

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a wonderful family Christmas with lots of memories, children really do bring the magic of Christmas alive and create moments to treasure forever. As we welcome in 2024 it is the time of the year to make plans for the year. We hope very soon our extension to upstairs will be completed, which will deliver us a larger sensory room, an upstairs staff toilet as well as a meeting room where we can hold meetings with parents and somewhere quiet staff can use for their professional development/training time.

January also tends to bring more wintery weather with darker mornings and evenings. Can we please remind you to take extra care on the decking as it can get more slippery during these wet and colder months.

Staff News



January is also the month where I hand over the reins to my senior team as I start my maternity leave. Friday 19th January will be my last day in Poppins, unless little man has other ideas of course! During this time Liv will be taking on the role of Acting Manager. Liv will have office time on a Monday and Friday and then remain in the Nestling room on Tuesday's and Thursday's. Christine will remain in her role as Deputy Manager to support Liv. Then the third member of the senior team is Georgia who will be supporting both Liv and Christine. Georgia will continue with her admin role on Wednesday's and Thursday's. Georgia will also be responsible for all admissions going forward.



Please join me in wishing Caitlin and Harry a huge congratulations as they are expecting their first baby in March! We are so excited for them as they start their journey as parents!



And lastly, we cannot quite say congratulations to Cathy yet but she is so so close to finishing her level 3 qualification and this will be going through in a matter of weeks so we couldn't leave Cathy until the next Newsletter! So please join me in giving Cathy the last little push, praise and motivation she needs to get through her final tests and then she is finished!! Come on Cathy, so close now!

Parent Review Meetings

Our parent review meetings are a priority for us here at Poppins, and we thank you for giving your time for these. They are a fantastic way of your key person building a relationship with you, as well as sharing all the wonderful things your child is learning at home and Nursery. Please do try to book an appointment with your key person on one of these days. Here are our future dates for your diary.

• The Hatchlings –

Monday 24th June and Tuesday 25th June

• The Nestlings –

Wednesday 26th June and Thursday 27th June

NEF Expansion Funding

From 2nd January those parents that are eligible for phase one of the 2 year old National Education Funding will be able to apply. Please keep in mind however that this funding will be able to be used in settings (subject to availability) from 1st April. You can check if you are eligible by using the tool on this website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Understandably this expansion has prompted a lot of questions from our parents. On **Wednesday 10th January** I will be hosting an information evening here at Poppins **at 6pm**. This is an open invite available to everyone regardless of the age of your child as it may be helpful if you are also wanting information should the funding expansion come into effect for babies. Please let me know via email if you would like to attend the information evening so we can have an idea on interest.

Please note I won't be in a position to give you accurate information regarding fees, however I will be able to explain how we use the funding at Poppins and the current terms and conditions/fees. This may change as we receive further guidance from the Local Authority.

Future Stay and Play Dates

Once a month we open our doors for a stay and play, which is a wonderful opportunity to come and have a play with your child in Nursery. This helps children feel secure in their nursery environment, helps form attachments and allows parents to see what happens behind that black front door!

Here are our future dates, we would love for you to join us!

All sessions are 2.30-3.30pm

Wednesday 10th January - Join us for our Mindfulness enrichment

Tuesday 13th February – Join us for our Cultural enrichment

Thursday 14th March - Join us for our Physical enrichment

Monday 15th April – Join us for our Forest School/Outdoor Learning enrichment

Friday 17th May - Join us for our Cooking enrichment

Thursday 13th June - Join us for our Mindfulness enrichment

Please visit our Nursery Calendar on our website if you would like a reminder of dates.

Check out our new blogs!



Please do check out our new blogs on our website! One has been written by our wonderful Cara as she shares with you her passion for dance and how she uses this passion in her work with the children at Poppins. Cara also shares information about her hearing impairment and how she manages this in her day-to-day life.



The second blog has been written by our lovely apprentice, Eris. Eris has used her blog as a platform to share information with you about her recent autism diagnosis and what this means for her. I love that at Poppins we celebrate diversity. Please when you get a moment give Eris' blog a read. We feel very lucky to have her and we want you to know why too.

Tapestry

Just a polite reminder to please check Tapestry regularly for updates. We try to be quite eco-conscious of how much paper we are printing which is why we use Tapestry as a communication method to share letters, important dates and newsletters.

Also we love to hear from parents on Tapestry, to see photos of things you do at home so please do remember to share and make comments. This is really important as it tells us what your child is interested at home, which we use as a starting point for their learning at Poppins.

Thank you for your support.

Couple of important reminders

Fees

Polite reminder to please pay fees on the 1st of each month. If you pay via a tax-free childcare account please check these each month to ensure your payment hasn't got stuck. Thank you.

Wipes

If your child is in nappies, please don't forget to pop wipes in their bag too.

Thank you