

Good Afternoon Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all well!

We have a few changes coming up in the next month or so that we wanted to share with you all.

## **Staff Changes**

We have some sad news to share with you all, Toni, our current deputy manager is sadly leaving us to pursue her career working within the community in Rotherham. This is something she has always wanted to explore and although she is sad to be leaving our OUATD family, she is excited to be following her career path and we wish her all the very best of luck with her new venture. Her last day with us will be 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Obviously, this opened a new opportunity for a potential new candidate. We are pleased to inform you that Fiona Gallagher, our newly appointed third in charge and room leader has been interviewed for the post and has been successful. Fiona has a wealth of experience not only in nurseries but also as a childminder, and we can't wait to see her flourish and grow with the company.

We also have Alyssa our apprentice is leaving us in April, again this is incredibly sad news, but we wish her the very best in her new career path in retail.

We also have a few new faces joining our ever-growing team.

You may have already met some, but we wanted to share a little more information about them and formally introduce them to you:



### **Fiona – Deputy Manager, Deputy Safeguarding Lead and SENCO**

Fiona has 30 years' experience in the sector with a level 4 in early years education, she ran her own childminding business for 19 years, she has 2 daughters of her own, they are 13 years and 24 years old. With experience working both private and public sector along with extensive experience working with SEND, Makaton trained. Fiona set up an intergenerational scheme at her previous setting with the toddlers incorporating music and movement with the elderly which was a huge success.



### **Kerry – Nursery Nurse**

#### **Little Kingdom**

Kerry has 18 years' experience in early years. Kerry has 14 years' experience as a senior teaching assistant, with a wealth of knowledge in phonics and school preparation. She has 2 children of her own a 24 years old and a 20-year-old. Kerry enjoys baking, getting creative, sewing, and painting. She has already made some great relationships and bonds with the children and their families and we are so pleased she is apart of our team.



**Emma – Nursery Nurse**

**Under The Sea – Moving to Jungle May/June 2022**

Emma is qualified in a National Diploma in Nursery Nursing. She has worked with children for over 30 years and has a wide range of knowledge and experience. Emma is married, and has one child and a springer spaniel. She enjoys dog walking, watching films and she also runs her own part-time nail technician business from home.



**Amy – Apprentice Nursery Nurse**

**Under The Sea**

Amy is a fast learner and willing to do everything that it takes to work towards her ambition of being a fully qualified early years educator. She loves to be busy, working in a fast moving environment where no two days are the same. She is fun with a great temperament for working with young children. She has previous experience of working with children and is eager to meet everyone and get stuck in.



**Laura P – Nursery Nurse**

**Under The Sea**

Laura is level 3 qualified and has over 15 years experience working in childcare and mainly nurseries. She has 2 children of her own and loves spending time with them when they are back from school. She also has a niece and a nephew and she is very close to them so family is very important to her. She loves swimming with her children and also independently.



**Victoria N – Nursery Nurse (Starting with us May 2022)**

**Jungle**

Victoria has worked in childcare for 12 years, during her time in nursery she have worked with all age groups helping all child to learn and grow. She holds a level 3 diploma in childcare and education and a level 3 diploma in SEND. She loves to spend my spare time with her husband and her young daughter going on day trips to the beach and having a walk around the local park.



### **Bryony – Nursery Nurse (Starting with us 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022)**

#### **Under The Sea**

Bryony completed her level 3 in 2016 and then went to Leeds trinity University and completed her level 5 in 2019. She takes great joy in working with the children and watching them meet their milestones and enjoy working alongside parents to help children reach their potential. She enjoys spending time with my family, my daughter who is two years old and friends.



### **Fearn- Bank Staff (Starting with us 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022)**

Fearn is really passionate about working with children as she loves to help them with their growth, development and to help them along their way into developing into their very own character. She has worked with children in a previous nursery setting and has always been around children of all ages. She also used to do professional wrestling (Entertainment, don't worry!) and she adores the feeling of seeing faces light up through laughter and excitement. She is very compassionate, easy going and a caring person. She loves to generate good vibes!

We would like to rest you assured that staff turnover is predominantly very good and we have a high number of long-standing staff with the company. The team members are carefully selected and undergo support and induction along with ongoing training to ensure that they are continuously developing and keeping up to date with relevant changes in the curriculum, safeguarding and nurser policies and procedures. We take good care of our team, and we support them in their career paths wherever that may take them.

#### **Nursery Parent/Carer Update**

It is with great pleasure that from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May we will be allowing families to enter the building to drop off and collect their children. If you haven't already, please begin to buzz reception when you collect, and we can get your fingerprint for the door access system before the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then we are all set to go.

We only allow main parents/carers that collect the children on a regular basis to have their fingerprint taken, if someone else collects your little one they will still need to buzz and the door will be released to allow access following the usual password and permission agreement.

**From the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, parents will need to continue to buzz the room to make them aware that you have arrived and the team will then get your little one ready for you to collect from the door.**

**You may then enter the building and await outside of the room for your child to be brought to you at the door.**

The reason we are not allowing parents and carers to enter the room is because on reflection and for the past 2 years since the pandemic began, children have adapted to the nursery classroom and the routine. This sadly doesn't involve parents and carers entering the space at any time. Children are able to settle in better, on collection times children aren't getting distressed as they don't see children's parents coming in and out of the room disrupting play. As always, the children are at the forefront of every decision made.

However, you are able to see the room your little on is in daily on collection and drop off.

All children under 2 years old are currently in our Under The Sea room (first room straight ahead of reception).

All children over 2 are based in our Jungle room (first door at the top of the stairs).

The children are still able to access their official play space, (Little Kingdom and Outer Space) however this is not all day but in intervals. This ensures that the children are accessing all the learning opportunities we have to offer.

This is due to the low number children and staff at the moment. We are still a new nursery; recruitment is ongoing and once we have recruited more qualified staff we will be able to split off into their official rooms permanently adhering to ratio's.

Our babies have really enjoyed sharing the Under The sea space as on some days there is as little as 2 babies, so the social aspect of sharing the space has been wonderful. They have been given their own area to ensure that the non-walkers are safe and can enjoy some floor based play.

The Little Kingdom children are the same, the low numbers have meant that they have been able to socialise and play with the children in the Jungle room whilst still preparing for school.

## **Menu**

Our new spring/summer menu is being launched the week commencing **11<sup>th</sup> April** this will be sent out to you separately. Lots of delicious nutritionally balanced meals as normal. Please keep an eye out for our new website which will be launched this spring, there are recipe cards for you to try at home and further information about our menu on there.

We hope you appreciate our transparency, there lots of exciting things coming up. Please help our new team members to feel welcome as they will begin to collect your little one from the door to help you and your little one familiarise yourself with them.

Hope you have a lovely weekend!

Once Upon a Time Daycare