

# Almond Park Nursery: July 2023 Bulletin



Hello parents and carers!

## Buttercup



Buttercup have been exploring the local community. We have created a "People Who Help Us" board in our room with lots of special people within the community who help us. This board was made to help the children with their cognitive development as we are beginning to make connections between each person that helps us and what they do in the community. We have even visited the places where we can find these people. We have been exploring the children's thoughts on these adventures and giving them the tools to express themselves through art activities with a variety of media. Whilst creating these pictures, we have had some lovely discussions about the wider world around us. The beautiful pictures the children have created really help us create an image of how the children are feeling through their exploration of the different media on offer!

## Daisy



Recently we have been expressing ourselves through arts and crafts and focusing a lot on exploring through painting, messy play and mark making with different objects. We have also had a lot of sensory tuff trays where the children got to feel different textures and materials through play. We have also been going on local bus journeys into the community, visiting the ducks and various parks. While out, we have been looking at transport, from cars and buses to airplanes. We have been exploring new books and focusing on one book a month and incorporating this into the tuff tray with all the animals or colours that are in that book. The children can then relate this to the book.

Next month, we will be continuing to go on our bus journeys since the children have taken a great interest in this. We will also be focusing on our colours, numbers and shapes. We will be doing this through different activities e.g., matching colours with items of that same colour, counting different materials and learning to draw out shapes. The children have already shown great interest in this.

## Snowdrop



This month in Snowdrop, we have been focusing on the outdoors and our gross motor skills. Our garden had a huge makeover and we have enjoyed watching it all come together and become fit for use again. We also loved watching our sunflowers grow – they're huge! Our kids have big smiles on their faces when they explore the new garden. The children learned a new skill – the coat "flip". They did a super job learning this and it has encouraged independence.

As August is festival time, we will be doing some local walks in the community, enjoying the festival and enjoying the horse riding at the end of the month. We hope that the weather continues to allow us to enjoy the outdoors. We will be looking forward to owl awareness day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, international cat day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, world lizard day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August and international dog day on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, so we have lots of opportunities to celebrate some of our favourite animals!

## Bluebell



This month, Bluebell have been celebrating some different events. We had a little treat day for world chocolate day and have been learning about the Musselburgh festival in preparation for our visit from the honest lad and lass. We have also welcomed our health and safety dino who is going to support us in our learning and about keeping ourselves safe.

We have been preparing to say goodbye to our school leavers. We wish them all the best in the next part of their journey and hope they have a lovely time starting their new schools!

Next month, Bluebell will be welcoming some new children into the playroom, which we look forward to, and will be planning some more trips and outings within our local community. We will continue to nurture and look after the plants in our garden and hopefully we may see some fruits and veggies soon.

## **Important Updates**

Leanne McBride, one of our support workers in Buttercup, has finished her training and has become a qualified practitioner. Well done!

We would like to urge everyone who enters the nursery to be careful when pressing the exit button as it has now fallen out of its socket. We've put it back in, but we are aware that it could happen again, so we would advise against pressing it too hard.

## **Changes in policies and important dates**

Term-time children are scheduled to attend Almond Park again on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. We are excited to hear all about what you did over the holidays!

Buttercup parents have been invited to a parent chit-chat session on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August from 9:30pm to 10:15pm, with refreshments on offer. We look forward to seeing your faces!

As it's now Summer, the rooms will be making the most of the beautiful weather. As such, we would like to reiterate how crucial our sun care procedure is. Children should come to nursery with sun cream already on and over the course of the day, staff will reapply it a while before going outdoors and as necessary beyond that point. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact. This procedure is implemented yearly from the beginning of May/when the weather brightens to the end of September/whenever the weather cools off. More info about this can be found here: <https://app.family.co/#/account/posts/6e5c1820-9517-4f5d-8128-7176b56b6c62>

## **What's new?**

Thank you to all of you who did the NDNA superstar activity we provided. We plan on creating a superstar wall to spread some positivity, so please be on the lookout for that.

We have purchased signage for the road leading up to Bluebell to advise drivers to go slow. The metal sign will go up soon and the council have been to paste the word "slow" on the road.

As many of you will be aware, we had an incident in October wherein some of our windows were smashed by vandals. Just this month, we got the office window fixed and we're looking at getting the window outside Daisy repaired sometime soon. We thank everyone who supported us during that time.

The gardens are still undergoing some improvements and we intend to keep you updated with regards to them.

## **Our Improvement Plan**

**Priority 3:** to further develop the provision of loose parts.

As mentioned before, one of our priority areas is developing our loose parts play. We're working on it by adding different loose parts and heuristic items that will let the children use their imagination in their play. You can help us by keeping an eye out for posts stating what items we are looking for and dropping them off at reception.

Yours faithfully,

The team at Almond Park Nursery