

Spring Newsletter 2022

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The Dolls House and The Cottages

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thedhnursery.com



*This year we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
We were delighted that Her Majesty was able to visit
Our street party at The Cottages Pre-school on her
Diamond Jubilee.*

In 2012



Jubilee Street Party – Wednesday 1st June
Manor Farm Visit – Tuesday 14th June
Open Day – Saturday 18th June – Parents welcome
Photography Day – Wednesday 6th July
Summer Forest Discovery – Thursday 7th July
Music Festival – To Be Announced
Graduation Ball – Sunday 7th August

Jubilee Street Party

On **Wednesday 1st June** we are hosting a street party at The Cottages (formerly known as Cramant's Yard) in front of Cramant's Cottages. We aim to re-create the look and feel of street parties through History in one of the oldest genuine 'streets' of Leicester.

The two year olds will be joining us for the party.

Parents of **2,3** and **4** year olds are welcome to join us any time from 4pm, to enjoy refreshments with us, before taking their child home.

Distinguished guests will be invited, though 'Her Majesty, The Queen' may not attend this time due to ill health. We hope you can come, and help us celebrate this most exciting event.

The children at The Dolls House will celebrate a special street party tea in the front play area on **31st May** which parents, unfortunately, cannot attend due to the lack of space.

Please remember that our nursery and pre-school will be closed on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June for Jubilee Bank Holidays.

Manor Farm Visit

Our Pre-school and 2's enjoy this educational trip on Tuesday **14th June** to **Manor Farm Animal Centre** at East Leake.

Members will need to be at pre-school for 9am and will return at 3.00pm. The cost of the trip is £35 for each child or **free for F30 Gold Members** but as usual, if your child does not usually attend on Tuesdays' we charge £30 half-price for child-care (£65 total). Please complete the slip below and return to your key-worker. Sun cream will be supplied and applied if necessary, please come in wellingtons and appropriate clothes. Lunch, drink and waterproof play-suits will be provided. A hot meal is served on our return. **Please complete the slip below.**

Summer Fair Open Day

We are looking forward to this **Saturday** morning social event for all parents, **from 10am to 1pm on 18th June.**

Parents are invited to view the carefully planned learning areas that your child enjoys every day. Both The Dolls House and The Cottages will be open between the above hours with activities for you to enjoy with your children and refreshments served at The Cottages pre-school afterwards. Members at The Dolls House are invited to visit The Cottages to see where your child will be learning from age 3. This is also a perfect opportunity to meet other parents of children at the setting. The children will be singing at 12pm with dancing and maypole dancing for you to enjoy.

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Please bring along any parents who may be thinking of enrolling their child to view our nursery and pre-school and meet our staff team. Thanks to all who attended our last open day where parents voted all areas of our work to be 95.0% Excellent !
'We look forward to seeing you.'

Photography Day

This year **photography day** is on **Wednesday 6th July**. Children may be photographed with siblings if you wish. If your child is leaving for school, he or she will be photographed with cap and gown for their professional graduation photograph in addition to their normal clothes. Our skilled photographer always achieves stunning results which can be purchased digitally, as well as printed and presented in mounts.

Outdoor Forest Discovery (2's 3's and 4's)

Nigel, Chris, Farhana and the team lead our Spring Forest trip for both our **Two year old's** and **pre-school** members (**2's, 3's and 4's**) on **Thursday 7th July**. Den building, stream paddling and wildlife studies in the Charnwood Forest are both educational and fun and complement our New Walk- based outdoor experience. **Please complete and return the slip below.**

The cost of the trip is £35 for each child or **free for F30 Gold Members** but as usual, if your child does not usually attend on Thursdays' we charge £30 half-price for child-care (£65 total).

Please complete the slip below and return to your key-worker.

Sun cream will be supplied and applied if necessary, please come in wellingtons and appropriate clothes. Lunch, drink and waterproof play-suits will be provided. A hot meal is served on our return.

Leavers' Graduation Ball

To mark the occasion of our preschool members leaving to begin their school life, we have arranged a party for our leaver's. There will be lots of fun and games as well as party food.

Date: Sunday 7th August. Venue: The Cottages Preschool. Time: 3pm.

Dress code: Party wear or fancy dress including Superheroes.

All parents are welcome to the party. Please complete the slip below.

French Lessons

Madam Helen teaches our pre-school children for one hour on Thursday morning's. One hour lessons cost £5 or **free to Funded 30 Gold Members** If you would like your child to attend and learn French with a most talented teacher, please let a staff member know.

Dance Sessions

Miss Emma teaches dance on Tuesday mornings at The Dolls House and The Cottages.

Free for Funded 30 Gold Members, sessions cost only **£5.00** for $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. session at The Cottages and $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. session at The Dolls House. Please see your key-person if you would like your child to take part. **Funded 30 Gold Members** may attend dance sessions even if they do not usually attend on Tuesday's. Please ask your key-person for details. We will resume full dance lessons in September.

Creative Menu's

Chris has produced a new contemporary bespoke and healthy, seasonal variety to the children's dining experience. Chris and Farhana share a passion for nutritious food and offer an amazing mix of diverse tastes drawing on cultural, vegetarian and vegan influences. We continue to source high quality local organic produce where possible. Our large range of fresh fruit and veg is hand-picked for freshness. The children are learning a lot about the food they eat and are excited about

Food Hygiene Certificate Awarded Once again we have been awarded **Maximum 5** for our two kitchens. Thanks to **all members** for their consistently high standards in kitchen hygiene and food management. Both kitchens have consistently been awarded Maximum 5 since opening 19 years ago, and **all** of our staff team members hold food hygiene certificates.

Staff News

Congratulations to **Chelsie** on the birth of Avaleigh, both are doing fine and we wish them all the best. Chelsie will be on maternity leave for a time.

Issac has chosen a new career path after working with us for seven years. He started with us as a student from Leicester college, and achieved great things with the Cottages Pre-school.

Our senior manager, **Farhana Usman**, holds a BA Honours Degree in early childhood studies and an additional certificate in education (Teaching Degree) and has stepped in to run the pre-school.

She has been part of the management team for nineteen years since we started in 2003 and has three children of her own.

Fauzia Ibrahim, also one of our senior managers, who also holds a BA Honours degree in early childhood studies and, in addition, holds Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) and has stepped in to assist Farhana. Fauzia has been with us for fifteen years, and has two children of her own.

Jessica Plackett (Deputy Manager) offers support to the team at the Cottages and is well known by the children for her leadership at The Dolls House when they were age two.

Jess is level 3 qualified in early years education and is near to completing level 5.

Jess came to us as a student in 2018 and has embraced the role of deputy manager brilliantly.

Amber joined our Cottages team in July 2021 and is presently completing her level 2 qualification. She will be embarking on level 3 shortly.

Olivia is our newest member and already holds level 2. She will be starting her level 3 soon.

Olivia has a child of her own so is kept very busy!

At The Dolls House we warmly welcome **Nelly** who is starting her apprenticeship, and **Sitara** (who holds level 2 qualification). These new members ably assist our manager **Jane** and room leader

Ghotai with the babies at The Little House and the 2's at The Dolls House.

We are lucky to be blessed with such a talented and dedicated team.

Curiosity Zones

These ever-changing learning environments have been introduced to encourage the children to learn, play, interact, imagine and have fun whilst they explore different areas of curiosity. The curiosity ethos encourages creative self-expression through the use of every-day objects in scenarios limited only by their imagination. The provided resources do not come with age limits but, with the correct supervision, can be a rich source of learning which give the children a learning experience rarely given by countless plastic toys.

The curiosity zones are continuously changing and evolving providing ever-new sensory experiences for inquisitive minds. If you have household items that you think we could incorporate into our curiosity zones, please bring them in to add to the experience.

thedhnursery.com Our website is constantly revised and refreshed and our key policies and procedures such as our Medication Policy and Sick children policy can be viewed.

Singing with Nigel

We believe that providing children with a rich musical environment is essential to their development and forms an intrinsic part of communication development and confidence. Not just singing, we look month-by-month at the seasons and what animals are doing around the world, breathing exercises, relaxation, performance, comedy, dance and drama. Music speaks to all in any language on Wednesday mornings. The 2's visit the Cottages, from The Dolls House, joining in with this fun and inclusive activity. It is most rewarding when the group gives a big round of applause to a previously shy child who performs a little song.

Tapestry Reports Tapestry is our own in-house secure communication with parents.

Children's reports will be available on Tapestry towards the end of August.

Farhana, our senior manager, will be happy to discuss your child's progress if you wish.

News of our events, details of our activities and reminders can be viewed from your phone wherever you are. Photo's, video's and observations can be viewed on your Tapestry account and parents enjoy contributing to the content with activities, and achievements from home and family.

Please give permission for your child to appear in group photos on Tapestry.

Please complete the slip below.

Additional days. You may need your child to attend on a day that is not usually attended; just book with your Key-person but **you must transfer the correct fee on the day.** Please do not ask to swap your register days within a week unless this is a permanent arrangement that requires a new register schedule.

Breakfast Time Your child can join us for breakfast at 9.00am. Milk and fruit are served during our extended breakfast time which gives the children a good spell of learning and outdoor activity time before lunch. If your arrival time is after 9.00am please do not ask for breakfast.

No Food Please Do not allow your child to arrive eating at Nursery or Pre-school as we are not able to safely monitor the food that the children eat. Party food and cake can be brought-in but unfortunately must be shop-bought as this is clearly labelled for ingredients and contents and can be safely monitored by our staff. **A list of allergens is available in Parents Corner.**

Toys brought from home can cause real distractions to the children's concentration and learning.

Membership Fees and Opening Times Membership fees are based on 52 weeks. All members are required to pay membership fees during the Christmas week and bank holidays. The good news for working parents is that the nursery and pre-school only close on Good Friday and Easter Monday at Easter time.

Please be reminded that we open at 7.45am and cannot admit parents or children until that time as we are not insured for the children's safety. Collection of children should not be later than 5.45pm as staff must carry out health and safety checks and secure the nursery and pre-school before leaving the premises at 6.00pm. Thank you.

Please keep your key-person team informed of any changes to attendance and additional days; even if you have emailed or phoned the office as these teams keep the registers.

What is Funded 30 Gold Membership?

At the start of the term following your **child's 3rd birthday**, he or she will automatically be eligible for **15 hours** 'free' child-care. Parents can check on-line to see if they are eligible to receive a further 15 hours 'free' child-care (**Funded 30**) at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. As each of our days is 10 hours, 3 days are funded by Leicester City council, but this does not mean that it is free as many aspects of a pre-school's services are not covered by the funding.

The funding is 30 hours over 38 weeks (term-time) only, and does not cover the cost of meals. This funding is then 'stretched' to cover all year round for professional working parents. Quality Premium is added to fund a higher standard of staff and training for all staff within a safe, well managed pre-school worthy of 'OFSTED OUTSTANDING.'

Pre-school members attending 3 days per week whose parents or carers are eligible for 30 hours funding are '**Funded 30 Gold Members.**' Eligible Children attending 2 days per week pay for additional activities such as French lessons, Dance sessions and Forest Discovery trips separately. Before your child turns 3, the pre-school will hand you all the information you need and will help you register as a **Funded 30 Gold Member. Your child will need to attend 3 days at this point.**

Nigel (Managing Director) aims to have a 20 minute registration meeting with all parents of children who have turned three years of age as funding begins the term after the child's third birthday. Please contact Nigel to arrange this meeting to ensure that you get the most benefit from the funding which helps financially (see above) to educate your child for three days or more per week to a high standard and get them socially and intellectually school-ready.

Tax Free Child-care The scheme is designed to add 20% to 80% paid by parents, and pay the nursery directly avoiding tax on child-care. Based on the monthly nursery fees, parents are advised how much to pay and set up a standing-order payment to HMRC before the end of each month. A standing-order is then set up from your HMRC account to the nursery.
Google: HMRC taxfreechildcare

An Unwell Child Our Nursery and Pre-school cannot care for children that are ill. If your child has a tummy bug or is prescribed anti-biotics they must stay at home for at least 48 hours to prevent cross-infection and to guard against negative reactions.

(Please see our 'Policies and Procedures' document)

Please help our Key-person team by phoning if your child cannot attend.

Please also keep your key-person informed on a day-to-day basis of changing days, holidays or schedules even if you have emailed to the office. **It is most important that you sign and date all medication and accident forms etc. correctly. This is most important.**

Medication Please do not ask the nursery to administer medicine to a child that displays no raised temperature, persistent cough or discomfort. **Please always supply prescribed medication in the original bottle labelled with the child's name supplied by the pharmacist. If your doctor prescribes antibiotics, your child is clearly ill and needs to be kept at home for 48 hours to take the antibiotics and display no negative reactions. Please see our Medication Policy in our up-dated Policies and Procedures or on our website.** You do not need to supply your own Calpol. If your child needs Calpol you will be contacted by your child's key-person. Also, you do not need to supply your own sun-cream. A children's factor 50 will be used in sunny weather. Please contact the nursery if you think this may not be suitable for your child.

Please inform your key-person of the dose if your child has been given Calpol before arriving at nursery or pre-school.

Parking your Car Members of the Dolls House may park in the pedestrianised part of King street before 10am by driving slowly up to the bollards from the Fenwick's end. The barriers will lower to let you through. The road is one-way and you have 5 minutes maximum (even on yellow lines or pay bays) to deliver your child before exiting. Ask Nigel for a parking slip if you don't already have one.

Every child at The Cottages has their own labelled peg for their **labelled coat and bag**. Please transfer clean clothes etc. onto the bags to reduce the amount of plastic bags left at nursery, (please do not just hang on peg) **It is most important, for hygiene reasons, that you change your child into soft indoor shoes or slippers on arriving.** Please make sure that your child has a complete set of spare ***named*** clothes including slippers in case of accidents; Sun hats are provided. Please return any borrowed clothes as we are presently running out.

Changes of circumstances, addresses and numbers Please let your key-person or Nursery Manager know if your address or phone numbers change so that we can up-date our records.

Parents must not use mobile phones whilst on the premises.

Security and Safety at The Dolls House and Little House

Closing the front gate makes it safer for parents leaving with young children and **when getting in and out of cars please use the kerb side only.** The nursery **must** be informed if another person will be collecting your child and a different password used on each occasion.

Security and Safety at The Cottages

Please hold your child's hand and take care when leaving The Cottages onto King Street and when getting in and out of cars. Please use the kerb side only. The nursery **must** be informed if another person will be collecting your child and a different password used each time.

Weekly membership Fees. Some members choose to pay membership fees weekly. Please remember to pay fees as usual in the Christmas week as with monthly fees. Thank you.

Policies and Procedures You may view a copy of our up-dated **policies and procedures** but may not remove them from the nursery premises. If you require a copy of a policy, please ask.

Clothing Appeal Our nursery keeps spare clothes in case the child's clothes get dirty. Parents usually return these but presently we are running low. Please return any nursery clothes or donate any clothes that your child has grown out of. Thank you.

*Nigel, Chris, Farhana and the whole team wish you a
Warm and relaxing Summer.*

✂.....

Manor Farm Visit for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Child's Name _____ **I can / cannot** go to **Manor Farm on Tuesday 14th June. I enclose £35 to cover transport and additional staff.**
(Free to F30 Gold Members)

As my child does not usually attend on Tuesday's I enclose **an additional £30** for the whole day.
Please be at nursery or pre-school for 9am. Thank you.

Signed _____ Parent's name _____

✂.....

Spring Outdoor Forest Discovery for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

Child's Name _____ **I can / cannot** go to **Forest Discovery on Thursday 7th July. I enclose £35 to cover transport and additional staff.**
(Free to F30 Gold Members)

As my child does not usually attend on Thursday's I enclose **an additional £30** for the whole day.
Please be at nursery or pre-school for 9am. Thank you.

Signed _____ Parent's name _____

✂.....

Leavers Graduation Ball on Sunday 7th August

My child can / cannot attend the **Leavers' Ball on Sunday 7th August.**

Child's Name _____ Number of parents _____

Signed _____ Parent's name _____

✂.....

Group photos on Tapestry

I consent to my child appearing on group activity photos on Tapestry (not facebook)

Child's Name _____

Signed _____ Parent's name _____

✂.....