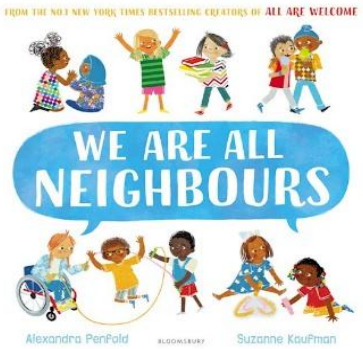
A child centred nursery, offering a fun, safe and friendly environment for your child.

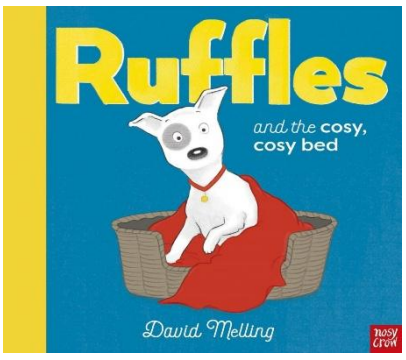
Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

What have we been learning this term?

We have spent the term getting to know one another and creating important attachments between the staff and the children. Ensuring all of our children feel safe, secure, and included has helped them build the confidence to explore the nursery and all the learning opportunities available. We have worked with the children on all seven key areas of the EYFS with our planned curriculum this half term, with activities that support everything from early literacy and maths to physical development, emotional well-being, communication and language skills, and their creativity and confidence to explore the world around them. We have enjoyed lots of stories in our book corner and have focused on certain texts throughout the term. These books included: *We Are All Neighbours*, *Ruffles*, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, *Big Feelings*, *Peppa's Halloween*, and *Be Gentle!* Each week, we have shared a different theme, including my home, my body, my feelings, being proud of myself, and of course, Halloween!

Please ensure you are able to log in to our Class Dojo app to see daily updates, including photos of what we have been doing and what we are learning. Keeping up to date with what your child has done throughout their day is a great way to start conversations and build on what they have learnt at nursery at home. If you are unable to access Class Dojo, please speak to a member of staff, and we will be happy to help you.





What are we learning next term?

Next half term our topic will be 'Nursery Rhymes' This topic supports early literacy, speech and language development and imagination and creativity. We

have lots of exciting activities planned and are looking forward to a fun filled half term of all things nursery rhymes!

Ideas to help extend your child's learning and support development at home

Sing together daily—during bath time, car rides, or bedtime.

Use gentle actions to reinforce meaning (e.g., fingers climbing for *Incy Wincey*).

Read nursery rhyme books together—pause to let your child finish familiar lines

Practice the nursery rhymes we share on Class Dojo with your child

Spend time listening to children's songs and enjoy action songs together

We would also like to focus on building the children's independence next half term, particularly around coming in and settling into the nursery day. Please help us support this by encouraging your child to walk into nursery (rather than be carried). They will then be supported by the nursery staff to walk to their peg and hang up their belongings before heading off to explore the nursery resources.

Ways you can support your nursery

Easy Fundraising: Help Us Raise Funds Without Spending Extra!

We're excited to share a simple way you can support our setting—without donating a penny more than you already spend! Through Easy fundraising, you can help us raise money every time you shop online.

How It Works

Whenever you shop with participating retailers (like Amazon, John Lewis, Tesco, Argos, and hundreds more), a small donation is made to our setting—at no extra cost to you.

Getting Started Is Easy

1. **Visit** www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. **Search for our cause**: Kiddies Korner Nursery
3. **Create an account** (it's free!)
4. **Start shopping** through the Easy fundraising website or app

Top Tips

- Add the **Donation Reminder** browser extension so you never miss a chance to raise funds.
- Use the **Easyfundraising app** for mobile shopping.
- Invite family and friends to join too!

Why It Matters

Every donation helps us improve resources, fund activities, and support our children's learning and wellbeing. It's a small action that makes a big difference.

Snack donations

This is a small request to help keep our snack time varied, healthy, and enjoyable for the children.

What We Need

We'd be grateful for donations of healthy, nut-free snacks such as:

- Fresh fruit (e.g. apples, bananas, grapes)
- Vegetables (e.g. cucumber, carrot sticks)
- Breadsticks, rice cakes, oatcakes
- Plain crackers or low-sugar cereal
- Dried fruit (e.g. raisins, apricots)
- Please avoid items containing nuts, added sugar, or chocolate, in line with our setting's health and safety policies.

Why It Matters

Your contributions help us promote healthy eating, support children's energy and focus, and build a sense of community. Every little bit makes a big difference!

Amazon wish list

As part of our ongoing efforts to enrich the learning environment and provide engaging experiences for the children, we've created an Amazon Wishlist featuring items that would greatly benefit our setting.

The list includes resources for creative play, outdoor learning, sensory exploration, and story time. These items are not essential, but they would enhance the children's experiences and help us maintain a vibrant, well-equipped space.

If you would like to contribute, you can view the wishlist here: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/GMBTY180W4IQ?ref=cm_sw_r_un_un_Mdg0JFs8417yY

There is no obligation to purchase, and we are incredibly grateful for any support. Every contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful difference.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's early education.

The Importance of Play in Early Childhood

Play is not just a way for children to pass the time—it is a vital part of their development. Through play, children explore the world around them, build relationships, and develop essential skills for life and learning.

Why Play Matters

Cognitive Development: Play encourages curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity. It lays the foundation for literacy, numeracy, and scientific thinking.

Physical Development: Active play supports gross and fine motor skills, coordination, and overall health.

Social & Emotional Growth: Children learn to cooperate, negotiate, and express emotions. Play helps build resilience and self-confidence.

Language & Communication: Through imaginative and social play, children expand their vocabulary and learn to express ideas clearly.

Types of Play We Encourage

Free Play: Child-led exploration with minimal adult direction.

Structured Play: Guided activities that support specific learning goals.

Outdoor Play: Nature-based experiences that foster risk-taking, independence, and environmental awareness.

Role Play & Pretend Play: Opportunities to explore identity, empathy, and storytelling.

How Parents Can Support Play

Allow time for unstructured play at home.

Join in play without taking over—follow your child's lead.

Provide open-ended materials (e.g., blocks, natural objects, art supplies).

Celebrate imaginative ideas and playful problem-solving.

Encourage outdoor exploration and physical activity.

Safe Sleep Guide for Parents

Creating a safe sleep environment is essential for your child's wellbeing. These guidelines are based on current NHS and Lullaby Trust recommendations to help reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and promote restful, secure sleep.

Key Safe Sleep Principles

- **Back to Sleep**: Always place your baby on their back to sleep, for every sleep—day and night.
- **Clear Cot Space**: Keep the sleep space free from pillows, duvets, soft toys, bumpers, and loose bedding.
- **Firm, Flat Mattress**: Use a clean, firm, flat mattress that fits the cot or Moses basket snugly.
- **Room Sharing**: Keep your baby in the same room as you for all sleeps during the first 6 months.
- **Temperature Control**: Avoid overheating. Room temperature should be between 16–20°C. Use a lightweight blanket or sleep sack.
- **No Smoking**: Ensure your baby's environment is smoke-free before and after birth.

What to Avoid

- **Co-sleeping on sofas or armchairs**: This significantly increases risk.
- **Sleeping with baby if you've consumed alcohol, drugs, or are extremely tired**.
- **Using sleep positioners or wedges**: These are not recommended and may pose a risk.

Sleepwear & Bedding Tips

- Use a well-fitting baby sleeping bag with appropriate tog rating for the season.
- Dress your baby in light layers—avoid hats indoors or during sleep.
- Tuck blankets securely under the mattress at chest height if used.

For Toddlers

- Transition to a toddler bed when your child can climb out of the cot.

- Continue to use a firm mattress and avoid heavy bedding.
- Maintain a consistent bedtime routine to support emotional regulation and sleep quality.

For more information on safe sleep please visit www.lullabytrust.org.uk

Packed Lunch Guidance for Parents

We encourage healthy, balanced packed lunches that support children's wellbeing, energy levels, and concentration throughout the day. Please read the following guidance to help us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all.

What to Include

A well-balanced packed lunch might contain:

Carbohydrates: Sandwiches, wraps, pasta, rice, or crackers

Protein: Lean meats, eggs, cheese, hummus, beans

Fruit & Vegetables: Fresh, dried, or chopped options (e.g. apple slices, carrot sticks)

Dairy or Alternatives: Yogurt, cheese cubes, plant-based options

Healthy Snack: Rice cakes, oat bars,

Drink: Water

🚫 What to Avoid

To support health and safety, please do not include:

Nuts or nut products: We are a nut-free setting due to allergies

Sweets, chocolate bars, or fizzy drinks

Foods requiring reheating or refrigeration

Glass containers or sharp utensils

Food Safety Tips

Use an insulated lunchbox with a cool pack

Ensure food is cut up appropriately particularly small items such as grapes

Label all containers and bottles clearly with your child's name

Ensure food is freshly prepared and stored safely before arrival

Allergies & Dietary Needs

Please inform us of any allergies, intolerances, or cultural dietary requirements. We will work with you to ensure your child's lunch is safe and appropriate.

Encouraging Independence

Choose easy-to-open containers and packaging

Include cutlery if needed

Practice opening lunch items at home to build confidence

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Important dates for your diary

October half term – Saturday 25th October – Sunday 2nd November

Autumn term 2 begins – Monday 3rd November –

INSET day (NURSERY CLOSED) – Friday 12th December

What should my child have with them for a day at nursery?

To help you ensure your child has everything they need for a successful day at nursery we have created the daily nursery checklist. Please ensure your child has all the appropriate items with them every day.

A water bottle ☐

A packed lunch (only applicable for children who do an all day session) ☐

A full change of clothes including underwear, trousers, tshirt, socks and a jumper. Please ensure all these items are named clearly. ☐

At least 3 nappies (if your child is not yet toilet trained) ☐

A coat ☐

Drop off and pick up

We kindly remind all families of the importance of arriving promptly for both drop off and pick up. Being punctual supports your child's emotional wellbeing, learning, and sense of routine, and helps us maintain a calm, structured environment for all.

Here's why punctuality matters:

Smooth Transitions: Arriving on time allows children to settle calmly into the day, reducing anxiety and helping them feel secure.

Consistent Routines: Children thrive on predictable routines. Late arrivals can disrupt their rhythm and affect their engagement.

Group Cohesion: Many activities begin promptly and are designed to build social bonds. Late arrivals may miss valuable opportunities for interaction and learning.

Minimising Disruption: Arriving late can interrupt the flow of the session and impact other children's focus and the staff's ability to deliver planned activities.

We understand that occasional delays are unavoidable, and we appreciate your efforts to keep us informed when this happens. Your support in maintaining punctuality helps us provide the best possible experience for all children.

Finally, a big thank you to all our families for all your support over the last half term. We really are very grateful.