

February Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

20 th Feb	2nd payment for invoice due
4 th March	Stay and Play 10:30-11:30
5 th March	World book day
6 th -17 th April	Easter/Spring Break
3 rd – 7 th August	No funding (15 or 30hours)

Happy New Year!

We have hit the ground running this year as we prepare for a visit from OFSTED any day now. We are excited to show them all of the improvements and exciting changes we have made since their last visit; we hope you have noticed them, too. Have you completed our online Parent Satisfaction Survey yet? You should have received a link both on our Facebook group and via email. We are eager to hear your thoughts.

Extreme Weather

With the recent cold snap, we would like to remind parents of our process in the event we are required to close due to snow etc. If it is deemed unsafe for staff/parents and children to attend nursery, we will endeavour to let parents know as soon as possible. We have found the most effective method is via our Facebook page and parent group, however we will also send an email the evening before if we are able to decide to close in advance. As you are aware, we are in a remote location which can make the commute to work/nursery dangerous and we must think of the safety of our staff and children in this instance.

As per our company policy, fees for days where we are closed due to unforeseen weather conditions that are out of our control, are still liable. This same process is adopted by the majority of nurseries, nationwide. Please contact us if you wish to see a copy of our policy.

Head Lice: As you may be aware, we have had a recent outbreak of headlice within the nursery.

In light of this, we encourage Parents/Carers to:

- Prevent Head Lice by regular shampooing, conditioning and daily combing of the hair.
- Detect Head Lice using a fine tooth plastic or detector comb on a **weekly basis**.
- Treat Head Lice as soon as an infestation becomes apparent.
- Alert friends, family and the Nursery if Head Lice are detected, and letting them know that treatment is being undertaken.

Room updates:

Bumblebees have been exploring all things winter through ice play, painting with ice and finding hidden objects frozen within ice. Our baby room love their messy play but have also particularly enjoyed exploring the balance beams, tubes and ball play this term.

Caterpillars: Caterpillars are continuing their trip around the world, visiting China! This theme was inspired by the recent Chinese New Year and the children's interest in animals, such as pandas and tigers and other animals in the Chinese zodiac. The children have enjoyed role play in their own Chinese restaurant with a wok and chopsticks. They have also explored different foods based around the Chinese culture... check out our Facebook page for pictures of their amazing Chinese theme!

Preschool have been investigating and exploring the areas of winter, from real life images and videos to imaginative play in the tufty trays. Creating life-like scenes using ice, water and coloured resources with the arctic animals. In maths, they have engaged in number learning through pattern recognition. The Butterfly room are also excited to embark on their next journey as part of their 'Around the World' theme, as they begin to learn all about France! Oooh lala!

Tapestry: In response to Parent Feedback from our recent survey, our staff will now be updating Tapestry **DAILY** with a summary for each room. This will be a generic update which will be sent to all parents informing you of the fun learning that has gone on that day. We will also still be adding adhoc WOW moments. We hope you enjoy this change and look forward to your feedback.

Appropriate Clothing

With colder weather and wet days approaching, please can we ask that parents ensure they provide their children with appropriate clothing for the season. We take the children outside in all weathers; therefore, it is vital that children have appropriate attire to ensure they don't miss out.

We have made a checklist as follows:

- Warm coat, hat and gloves (hat and gloves can remain at Capers in their bag)
- Wellies and a puddle suit
- Changes of clothes (include plenty of pants and bottoms if potty training.)
- Slippers (these are to be kept at nursery)
- **Parents of babies and pre walkers:** Although we understand babies do not necessarily need proper shoes at this age, please can we ask that you supply some form of footwear for your child to wear outside that is waterproof.

Wet bags: In our attempt to be more eco-friendly, we are asking all parents to please provide a reusable waterproof wet bag. This will allow us to send home dirty/wet clothing without the need to use non-recyclable nappy sacks, which end up in land fill. These can be cheaply purchased on eBay.



Packed Lunches/ Hot Lunches: As you are aware, we do not have the facility to refrigerate your child's packed lunch. Therefore, in order to keep it fresh, please can we ask that parents include an ice pack in their child's lunchbox. Please can we also remind parents that we support Healthy Eating and therefore will not allow your child to have items such as chocolate. Items containing nuts are also strictly prohibited.

As we now provide our own hot lunch option, we will only allow packed lunches to contain cold food items in future (apart from babies). This means we will not be able to reheat food brought from home. If you wish for your child to receive a hot lunch, you can opt for Capers to provide this, along with dessert, at a cost of £2.50 per meal. Hot lunches must be ordered 2 weeks in advance.

IMPORTANT : If you book additional sessions but usually have a hot lunch provided by Capers, please note that we **cannot** provide hot lunches for these sessions. You will need to provide a packed lunch for your child on these days.

Use of Calpol/Nurofen: We have had some instances where children are coming to Nursery after having been given medicine to reduce a fever. Please can we ask that if your child is unwell enough to require medicine, that they are kept at home. This not only reduces the potential spread of infection through the nursery but saves us having to call you to come and collect your child later in the day, when the medication wears off and the fever inevitably goes back up.

Booking forms: Booking forms that are submitted late (without prior arrangement) will incur a £10 administration charge per child. This will also apply to errors made to bookings where the registers will need to be changed. We will always email you the link to the booking form well in advance, post it on our Facebook group and send out reminders.

Early Birds: Parents wishing to use the Early Bird session **MUST** drop off their children at the latest of 08:30am. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** After this time, the doors will remain locked until 8.55am. Please also note that breakfast ends at 8:30am. Therefore, if you wish for your child to have breakfast at Capers, they must arrive before this time.

Children starting at 9am: Please be reminded that children booked in for 9am will not be admitted to the building any earlier than 8.55am. If you wish to drop off your child earlier, please book the early bird's session and arrive by 8.30am, or you are welcome to wait outside. A member of staff will come to the door at 8.55am to greet you. Should you wish to drop off your child earlier, we must receive notice at least 24 hours in advance, to allow us to ensure we have adequate staffing.

Name labels: Please can we ask (BEG!) for parents to label their children's belongings. This includes clothing, footwear, bags and bottles etc. This not only avoids losses and mix ups, but also assists our staff. You can purchase labels via www.mynametags.co.uk and use the code 83250, which generates funds for the nursery.

Drinks bottles: Please can you ensure that your child brings a named drinks/ milk bottle to nursery every day that they attend. Bottles **MUST** be labelled. As you can imagine, many children have identical drinks bottles and it is easy for them to become mixed up when they are not named.

Uniform: If your child attends our preschool, it is compulsory that they wear Capers uniform. We mentioned this in our previous newsletter but notice some children are still wearing non uniform attire. We have a limited supply of second hand uniform available in return for a donation towards resources. Please can we ask that all children have obtained uniform ready for when we return from the half term break.

Should you wish to purchase uniform, you can do so at www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk/school/capersdaynursery . Uniform consists of a Capers Polo top and Capers Jumper or Cardigan. Children can wear their own bottoms such as joggers etc.

30 Hours Funding: Please ensure you reconfirm your child's eligibility for 30 hours funding, every three months. You will receive an email reminder to do this from HMRC approximately four weeks before your eligibility is due to expire, sometimes these emails go into your junk folder, please ensure you check this. If you are unsure, you can check the date you need to re-confirm and carry out the reconfirmation by logging onto your Childcare Services Account (which you created when you applied for the 30 hours code). Clicking on the blue reconfirmation link will take you a to the section where you can reconfirm and if your circumstances haven't changed then this is a very quick and simple process. If you have any changes, you will need to amend the relevant details and resubmit the new details.

Tax-Free Childcare: Also, many of you may be eligible for Tax Free Childcare, to check your eligibility, you can go to <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>. This is available, from birth to 18 years of age, and in addition to 30 hours funding if you are eligible for both.



Birthdays Jan/Feb:

Eleanor W, Oliver C, Eliza S, Eva Q-B, Klay H, Marnie R, Scarlett S, Abel W, Lilah L-G, Zakira C, Noah D, Reggie B, Alexander B, Leo S.

From all of us at Capers, we hope you have a wonderful Birthday.

