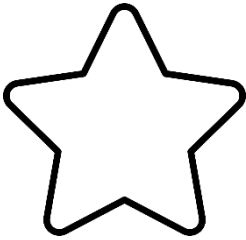
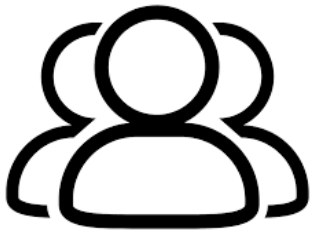




Welcome to our termly news letter, where we have the opportunity to share with our wonderful family and friends just some of the exciting things that are going on inside nursery. We hope that everyone is well and looking forward to a jam packed summer full of fun, learning and wonderful experiences making memories that will last a lifetime.



NEW: Star Of The Month – Check out our new “Star of the Month” display in reception, where it gives you the families the opportunity to say thank you to the individuals that are really making a difference for your little one. Reward the staff member you wish to thank by adding a star for them and at the end of term we will reward the staff member who has received the most stars with a special personal gift. It is important to us that we show our appreciation for all their hard work.



Recruitment – ‘More than eight in 10 early years providers (84%) are finding it difficult to recruit staff, according to a new report from the Alliance.’ At Once Upon a Time we know that our employees do one of the most important jobs in the world– nurturing, loving and caring for your pride and joy. Therefore, we pride ourselves on offering competitive salaries and employee incentives to all of our staff as we know how valuable they are to our families. However, we would like to address that nurseries across the UK are being forced to close or reduce their services/ close down rooms/ or sessions at an alarming rate because they are struggling to recruit and retain staff to cover ratios. Here at Once Upon a Time we are in the process of recruiting new staff, to help us PLEASE recommend us or put a word out to family and friends who have the relevant childcare qualifications in Early Years. We would in particular love a Qualified teacher or Early years teacher. CV's can be sent to: dronfield@onceuponatimedaycare.co.uk , or give us a call for an informal chat on 01246 928000. 50% off childcare fees for 1 month if you 'Refer A Friend'. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a fun filled July!

Our Team Updates - With this in mind, you may have noticed a few changes within our team. Jasmin, formally the room leader of our Under The Sea room has sadly had to move back to Essex due to unforeseen circumstances. We wish her the very best and thank her for her hard work in the time she was with us.

We have however welcomed a new member to the Under The Sea team...



Meet Claire, Claire has a wealth of experience in early years, as a qualified Level 3 nursery nurse and paediatric first aider with managerial experience she has already made a great impression on the team and with the children. She can't wait to meet you all formally. Please help us to make her feel welcome and say hi if you see her!

Let's Celebrate – We would also like to celebrate one of our team members achievements this month. Kerry formally our pre-school practitioner has successfully achieved her Room Leader Status and will be beginning her Level 5 with our Deputy manager Fiona. We are constantly supporting our team to challenge themselves, further their development and knowledge to support them within their roles.



Kerry has demonstrated wonderful leadership skills along with her passion for helping children get “school ready” we can't wait to watch her grow within the nursery, and for her to shine in her new position.



We would also like to make our celebrations a little more special. Steph our nursery chef will be adapting the menu to suit the different themes coming up. For example, the teddy bears picnic on Monday 10th July Steph will be providing a delicious picnic style tea, and for our older ones include them in making sandwiches, chopping fruit and vegetables, and also making cakes or biscuits for the event. Keep an eye out on the app and on social media for some of the exciting foods your little one will be trying whilst with us!

What have we been up to?

Space and Under The Sea Rooms (0-2 years)

Our under 2's have been incredibly busy this term, as we only have a few babies on a daily basis we have been joining the 2 rooms and utilising the wonderful space and resources we have. The space room has been a wonderful calm sensory space where the children have had free flow access to the outdoors whilst we have been having such wonderful weather. The Under The Sea room has been incredibly busy with some wonderful activities.



Our under 2's have been very busy learning nursery rhymes and songs using music and movement. When children learn to play music, they develop important motor skills.



When they sing songs, they learn to focus, listen carefully and repeat what they've heard. Just like reading to your child, singing songs with them helps to boost their vocabulary and language skills.

As we are reaching the end of term we would like to celebrate the end of our first academic year of Once Upon A Time Daycare Dronfield by inviting our little ones to our...



“Splash Party”

Tuesday 19th and Friday 22nd July



Not only do our little one's love splashing around in the water, but it has so many developmental benefits. Water helps develop your child's fine and gross motor skills; it has a huge impact on your child's hand-eye coordination. It can have a relaxing and therapeutic effect on your little one, it helps with concentration and the sensory play for babies can have a positive impact on the sensory function of your child.

If you would like your little one to take part, please provide your little one on these days with a splash bag, including a towel and something your happy for your little one to get wet in. The activities will be carried out indoors or out weather dependant. It will be a fun session full of bubbles, sensory experiences and of course water!

Jungle Room (2-3 years)



Our jungle room alongside our pre-school children had an incredible experience this term when we discovered a honeybee hive in our tree in the garden. The children were invited to watch as the gentleman from Beighton Bees came to take our bees to a safe spot for them to make their honey.



From this the children extended their learning by looking more closely at bees, making their own using craft materials developing their fine motor skills. They also discussed how we can help to look after the bees as they are so very helpful and make delicious honey!

The jungle team with help from the Little Kingdom children have been busy planting some beautiful flowers, herbs and vegetables in our allotment to help with pollination and also grow our own produce for the nursery to use and eat. What an incredible learning opportunity this was!

To celebrate the end of the academic year for our Jungle children we wanted to incorporate all the wonderful trips our children will be embarking on over the summer and also the fact that this time goes "too fast". There will be transport races and the theme will run through the activities throughout these days.



Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st
"Two Fast" Summer Celebration



Little Kingdom Room (3-5 years)

Our pre-school children have had a busy term so far as they have had a huge interest in farming and the natural world. As we plan based on children's interest and experiences we have incorporated getting "school ready" into the learning opportunities as they arise. From creating a chicken coop counting and using mathematical language in questioning, to identifying and forming shapes, colours and patterns on different insects to exploring letters and sounds during group time.



We also had Kixx join us for the month of April, the programme was carefully designed for both boys and girls between the ages of 2 years and 10 years of age. All sessions provided a fun, playful, safe environment which encourages children to develop a positive sense of themselves, respect for others, a positive disposition to learn new skills, and a sense of pride in their ability to master them.



This is a key developmental age for all our **children** and the sessions hit all the major gross motor skills goals such as agility, balance, coordination but also emphasise things such as self-confidence, listening, communication skills and of course being part of a team.

We have also got some exciting activities planned in the run up to the summer break, here are some dates for your diary for our pre-schoolers:



Tuesday 12th July and Thursday 14th July – PE DAYS

Please provide a separate sports bag with a change of t shirt, shorts or jogging bottoms and trainers as we encourage the children to dress and undress themselves, engage in physical exercise and sports activities following direction and building team engagement whilst having lots of fun!

Friday 22nd July 2pm-4pm– “Graduation Party”

We only have a very small number of children leaving us this summer to go to school and therefor would like to celebrate with all the children on this special afternoon. The children will be helping to plan and organise the theme and activities over the next few weeks.



Other Dates for your diary



Monday 4th July – Independence Day

Saturday 9th July – Eid Al-Adha (celebrating the week before)

Sunday 10th July – Teddy bears picnic day (celebrating on Monday 11th)

Wednesday 20th July – Space exploration Day

Friday 22nd July – Last Day of Term