



## Welcome , Autumn theme and Quality Mark Award

We would like to offer a warm welcome to everyone including all the new children and their families joining us in September. We hope your children are now settling in to the Nursery routine. We hope this term will be a lot better than last year as majority of the population are vaccinated, we will be emailing out our risk assessment and updating it as required.

We renewed and were awarded the "Quality Mark Early Years Award" in July 2021 by undergoing an assessment carried out by an external accredited assessor; against the 10 'Elements' of the Quality Mark for Early Years framework. These include reviewing young children's learning needs and planning their next steps, providing safe, stimulating resources and equipment - both indoors and outdoors - and having skilled early years practitioners. Positive partnerships with families and effective monitoring and evaluation are also required - particularly to achieve renewal when continuing development must be demonstrated. We have emailed the letter from the Assessor to let you know about the award. Thank you for your support Parents/Carers as we could not have done it without you.

This Autumn, the Children will be learning about "Traditional Tales and Nursery Rhymes." after their settling in period. Each week the children will be introduced to a new story, and will be looking at the characters within, the homes they lived in, the morals of the story and the lay out and sequence of a traditional fairy tale. There will be some fantastic opportunities to retell stories using story boards, maps and puppets, looking at houses and build structures like bridges in the construction area, develop imagination in the role play area and talk about emotions to develop a deeper understanding of right and wrong.

Examples of songs and rhymes with actions are Heads, shoulders, knees and Toes, Once i caught a fish alive and some stories are 3 billy goats gruff and Goldilocks and the 3 bears to mention a few.

### Tapestry

Your Child(ren's) learning journal is on Tapestry, we hope you have successfully logged in to view observations, you can also use it to write your own observations and upload any evidence of development. If you have no access to the online system because you don't have a smart phone, computer or tablet we will provide you with a paper assessment. **It is important that you use Tapestry for assessments and observations of Children's learning only. Please refer to your Parent Handbook or speak to Linda the Deputy Manager if you have any questions.**

### 30 hours Eligibility

All Parents who qualify for 30 hours (for child/ren who turned 3 before 31 December 2021) must confirm on the Childcare choices website. [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) by the **11th of December** to get your 11 digit eligibility code (starts with 5000 or 11) for next term January 2021. You must give us your eligibility code for verification to the local authority and sign a Parental Declaration and agreement form not later than **10th of December 2021**. For others who are already on the scheme, you will need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months and give us the eligibility code again for verification. You can also contact HMRC on 0300 123 4097 if you have any problems with getting a code.

You can use the Childcare choice website to also apply for Tax - free Childcare if you don't pay fees with Childcare vouchers.

If this is your first time of applying for 30 hours, you have to inform us in writing before **6th of December** that you want to increase your hours as we may not have any vacancies or speak to the Manager if you have any other questions.

## September 2021 Autumn Term

### Dates for your Diary

#### Holidays

- ☺ 06/09/21 Autumn term starts.
- ☺ October 2021 Black History Month (fashion show, food tasting, storytelling)
- ☺ 25/10/21 – 30/10/21 Half term break, Nursery closed for term time only Children.
- ☺ 01/11/21 Nursery resumes.
- ☺ 20/12/21 Nursery closed for Christmas for term time only.
- ☺ 24/12/21 Nursery closed 2pm.
- ☺ 05/01/22 Spring Term starts.

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## Other information

### Absence policy

At the very least, good attendance practice promotes good outcomes for children. Some benefits of good attendance are; secure relationships, building good habits, learning and developing self esteem.

The Nursery will record and monitor attendance of all Children to support the work of safeguarding young children and promote their learning and development. It is important you call the Nursery and give a reason why your child cannot attend on the day or if you are going to be late. We aim to work in partnership with our Parents and support you to make sure there are no barriers to your Child(ren) attending Nursery.

### SEND LOCAL OFFER

Check The Royal Borough of Greenwich directory to see the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer. There is a section on Early Years and Childcare where you can get information on inclusion, Children Centers, transition to Primary School and other EARLY YEARS related.

[Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Local Offer | Greenwich Community Directory](#).

### Celebrations

We will be celebrating the following this year:

**Black History** In October Children will dress up in their cultural dress. Parents can record stories or songs in their native tongue and email to [info@gracenursery.co.uk](mailto:info@gracenursery.co.uk). You can also put photos of the different ethnic cooked foods that you eat at home and clothes on Tapestry or email the Nursery for Black History month.

Diwali— Friday November 4th.

Christmas Party— week commencing 13/12/21

Further details will be communicated by Text nearer the time.



### Parent's Meeting Day

Our next Parents meeting is W/C 18/10/21, the Nursery will contact you to discuss your Child/ren's progress with the Key Person. We ask you to book a slot between 11am—4pm that week. However if you cannot make this time, feel free to book a convenient time during the week with your Child's Key Person.

### Application for a Reception Place

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2022, you need to apply for a primary school place. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2022**. The link below will take you to the admission guide:

[https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200286/apply\\_for\\_a\\_school\\_place/458/apply\\_for\\_a\\_primary\\_school\\_place](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200286/apply_for_a_school_place/458/apply_for_a_primary_school_place)

Click the link below to apply for a reception place:

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

### Healthy Early Years London (HEYL)

We have recently signed up to the Healthy Early Years award scheme and awarded "First Steps."

Healthy Early Years London is an award scheme that was set up and funded by the Mayor of London for Early Years settings. The Scheme supports and recognises achievements in child health, wellbeing and development in early years settings. HEYL complements and enhances the statutory **Early Years Foundation Stage** framework, adding to the focus on children, families and staff health and wellbeing. We are in the process of applying for the Bronze award then Silver and Gold in that order. The award will help to improve and support practice and reduce health inequalities by supporting a healthy start to healthy eating, oral and physical health and early cognitive development in the Early Years.

### The New EYFS Framework 2021

Our Staff training last week was on Safeguarding, First Aid, Special Educational needs, reviewing Policies, Staff/Team Meetings and the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The EYFS sets the standards that

**"We must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe, promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life."**

The revised framework means we spend more time with children through daily regular interactions and input from Parents/Carers. There is a focus on strengthening Communication and Language -building rich vocabulary and a greater depth of understanding numbers from 1-10. Your Child's assessment on Tapestry will continue with meaningful observations as the framework discourages unnecessary assessment that is burdensome which results in less interactions with the children. More information on the new EYFS is on this link [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#). We are happy to answer any questions you may have now or during the Parent's meeting day in October. We have also written a Parent information guide for Parents to understand the Framework and will be sent with this newsletter.