



Welcome to our... October newsletter

From the Office

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our October Newsletter!

I can't believe we are now in October, September went by so quickly!

What a fantastic start to our Nursery year, the children are settling and it is lovely to see new friendships blossoming. It is wonderful to enter a classroom and see happy little faces engaged in fun activities. It truly has been a busy, fun month! A big thank you to staff and parents for making this such a smooth start of term for all of the children.

This month we have officially started our class topics - the Baby Bees, Ladybirds and Fireflies have been gluing and sticking everything in sight. What a fun way to get those little fingers working! Our Grasshoppers and Butterflies class were finding out about life on the farm and our Dragonflies and Asafeer class were learning all about family.

Each week on the Family App your child's teacher will share the weekly class planning. The planning will give you an insight to the activities that your child will have the opportunity to take part in each day. Children's activities are gauged in accordance to the child's age and developmental ability. We aim to encourage children to use and build on their creativity, problem solving skills and to strengthen their own independent needs. Each month will bring new exciting topics which will incorporate all of the above areas of child development.

October means that our weather will start to cool down giving the children the opportunity to spend more time outdoors, whether it be on our playground or spending time getting our garden ready for planting. We are looking forward to this time of the year when we say farewell to the hot summer months.

Now that the weather is changing it can affect our children's health. If your child is unwell please keep them at home until they are feeling better. Our Bright Beginnings Nurse is always here for advice. As always please do not hesitate to contact the office, Angel and I are here for any concerns you may have or even for a chat. It's always nice to catch up with our parents!

A Few Reminders: Please, please, please remember to return the "Child Weekly Health Declaration" each Sunday. This is a big part of our compliance criteria with ADEK and we must have them all in from every family every week. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Angel and I would love to have a Sunday of all forms in ontime :)

Gillian & Angel

Monthly topics

October

Baby Bees, Ladybirds & Fireflies: All About Me!

Grasshoppers & Butterflies: Fruit and Vegetables

Dragonflies & Asafeer: 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: Martyr's Day -
Nursery closed (to be confirmed)

Happy Birthday!

in October...

Look Who's 1!

Matteo Tarraf

Look Who's 2!

Mathilda Pye
Ariya Wadhwa
Sreenivasan
Freddie Jones
Jack Simmonds (Sib)
Olivia McCollum
Oriane Vujovic

Look Who's 4!

Yu Vin Koh

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.

