



## Blackberry Lane 12th March 2021



# Thank YOU!

I would like to start with a huge, big THANK YOU to all parents for your ongoing support and understanding throughout this last term. It was a mixture of emotions to be sure. For those of you who were working either at your place of work or at home, you all deserve a big WELL DONE, as do all parents who undertook the dreaded 'home schooling,' (after speaking to my sister about her own experiences you actually deserve a medal). The children especially deserve a huge WELL DONE, they have all come back with the majority of them having a smile on their face. We have had a few that have needed the extra reassurance which is completely understandable as I think we as staff have also needed it from time to time.

You have done an amazing job with the self-care skills and children that we last saw in December in nappies or pull ups are now in pants. The children's vocabulary has also been developing and the need for dummies/comforters is decreasing. It has been lovely hearing their own little voices around both settings. The volume in both settings has definitely been raised and it is lovely (even if it takes some getting used to). The children's art work is amazing and it is nice to have more colourful pictures up in the settings. The children are mixing with each other and interacting well. We are still conducting all the safety measures we introduced at the very start of this pandemic and hand washing is carried out on arrival of each day and regularly throughout the sessions too.

On a personal note, I would also like to publicly thank all the staff who have been a massive support in so many different ways, either at work or from home. Neither of the settings could have stayed open safely without them. Life seems to be as normal as a preschool or nursery setting can be. It is with great pride that we can say we have had no positive cases within either setting (the one reported in November was actually a computer error.) The cleaning regime is still on-going and the grown-ups are regularly seen with a bottle of disinfectant in one hand and a mop in the other. The staff are now conducting lateral flow tests on a regular basis to maintain the best possible protection we can. We have just received a batch of tests for the staff to test twice weekly at home and that is to be up and running from 22nd March. Vaccinations are slowly being given to the staff and hopefully soon, all staff will be more protected.

Meanwhile however, I need to remind everyone (as it is easy to forget as each restriction is lifted) that we are still adhering to our Risk Assessment and Covid 19 policy. Please remain behind the footprints at the entrances to our settings. We appreciate your continued support with this.

# Welcome back!

## 30 Hour funding.

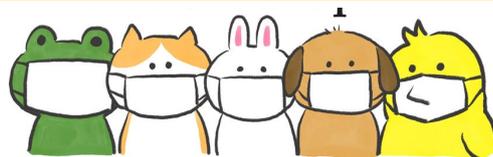
If you would like to access the 30 hour funding (additional 15 hours funding) for the Summer term, please make sure you have applied and received your unique reference number by the 31st March 2021. You can find more information and apply through the website [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk).

If you are only using the universal 15 hours funding per week, you do not need to do anything as we will apply on your behalf.

## Changes to drop off and collection of children.

Following new guidance from the DfE, please could all parents wear masks when dropping off and collecting children.

We would also like to remind everyone to remain behind the footprints at the entrances to our settings.



## Dates for your Diary

**15th—19th March.**

Comic Relief week.

**19th March 2021.**

**Deadline for holiday club bookings.**

**29th March -9th April.**

Easter Holiday.

**12th April 2021**

Summer term starts.

**31st May to 4th June 2021.**

Half term holiday.

**23rd July 2021.**

Last day of term.

## Easter Holiday club

The holiday club booking forms have been sent out on Tapestry and Email. If you would like your child to attend during the holiday, please make your booking by the 19th March 2021.



## Comic Relief 15th to 19th March.



Next week is Comic Relief week. We are celebrating carnival week, so please wear as many bright colours as you can. We will be making colourful head-dresses and having a danceathon (learning a different dance each day). For both settings we will have a timed sponsored 'red nose on a spoon' obstacle course. We are also planning to make musical instruments.

