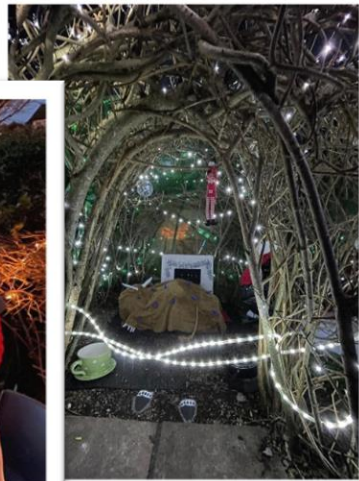


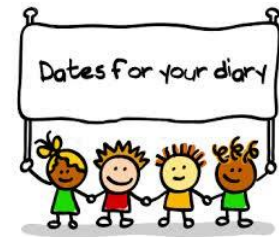
WINTER 2020-21 Newsletter



Thank you to everyone who supported our Twilight walks either by attending or making a donation.

We had a magical few evenings here after what has proved to be a very challenging year.

We hope to make these a regular feature on our calendar.



NURSERY INSET DAYS

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021
Cancelled

TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021
TBC

HOLIDAY CLUBS are subject to changing covid guidance and may not be able to run. Please contact us with any enquiries.

FEBRUARY HALF TERM
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

EASTER HOLIDAY DATES

Good Friday - 2nd April
Easter Monday 5th April

MAY BANK HOLIDAYS
3rd & 31st May

MAY HALF TERM
1st – 4th June

Parents Morning
w/c 7th June TBC

Welcome to the team

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest staff members.

BUNNIES

MARIA- has transferred from a Brighton based nursery and is studying psychology. She is looking forward to teaching the children some Spanish.

CLAIRE- has returned to childcare after having her own children, she is level 3 qualified and has SEN qualifications.

HEDGEHOGS

OLIVIA- has Forest school qualifications and loves the outdoors.

FOXES

ALEX- has childcare qualifications and nursery chef experience. She looks forward to teaching the children some Slovakian.

HOME
LEARNING

TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING JOURNAL

We are re-introducing the home learning posts to support our children who are unable to attend nursery during the latest lockdown.

Please check your Tapestry account for more information.

If you have any difficulties in accessing the information or would like any further guidance or



A Reminder for Parents

SNOW & EXTREME WEATHER POLICY



Policy Statement

It is our policy for Boomerang Kids to remain open during snow or inclement weather conditions. Closure of the setting is an extreme measure and would not be taken lightly.

There will be no refunds on fees.

It is expected that all staff make reasonable and appropriate attempts to get to setting. Walking for up to 2.5 miles is considered appropriate in almost all circumstances. For those coming on longer journeys every attempt should be made to catch public transport (if running) if driving is not possible. A skeleton staff will be in operation.

The setting will close at 3:30pm, due to safety, to ensure that both children/parents and staff can travel home in natural light, due to snow and ice.

It will be the decision of the Manager or Deputy Manager to make the decision as to whether to close the setting earlier, due to the weather changes or if it is deemed unsafe for staff to travel back to their homes.

Communication

Effective communication with parents is paramount and the following procedures will occur wherever possible whenever snow is clearly forecast or falls:

- An email will be sent to all parents/carers (please ensure we have your correct email address). Also a message will be sent using 'Tapestry'.
- Please check on our social media pages for notifications if the setting does not open.
- A member of staff will inform parent/carer at the time of 'sign-in' as to whether the setting will remain open the f
- ull session (informing time of closure).

We're digging up the Bear Garden.....

The Bear Garden has been very much a part of everyday life for the nursery and even more so since all the pandemic restrictions came into force last year.

Following the success of our Twilight Walks, we made plans to make this area more accessible. In the short term we are levelling the grass slope and replacing the gravel path with a safety surface.

In the longer term we hope to be able to construct a small outside wooden classroom for the children (we will need planning permission for this though) where we will offer forestry school style learning.

Be Prepared.....!



Dear Parents
We would be grateful for any donations of children's waterproof winter coats.
Thank you

Thank you!

We raised **£550** for
Children In Need during
November.

Thank you!

We raised **£203** for
Save the Children
during Christmas Jumper Week



FINANCE MATTERS

GRACE PERIOD

Please be aware:

If you are claiming the **Extended Entitlement 30-hour Funding** that the government allow a '**grace period**' so that if your circumstances change, i.e. you leave your job, you still have time to make other arrangements and also fulfil contractual obligations to cover notice periods.

Please ask Fiona to check when your 'grace period' ends as this may affect your decision to make any immediate changes to your child's nursery attendance.

30 HOURS DON'T FORGET TO RE-VALIDATE YOUR CODE!

Families should receive email or text reminders from the childcare service to **reconfirm their codes**. Please respond promptly to these reminders.

Boomerang Kids will also continue to issue alerts through our newsletters, noticeboards and website so please log on to your childcare account to re-validate.

<https://www.gov.uk/childcareaccount>.

Please note: if your invoice shows a total amount in brackets this means your account is in credit and there is nothing further to pay.

FUNDED CHILDREN ALL ABSENCES INCL. HOLIDAYS

It is very important that **children using FUNDED hours** inform us of any absence as this will be audited by the Early Years Team at Brighton Council.

The Early Years Team want to ensure that free education places are used to their full potential, which is why we are asked to keep up-to-date records of all child absences.

If the absences total more than 10 days a term we are required to inform them and this then becomes a matter for further investigation and is essentially taken out of our hands.

NON PAYMENT OF FEES OR FEES OWED

Boomerang Kids is a charitable, non-profit making nursery and, as such, is reliant on the timely payment of nursery fees. Our policy states that if fees are owed and remain outstanding we may ask you to keep your child at home **until the fees have been paid in full**.

It is very important that you keep us informed if you are having any problems making payments as we can employ a number of strategies including setting up a Payment Plan.

If you need to discuss this or any other financial issue please contact our Finance & EYE Administrator, Fiona.