

From the Office

Hi everyone, welcome to October's Newsletter.

What a busy month we are having, it's so lovely to see all of the children so settled now and coming into Nursery with smiles. Because the classrooms are now settled, we are able to start our formal planning. I hope that you have all had the time to take a look, all of the classes are posting their planning on FAMILY every Sunday morning. For all of our classes, the planning is completely play based and age appropriate with key themes and areas of learning incorporated into all of the activities that we have on offer to the children. All of our activities are accessible and extendable to all of our children to take in the direction that they wish so we hope that all of our children are fully catered for. If you would like to know more about some of the activities and themes that your child will be taking part in and why then please do let me know and I would be very happy to talk you through what we are doing.

With regards to FAMILY, I hope that you are all able to access it fully and are enjoying all that it offers. The videos really are a wonderful window into what we are doing so please do take the time to take a look and then like what you see. The children will enjoy doing this with you too!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our pink days, our first event of the year! We always love these days and so do the children! It was great to see all of the pink things coming in from home, I think we had everything from a tiny pink piglet to a giant pink monkey! And thank you to all of those that added to our Breast Cancer charity donation box, as an all-female team this is a charity that is very close to all of our hearts so thank you!

As you can see, we have lots to look forward to in November, the term really is whizzing by!

A Few Reminders:

As the weather starts to cool down the children will be spending more time outside so we ask that all children have a hat here in the Nursery to wear when they are outside. This can be left in their cubbies so you don't need to bring it in every day.

And as always, please remember to park with consideration for others when picking up and dropping off your child.

Thank you, *Emma and Honeyleen*

Monthly topics

October

Ladybirds, Grasshoppers & Fireflies: All About Me!

Caterpillars, Butterflies & Farashat: Fruit and Vegetables

Dragonflies: Healthy Lifestyles



Don't forget!...

Events - November

Wednesday 3rd: UAE Flag Day

Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th:
Diwali Celebrations

Sunday 14th & Monday 15th:
Blue Day

Sunday 14th - Thursday 18th:
Health and Fitness Week

Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th:
Parent/Teacher meetings (more details
will be sent to you closer to the time)

Thursday 25th November:
Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday 28th & Monday 29th:
National Day Celebrations

Tuesday 30th: Closed for
Martyr's Day (to be confirmed)

Happy Birthday!

in October...

Look Who's 1!

Romy

Look Who's 3!

Mira

Look Who's 4!

Salama Al Mehairbi

Under Fours...

In the next few newsletters we will be providing you with extracts from a number of our policy handbooks.

HOW WE STRUCTURE OUR PLAY BASED CURRICULUM

At Bright Beginnings we believe that children learn best through active exploration of their environment. Active learning requires thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn first hand about the world we live in. This is why we place a strong emphasis on providing a safe and caring environment in which children have the opportunity to explore, experiment, discover and ask questions. The activities we plan and the way in which we organise the environment, select resources and interact with the children are all designed to ensure that each child leaves Bright Beginnings with happy memories, a positive self-concept and all the skills that they need for a successful start to school. Structure exists, but the focus is on play and socialization rather than academics. Lessons are carried out through play-based activities that are rooted in basic social skills like sharing, taking turns, self-control, making friends, following instructions and getting along with others.

"Playful learning supports academic outcomes, and also supports positive associations with learning that help children become successful, happy, lifelong learners." Dr. Craig Bach, vice president of education of The Goddard School.

Our play based learning approach follows the following areas of learning and also supports the types of play the children will be engaged in throughout the day within their learning environment.

- **Dramatic Play (learning by role-taking/pretending)** – explore roles, relationships, skills – the skills needed to be a parent, shopkeeper, doctor and carpenter – including language and numeracy skills, thinking and relationship skills.
- **Manipulative Play (learning by touch/feel/manipulating)** – to develop mathematical, design, collaboration and negotiation skills (for example building with Lego/blocks etc)
- **Sensory Play (learning through senses)** – to explore science concepts about volume, capacity, consistency etc. Unless children have first-hand experience of materials and their properties they cannot understand them at a mental level (for example playing with sand and water).
- **Creative Play (learning by creating)** - the purpose here is to encourage creative expression. What are the experiences, ideas and feelings that children want to express? What are the different ways of doing that? We want to open up the 100 languages of children, rather than limiting them to talking, reading and writing. Creativity creates alert minds that are able to invent and think outside the box (art and craft activities).
- **Exploratory Play (learning by finding out)** - where children stretch themselves – learn to manage risk – develop a sense of adventure and well-being as well as important physical and mental skills. Physically active play allows children to test and develop all types of motor skills. It promotes significant health and wellbeing benefits (gross motor activities).
- **Language Development** – Through stories, songs, rhymes. Children love them and they are a real help in developing language, numeracy, rhythm, movement and a sense of community.

We also have a strong **tri-lingual program** that includes English, French and Arabic taught through play using all of the above approaches.

At Bright Beginnings we use an holistic approach in our play based curriculum – we teach children social responsibility, to appreciate and take care of their environment, to be global learners who have a strong sense of community. We actively engage with our families and foster close relationships with those within our immediate community and further afield.

