** – Holi
- **Thursday 5th** – World Book Day
- **Friday 6th** – Lizzie Maternity Leave!
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th** – British Science Week
- **Saturday 14th** – Open Day
- **Sunday 15th** – Mother's Day
- **Sunday 15th** – Jenny's Birthday!
- **Tuesday 17th** – Mothers Day Tea Party 3pm until 530pm
- **Friday 20th** – Spring Equinox
- **Friday 20th** – Red Nose Day

April

- **National Pet Month**
- **Thursday 2nd** – Easter Egg Hunt 3pm until 530pm
- **Friday 3rd until Monday 6th** – Easter
- **Sunday 5th** – Natasha's Birthday
- **Tuesday 14th** – Vaisakhi
- **Wednesday 15th** – World Art Day
- **Wednesday 22nd** – World Earth Day
- **Saturday 25th** – Open Day
- **Wednesday 29th** – International Dance Day



Toddler Den

We would love to share some highlights from our Toddler provision here at Little Explorers Nursery and Preschool.

Our toddlers have been making fantastic progress in developing their gross motor skills, enjoying regular trips to our local parks. These outings provide wonderful opportunities for running, climbing, balancing, and exploring, all while building confidence and physical strength in a fun and natural way.

We have also loved getting out and about in our local community. The children took part in a very special trip to shop for books and toys to donate to the Wishing Tree Toy Appeal, helping them learn about kindness and giving to others. The journeys themselves were just as exciting, with the children thoroughly enjoying travelling on the bus and even taking a train around town. It has been a joy to see the toddlers growing in independence, curiosity, and confidence as they explore the world around them. Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to many more adventures together.

Continue at home

You can support your toddler's development at home by encouraging active play such as running, climbing at the park, or balancing along low walls or logs (with close supervision). Simple outings, like walking to the shops or taking a bus ride, are great opportunities to talk about what you can see and practise listening and turn-taking. You could also involve your child in small acts of kindness, such as choosing a toy to donate or helping others at home, to support their social and emotional development.



Pre-School

We are delighted to share some highlights from our Preschool!

The children have been thoroughly enjoying learning about the world around them through our Cooking Club, where they have created lots of delicious treats. These sessions support important skills such as following instructions, turn-taking, and learning about healthy ingredients, all while having plenty of fun.

Our Gardening Club has also been a great success. The children have been learning about the seasons and how the environment changes, and they even went shopping for plants that will thrive during the colder winter months. This hands-on experience has helped them develop a deeper understanding of nature, responsibility, and caring for living things.

In addition, the preschool children have loved exploring the town using local buses, building confidence and independence as they travel. One particularly special experience was attending the Remembrance Day parade, where they had the opportunity to meet different members of the community and learn about coming together to remember and show respect.

It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged, curious, and enthusiastic in their learning.

Continue at home

You can continue your child's learning at home by involving them in simple cooking or baking activities, such as measuring ingredients, mixing, and talking about healthy food choices. Gardening at home—watering plants, planting bulbs, or observing seasonal changes—helps build responsibility and care for nature. Outings in the local community, such as bus rides or walks, provide great opportunities to practise independence, communication, and awareness of the world around them.

Recipe of the Month

BEETROOT BROWNIE

Ingredients:

- 500g whole raw beetroot
- 100g unsalted butter, plus extra for the tin
- 200g 70% cocoa chocolate
- 1 tspn vanilla extract
- 100g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 100g plain flour
- 25g cocoa powder

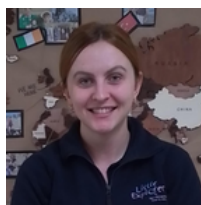


Instructions

1. Wearing a pair of rubber gloves to stop your hands from staining – top, tail and peel the beetroot – you'll need about 400g flesh.
2. Roughly chop and put into a large bowl. Add a splash of water, cover with cling film, pierce, then microwave on High for 12 mins or until tender.
3. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
4. While the beetroot cooks, butter then line a 20 x 30cm traybake or small roasting tin.
5. Roughly chop the chocolate and cut the butter into cubes. Tip the cooked beetroot into a sieve, drain off any excess liquid, then put into a food processor or blender with the chocolate, butter and vanilla.
6. Whizz until the mix is as smooth as you can get it. The chocolate and butter will melt as you do this.
7. Put the sugar and eggs into a large bowl, then beat using an electric hand whisk until thick, pale and foamy, about 2 mins.
8. Spoon the beetroot mix into the sugar and eggs, and use a large metal spoon to fold together.
9. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder, then gently fold to make a smooth batter.
10. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 25 mins or until risen all over, with just the merest quiver under the centre of the crust when you shake the pan. Cool completely in the tin, then cut into squares.

Recent Training

We are pleased to share that Lucy has successfully completed her Forest School training, further strengthening our outdoor learning provision. We are also delighted to announce that Lizzie has completed her Bucket Time training, supporting our work in developing children's attention, engagement, and communication skills.



Colleague Spotlight

We are delighted to announce that Jo and Jenny are our Staff Members of the Month!

Jo and Jenny truly went above and beyond to create a fantastic Open Day for our families. They worked incredibly hard, giving their own time to design and create a beautiful grotto, which was enjoyed by children and parents alike. The care, creativity, and attention to detail they showed made the day feel really special.

In addition to the grotto, Jo and Jenny ensured there were a wide range of exciting and engaging activities for our families, helping to create a welcoming, fun, and memorable experience for everyone who attended.

Their dedication, teamwork, and passion for what they do reflect the very best of Little Explorers Nursery and Preschool. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and commitment—well done and thank you both!



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