Parent/Children Surveys

Thank you to all the children and parents who participated in the recent customers surveys. We had a fantastic response to both surveys.

The results have been publicised and a number of actions are already being instigated. The Lego had been a huge success in the Pre-School rooms with staff and children enjoying creating some fantastic models.

If you would like a copy of the results emailing directly to you please let us know.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day the staff and children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters.

Usborne books spent the day with us enabling parents to spend their Book Day vouchers. £90.00 was raised from the sales and this has been spent purchasing new books for the children. Thank you!!
Celebrating Chinese New Year

Children throughout the Centre enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with food tasting, arts and crafts and a visit from Zoo lab.

The theme of the Zoo lab workshop was celebrating Chinese New Year through developing a better understanding of some of the animals which are part of the Chinese zodiac.

Children in Pre-School 1 were visited by 2 of the children’s parents (Clement & Karl’s parents) who dressed in their traditional Chinese clothes. They delivered a whole afternoon of story-telling, traditional food tasting, arts and crafts.

The children sat beautifully and listened to the story about which animal represents this year, the year of the goat/sheep. They also enjoyed a puppet show telling the children the story of the dragon which visits shops and businesses to bring them good luck.

Chinese flowers were also made by the children to decorate their houses and they also enjoyed tasting a traditional homemade rice cake.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jun and Yung-Chung for coming into Pre-School and presenting such an informative and enjoyable afternoon.

If there any parents/grandparents who would like to come into the Centre to speak /tell a story to the children please do let us know.

Flipping Pancakes!

Pre-School enjoyed Pancake day by spending the day whole day making their own pancakes to taste.

They used eggs, milk and flour mixed it together to make the batter. When the batter was ready the children watched in the kitchen as the pancakes were cooked and flipped.

The children then enjoyed choosing from a wide range of toppings, before thoroughly enjoying tasting them.
Springtime at the Allotments

We have had cold days, frosty days and wet muddy days, but finally the sun has arrived. The children have been visiting the allotment to care for the delicate lettuce and tomato seedlings they planted in the poly tunnel a few weeks ago. Each week we have watched them grow and carefully watered them. The children have been very nurturing as they gently transplanted the seedlings into bigger pots.

Whilst we are there we are also able to visit the chickens and see the bigger projects undertaken by the older students, they are very kind and have said we can pick some of their vegetables to eat when they are ready. We have also created a mini allotment at Pre-School and have planted potatoes, herbs and lots of other vegetables for us to try.

Walking to the Allotment has given us to opportunity to watch some of the building work on Campus and now that the new Engineering building has opened we are making plans to visit there soon.

Role play in Nursery 1

The children have been making the most of their new kitchen and the variety of new dressing up clothes, allowing them to expand their imagination and engage in imaginative role play.

We have experienced some very interesting scenarios as an assortment of animals, dinosaurs and snowmen have visited the shop and office in the role play area.

The Adventures of Heidi

Heidi has had great fun going to stay with some of the children from Nursery 2.

When Heidi went to stay with Kirsty she enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and went to a party with Kirsty and Jules, she had lots of fun!!

When Heidi went to stay with Oliver she had some yummy pizza on Friday evening and on Saturday went to Starbucks and shared Oliver’s ginger biscuit, she even ended up watching rugby!

At Alice’s house Heidi went to Diddi-Dance and visited Alice’s grandma, she also played in the garden.

Heidi has her suitcase packed and is ready for her next adventure!!

Newsletter March /April 2015
Spring has Sprung with Babyroom

Spring has begun and the babies have enjoyed exploring our Spring sensory area.

The area contains eggs, chicks, shredded paper and many more interesting items. The babies also enjoy looking at the colourful mobile of the spring animals that hangs from the ceiling.

Using our hands and paint they have also made sunflowers and eggs.

We have taken advantage of the lovely weather by going on walks and looking at the many different flowers that are beginning to grow.

Hidden Treasure

Crèche 1 have introduced some new treasure bags for the children to explore.

The bags contain a variety of resources including brushes, balls, tubes, scarves, baubles, and mirrored pebbles.

They are used to offer the children the opportunity to experience different textures, participate in open ended play and to enjoy exploring everyday objects.

The children have enjoyed brushing each other’s hair and their own with the range of different brushes, rolling various objects and seeing the items that sparkle and shine. The mirrored pebbles have been great for them looking at their own reflections.

Sing along Songbox

This term Creche 2 have been using a songbox they made.

This is to help encourage children to join in and interact at singing time, helping to develop social skills and communication and language.

It has been a huge success with the children, they have enjoyed choosing props/objects and using them as visual aids during song time.
Messy Feet!!

Pre-School 2 got very messy one wet and windy Wednesday!!

We pushed the tables to one side of the room and put big rolls of paper on the floor. The children straight away took off their socks and shoes and watched Kelly mix the colours.

When we painted the children’s feet there was lots of giggling and a lot of ticklish feet!!

The children had great fun foot printing and the staff had lots of fun painting feet. It’s safe to say there was paint everywhere!!

Come and Learn with Babylab

Our researchers from the Babylab will be at Campus in the City, 5 Cheapside, Lancaster, from the 10th until 11th April, from 11.30am until 3pm to talk to parents/nursery staff about all our fascinating research!

There will be a drop-in language-learning session taking place on both days, which will have lots of posters and a big display all about different aspects of language learning, and our researchers will be on hand for Q&A throughout the day.

Most importantly, refreshments will be provided and children are most welcome - we will have lots of toys for them to play with. It should be a really fun event!

Let’s Get Busy with Pre-School 1

This term we have been busy developing our knowledge of letter sounds and names, and we will continue to do so next term in preparation for school.

The children have enjoyed their trips to the allotment and we have planted seed potatoes at Pre-School which we are eagerly watching to see them grow!!

We have also been looking for the signs of Spring and talking about the different things in the environment. The children enjoyed painting pictures of daffodils.

We have created a Post Office in our role play area and the children helped to make a post box. We read the story of ‘The Jolly Post Man’ and have enjoyed posting letters and taking turns to empty the post box and deliver the letters to our friends!!

We would like to say a big thank you to all our parents who visited and read a selection of books in different languages as part of World Book day activities.
Pre-School 3 have been showing a lot of interest in pets and how we look after them.

All the children have enjoyed having the opportunity to play in the Pre-School vets and the children who have pets have enjoyed sharing their pet stories and experiences.

In the Vet role play area the children have taken temperatures, used a stethoscope, checked ears and eyes, given medicines and put bandages on the animals.

Some of the children have taken on the role of receptionists taking calls and asking customers to wait patiently in the waiting room! Others have enjoyed taking care of Digby the dog and Bob the fish.

We were very lucky to receive a visit from Bay Vets. The vet told us all about pets, what they need and how to look after them. The children listened and joined in brilliantly.

The Vet also brought a rabbit for the children to handle, they took turns to stroke and hold the rabbit, all the children were very gentle and caring.

The Vet theme has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about and care for other living things.

We are all looking forward to putting our new skills and knowledge into practice when we get the opportunity to hatch our own chicks after Easter!

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Food for Life

From April 13th the Pre-School Centre will be providing organic milk for the children at snack times.

The milk will be supplied by Emma’s organic dairy: http://gazegillorganics.co.uk/our-family-our-organic-farming-ethos/emmas-organic-diary/

The change has been initiated as part of Lancaster University’s commitment to serving quality, locally sourced, sustainable food.

In addition we are working towards being awarded the Gold ‘Food for Life’ Catering Mark for serving fresh and healthy meals using local and organic ingredients.

Café 21 and The Lounge on campus have already received these awards and the Pre-School Centre is hoping to join them in the near future.
Early Years Pupil Premium

From April 2015, the Pre-School Centre will be able to claim extra funding through the Early Years Pupil Premium to support children’s development, learning and care.

The Early Years Pupil Premium will provide, for eligible children, an extra 53 pence per hour for three and four year old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or who have been in care or adopted from care.

The extra funding is to be used by the Centre to improve the quality of the early years education that we provide.

Eligible children are those whose parents are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

Or the child has
- been in local-authority care for 1 day or more in England or Wales
- been adopted from care in England or Wales
- left care under a special guardianship order or residence order in England or Wales

If you would like to complete the form to check if your child is eligible please advise the staff in the office.

If you have any further questions or queries please let us know.

Childcare Vouchers to be replaced with Tax Free Childcare Scheme

The Tax Free Childcare scheme (TFC) to be introduced by the Government in autumn 2015 will eventually replace all childcare voucher schemes.

We have been advised that existing users of vouchers will be able to switch to the new scheme or retain their voucher provider. Childcare voucher schemes will however be closed to all new entrants on a date yet to be advised.

The new TFC scheme will allow eligible parents to register for an online childcare account; they will pay monies into this account with the Government also contributing 20p in every £1 of the first £10,000 of childcare costs, per child, per year, to a maximum of £2000 per child. The parent will through their account choose the childcare provider and the amount that is to be paid; monies will be transferred to the childcare provider.

The exact date for implementation has not been announced to date.

These links will provide more info:
http://www.tax-free-childcare.info/toolkit/?utm_source=Wordpress&utm_medium=button&utm_campaign=ChildcareProviderFirstAutoEmail

http://www.childcarevouchers.co.uk/Documents/CCV%20Beneficiary/CCV_TFC_guide_for_parents.pdf

http://www.tax-free-childcare.info/2015/03/budget/
Over the Easter closure stage 1 of a 2 phase project, designed to create a reception area and extend the existing office into the old pram store, will begin.

In order to create this the front entrance doors and first set of internal double doors will be moved forward creating space for the reception desk. The existing door bell and door access system will be relocated the front of the building.

These works are scheduled to take place 2nd April – 12th April 2015.

Phase 2 is unlikely to take place until late summer and will see a doorway knocked through to the store room where an office space will then be created.

We will keep you informed however minimal/no disruption is anticipated.

### Parent Information/Reminders

- Please submit the dates for your 2 consecutive weeks summer term holidays, to be taken between 29th June until 28th August 2015 by Friday 24th April 2015.

- Can all parents please ensure that when wishing to enter the Pre-School you use your allocated key cards. If you have misplaced the key card please advise the office immediately so it can be deactivated. Replacement cards cost £5.00. If you have a University Library card we can put the door access onto this card.

- Electronic Learning Journals: If you wish to receive your child’s observation reports via email on a termly basis can you please ensure that you accept the invite that has been sent previously. If you have not received an invite please advise the office.

- A reminder that we are collecting Sainsbury’s vouchers the post box is in the main foyer. All donated vouchers would be greatly received.

- Booking forms for the period 1st September 2015 to 26th August 2016 will be available in the foyer from 1st May.

### Dates for your diary

**Term Dates:**

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<th>Term Dates</th>
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<td>13th April until 28th August 2015</td>
<td>20th April until 26th June 2015</td>
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**Invoice dates**

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