

# Juniper's Newsletter Autumn 2023

## Curriculum

Each term the curriculum is devised specifically for the cohort of children that we have. This term children will be looking at changes in their environment and observing the process of the building work that is currently being constructed at the centre.

Developing basic play skills is a big focus for our youngest children this term. We have spent time playing with the dolls and dolls accessories, learning how to be kind and gentle, how to brush baby's hair and feed them a bottle. We also have a big focus on routines and boundaries, implementing our 5 Golden Rules – Good Listening, Good Walking Indoors, Be Kind, Good Sitting and Share toys.

## SCREEN TIME

Children aged 5 years and under should be limited to no more than 1 hour of screen time per day. Too much screen time can affect a child's cognitive abilities, having a negative impact on a child's language development and social interactions.

## Supporting your child's learning!

Please continue to use our lending library. We encourage all children to take a weekly book home from our lending library and ask you to record any new learning and what your child felt about the story. This is a really important part of your child's learning and one that will continue as they move onto school. Please note that you will need to return your child's book each week, before a new one is given out. If you want to know more, please speak to your child's key worker.

## Early Writing Support

Give your child plenty of opportunities to develop their fine motor skills. Tips to improve your child's fine motor strength:

- Tear Paper or pull the tape
- Sort small items with tweezers/ tongs
- Play dough
- Spray a squirty bottle

## Staff Update

Last term saw us welcome Akhtar, who has been in Early Years for a number of years. This term we welcome two new members to the team, Freya and Sofia who join us to begin their apprenticeships towards their childcare and education qualifications.

Some of you may remember Ambreen, who left to have her baby girl, Liyanna. We are happy to report that Ambreen and family are well and we have had many cuddles for Liyanna, can't wait to meet her for cuddles.



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## Achievements!!

In July 2023, I successfully completed my Early Years SENCO qualification, which has given me a wealth of information and a level 3 qualification.



## Dates for your diary

Music Magic Sessions – Tuesdays 10am till 11am.

Diwali Celebrations – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – children only

Gurdwara Visit – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Christmas Party – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – children only

## Did you know?

Junipers Pre-school is part of a bigger community centre. You can see the full list of services on our website [www.stalbans-cc.co.uk](http://www.stalbans-cc.co.uk)

We have our community offer team - a team of community navigators who deliver well-being support services. The role of our community navigators is to find out what your needs are and help you to –

- Get access to support services
- Provide you with personalised advice, information, and guidance
- Help you manage your finances and maximise income
- Build your confidence to help you manage your own needs.

## Top tips for interactions

1. Get your child's attention before talking.
2. Get down to your child's level.
3. Have conversations with your child every day.
4. Listen to your child.
5. Give your child plenty of time to respond.
6. Ask open questions like "I wonder...?"
7. Demonstrate the correct way to say things by repeating back.
8. Keep your sentences short!

## Staff News



# TERM DATES

Sam Oakley – Pre-school Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Emotional and Mental Well-being Lead and Supporting SENCO.

Nikki Kullar – Deputy Manager, Supporting safeguarding lead and SENCO.

Fhana Begum – Home Link Lead.

Sally Harvey – Childrens SEMH Lead.

Sam Oakley has completed her SENCO Level 3 certificate.

All staff will be part of an 'Experts and Mentors' initiative as part of the Early Years Recovery package from the department of education in Spring 2024.

## REMINDERS

Please ensure you only use the pedestrian access to enter the community centre grounds and do not use the sliding gate for minibuses to enter and exit the drive.

Term Time Dates – Please ensure you check baby days calendar, refer to your enrolment letter and read any notices displayed. All families are informed that we are a term time setting and are asked to ensure you know the dates of all holidays by checking baby days and your enrolment letter.

**Parent Consultations** - In November 2023, we will be holding our parent meeting appointments. Please keep a look out for the dates in the Pre-school entrance from next week.



## Diwali

The children will be learning about Diwali and family traditions. They will learn about why some families celebrate Diwali and why it's important to them.

## Christmas

We will be learning about Christmas, why do people celebrate Christmas and looking at the Christmas story.

## Helping your child learn boundaries.

It is important for children to have boundaries both at home and pre-school. At home you can...

- Set rules, limits, and routines – Children need rules and routines to help them develop understanding of what we expect from them and to help them feel safe.
- Be clear and consistent – follow through with rules and routines.
- Be Firm and don't be afraid to correct your child
- Praise

## Raffle Prize

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning a signed WBA T-shirt, you can purchase a raffle ticket. Please speak to Sam for more information.

# Last Term the children ...



Last term, the Pre-school Children enjoyed going around the world in 5 days! We learnt about 5 different countries and cultures which form part of our pre-school community.

We looked at traditional clothes, taste tested food, learnt how to cook some traditional food, we did some native dances and even took part in some 'language' sessions provided by our wonderful parents.



We continued with some wonderful workshops last term. We held our second 'Big Cook, Little Cook' workshop by making fruit salad.

We also embraced our love of small trips and took some children for a ride on the bus and to the library, where we were able to set up some library cards for our parents.



Children play an integral part of our planning, and they came up with an idea about having a sleepover. We like to oblige, so we had a planning committee meeting with the children and came up with fun ideas including making popcorn.

We are all about being inclusive at Junipers Pre-school.

Last Term we travelled around the world in 5 days. We looked at Turkey, Africa, Portugal, Slovakia, and Germany.

We also celebrated 'Autism' which is very close to our hearts and the children learnt about ways in which they can cope with their big emotions.

The children also had some mini first aid sessions where they learnt what the apparatus was for and how to use them.

