

**Christmas 2020:**

As the festive season is approaching, we would like to remind parents that we are *only closed* on the bank holidays. If you are intending to be away during this time absences should be pre-notified to the office.

Please see our upcoming operational hours below:

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December- Normal operating hours

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December- Closed Christmas Day**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December- Closed, Bank Holiday**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December- Normal operating hours

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December- Normal operating hours

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December- Normal operating hours

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January- Closed, Bank Holiday**

**We reopen on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January**

Funded Placements:

The holiday period for Children attending using the Government funding are from;

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December-Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

If your child receives the 15hrs/30hrs funding from Haringey Council, and you are using your full allowance each week then during this holiday period the provision will not cover attendance. However, if you wish your child to attend Little Crickets throughout this period, please do get in touch so we can make arrangements and check for availability.



**Christmas Dinner:**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December the children will have Christmas Dinner for Lunch with all the trimmings to celebrate the Festive season. This includes turkey, vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, parsnips, potatoes, and gravy!



**Tapestry:**

As you all know we are introducing Tapestry, an online learning journal which allows parents to engage more actively in their child's learning and development whilst at Little Crickets.

We are very pleased with the first stage of the implementation which started with the Dragonflies room. Parents have found the system easy to use and are enjoying having a more interactive experience at our setting on a daily basis during these difficult times.

We are now ready to commence the next phase and introduce Tapestry to the Ants as well as Bumblebees rooms. This will commence next week from Monday 30th November and to prepare for this stage parents registered with us will be receiving an activation email for their Tapestry account.

We will be using Tapestry to track child development through the Early Years which will include Observations and daily feedback to parents via photos, videos, and messages. As part of Ofsted requirements, some observations will include group activities and therefore there may be pictures/videos of other children partaking in the same activity as your child. Pictures/video's will only be used for EYFS purposes and will not be used for marketing or shared with any other parties.

If you require any further clarity or guidance please do not hesitate to contact management.



### Remembrance Day

We are really proud of the Bumblebees Room who had the wonderful idea to bake cookies with the children and raise money for charity.

The bake sale was really successful and we would like to thank all our parents that were able to donate.

Thanks to your kind donations, we were able to raise £75 which will go towards the Poppy Appeal Charity.



### Parent Surveys

Just a kind reminder that you will be receiving parent surveys shortly.

Surveys may remain anonymous. Your honest feedback will help to strengthen parent partnerships and our service that we provide.

For this reason, we would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete and return this survey at your earliest convenience.

Thank you in advance for your involvement and we value your feedback.

### Fee changes 2021:

For the past three years since opening Little Crickets Day Care, we have grown and continued to enhance the learning, development and experience for all our children. During this journey there have been changes to the economy such as the increasing cost of living and increased minimum wage. As part of our growth, we have also expanded on our staffing and administration costs.

When we first opened our doors in 2017, our base rate was £8.00 per hour and luckily have managed to hold this rate for over three years. Unfortunately, we can no longer sustain to absorb these mounting costs, so as from January 2021 our session's hourly base rate will be increasing by 55 pence per hour.

This small but necessary increase will help assist with these increasing overheads so that we can continue to invest and develop successfully for everyone. Any existing 25 and 40 hour discounts will be applied in the same way as they do presently against this new base rate.

This is the first rate increase in more than three years and we have tried to keep it as minimal as possible in order to have the least impact for all those effected, but hope you can understand our reasons for this small but necessary adjustment.

Please do not hesitate to contact the manager should you require further clarification.

### Staff:

#### New Staff

We would like to give a warm welcome to our recently employed practitioners. We are so delighted that you have joined our expanding team..

Our new staff members include:

**Paulina** – Level two in childcare – Office Administrator/ Room practitioner

**Andreea**- Level two in childcare- Based in the Dragonflies Room

#### Deputy Manager:

Huge congratulations to **Nair** on her new Role as Room Based Deputy Manager while Mel is on her maternity leave!

#### Maternity Leave:

We will be saying our goodbyes to **Mel** (co-daycare manager) whose last day will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. We would like to the opportunity to thank Mel for all her hard work and wish her the best of luck for her new Journey ahead !



### Learning that has taken place this month

#### The Ants Room:

The Ants Room have enjoyed exploring their senses through exploring various textures. They have taken part in the following activities such as bubble wrap painting and playing with coloured spaghetti.



#### The Bumblebees Room

The Bumblebees have been learning about Remembrance Day by discovering the history behind it through discussions and stories. The children really enjoyed being involved in the process of baking cookies to raise money for the Poppy Appeal Charity. It was great to see each child's involvement and enthusiasm to do something good for the community and learning about great values along the way such as kindness and helping others. The Bumblebee's also created some wonderful poppy's during their arts and crafts focus activity time.



## The Dragonflies Room:

The children in the Dragonflies Room had many stories to tell about the fireworks they had heard and seen. With the children's interest in mind, the Dragonflies have been learning about Bonfire Night by discovering the history behind it and exploring various activities with their peers. The children particularly enjoyed getting creative with junk modelling by painting cardboard tubes to make their own fireworks.

