

Nursery Closure Dates 2021

Easter

- Nursery will be closed from 6pm 1st April 2021 and re open 12th April 2021 at 8:00 am.

Bank Holidays

- Monday 3rd May
- Monday 31st May
- Monday 30th August

Staff Training Days

- Thursday 18th February
- Wednesday 9th June
- Tuesday 28th September
- Friday 19th November

Christmas 2020

- Nursery closes Wednesday 22nd December 2021 at 6:00pm and reopens on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 8:00am

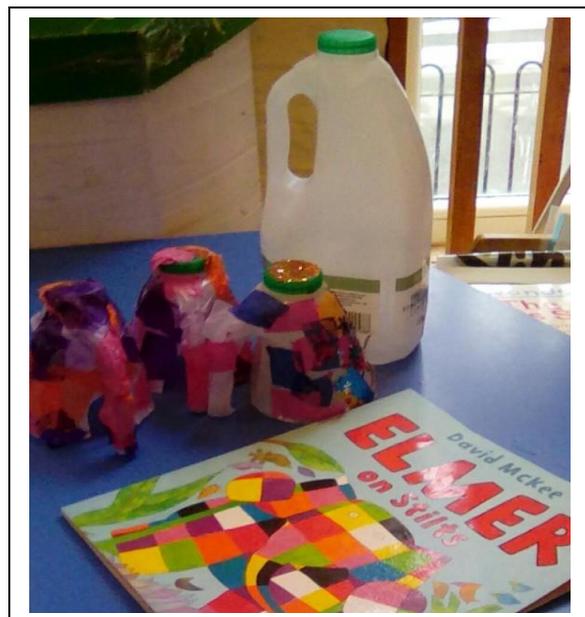
www.scribblesnursery.co.uk

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January 2021

Manager Becky Sanderson
Deputy Manager Voula Agiannidou



Dear Parents

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a restful and healthy Christmas and enjoyed the stories we shared over tapestry last term. This term we have lots to look forward to with Tu B Shevat and Chinese New Year approaching. Thankfully we remain open to all and ask all parents to be vigilant and responsible about not sending children in if they appear unwell or anyone in the household is exhibiting symptoms of COVID or awaiting a test result.

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Email: enquiries@scribblesnursery.co.uk

Tel: 020 8883 8546

Fax: 020 8883 5188

Staff

We are pleased to tell you that Voula Agiannidou will be taking over as Deputy Manager while continuing to teach in Aardvarks. Voula has been with us for 5 years and holds a Degree in Children's Education.

Sadly Melissa Allegro will be leaving us at the beginning of February. Melissa has been with us for 2 years and during that time has been Room Leader in both Wombats and Meerkats. She played a key role in our return in June and has successfully welcomed lots more new children since. Melissa is leaving to progress in her career as she takes on the role of Deputy Manager in her new setting. She'll be greatly missed.

We will also be bidding farewell to Sukhy. Sukhy has been with us for six years and in that time has worked in all rooms and progressed to Room Leader of Lemurs. Sukhy is going to continue her nursery nursing career closer to home.

We are pleased to welcome Sandy Sefein to Scribbles. Sandy is Level 2 qualified and has 4 years experience of working in day nurseries. Sandy will be starting on 1st February and will be working with Gemma in Meerkats.

We are still recruiting for Nursery Nurses and Apprentice's. In the mean time Meerkats will be cared for by Gemma, Sandy, Mitzi and Ashley.

COVID Safety

We were all really pleased to hear that nurseries can remain open throughout the third lockdown, I'm sure you are too. However we are very aware that the infection rate in London is very high and want to do all we can to keep each other safe. As you may have noticed staff have begun wearing masks during handover and we'd like to remind parents to also wear their masks. We would also ask that children that are walking are encouraged to make their own way to their key workers at the door to minimise close contact between adults and maintain a 2m distance. We thank you for your continued cooperation.

Home Learning

We will shortly be sharing home learning ideas with you via Tapestry, especially if your child is not currently attending for any reason. We would love to receive feedback and see what the

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children are getting up to through lockdown. Equally if there are any areas parents would like ideas for let us know. I'm sure this lockdown will be more of a challenge with the weather against us.

Changes To Christmas Closure Dates

As part of our annual fee review undertaken in September 2020 we decided to maintain our current fee structure as we recognise this continues to be a difficult time financially for everyone, however, please note the changes to our Christmas closure dates. Over the past few years fewer and fewer children are attending in the days leading up to Christmas. In light of this and to support staff wellbeing we have decided that from this December we will close a little earlier and our Christmas party (COVID permitting) will now take place on 22nd December when we will close at 6pm. This will also enable all our staff to have the opportunity to visit their families for Christmas, especially if they have to travel significant distances.

30hrs Free Entitlement Codes

If your child is in Aardvarks and in receipt of 30hrs free entitlement then please remember to update your code as required to ensure it remains valid. There is no flexibility with the council if your code has expired and this may result in your funding being withdrawn. The nursery cannot do this for you so please renew when prompted.

Daynurseries.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who has written a review for us on daynurseries.co.uk. At the moment when we are unable to show prospective parents around the nursery it is especially important that they hear from you about your experiences at the nursery. If you haven't yet provided a review and would like to then you can do this by following the link www.daynurseries.co.uk/submitreview, requesting a review card from us or scanning the QR code on the entry doors.

Barnet Library Services

The libraries early years team are currently running four regular activities for families each week. All the activities are FREE and run online to ensure we keep everyone safe.

Baby Bounce Online will be running on Mondays at 11.15am and on Wednesdays at 1.00pm. With lots of tickling, cuddling and peek-a-boo rhymes, these are great sofa sessions for non-walkers and their parents and carers. Book for Monday sessions [here](#) and Wednesday sessions [here](#)

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Toddler Rhyme Online will be running at 10.15am on Mondays. This session is aimed at young active toddlers. We sing lots of action rhymes and we always have a short story too. Book [here](#) for Toddler Rhyme Online

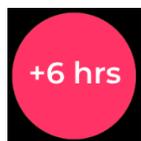
Stories and Rhymes Online is a session with slightly more emphasis on books and stories, catering for the slightly older toddlers who enjoy sitting and listening to a longer story. Sessions will run at 2pm on Wednesday afternoons. Book [here](#)

Families can also sign up to receive our '[Discover Your Library](#)' Newsletter for Children and Families for information about all library services for children including events, activities and competitions.

Online Safety Advice

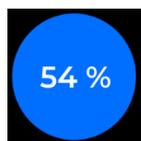
More and more pre-schoolers are getting their own tablets or borrowing their parents' devices to play games, use apps, and watch their favourite TV shows. See advice on simple things you can do to make sure they're using the internet safely.

Why it matters: Facts & Stats



Screen time

On average 3 to 4-year-olds spend over 6 hours plus on laptops, tablets and phones.



Device use

of 3-4-year-old have their own device

Checklist: Supporting 0-5-year-olds online

- **Explore together**

Talk to your child about what the internet is and explore it together so you can show them all the great fun and educational things they can do. Reassure them that if they see anything upsetting, they should come and talk to you.

- **Be involved**

Encourage them to use devices in the same room as you so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet. Stay inquisitive about what they are doing and encourage them to share their enjoyment with you.

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- **Put yourself in control**

Activate parental controls on your home broadband. Most Internet-enabled devices also offer parental controls. For example, Microsoft Windows, Apple iOS, and Google's Android all offer ways to control the apps and sites your child can visit.

- **Search safely**

If you let your child search independently, make sure safe search settings are activated on Google and other search engines or set the default to one designed especially for children.

- **Use passwords**

Keep your devices out of reach and set passwords on all your internet-enabled devices and don't share them. Then you'll know when and where your child is accessing the internet. Also, use passwords to make sure they're not making additional purchases when they're playing games or using apps.

- **Set boundaries**

It's never too early to start setting boundaries. Set some rules about how they use connected technology, including which apps and sites they can use and how long they can spend on them.

NSPCC Helpline

If you're worried about something a child has experienced online you can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Healthy Start Programme

If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you could get Healthy Start vouchers to help buy some basic foods. This important means-tested scheme provides vouchers to spend with local retailers.

Pregnant women and children over 1 and under 4 can get one £3.10 voucher per week. Children under 1 can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week.

Do I qualify for Healthy Start?

You qualify for Healthy Start if you're at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old **and** you or your family get:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance *
- Child Tax Credit with a family income of £16,190 or less per year
- Pension Credit; or

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- Universal Credit with no earned income or total earned income of £408 or less per month for the family. (To find this refer to your Universal Credit award notice in the section "your take home pay for this month".)
You also qualify if you are under 18 and pregnant, even if you don't get any of the above benefits.

* This is only applicable whilst you are more than 10 weeks pregnant, once the child is born you no longer qualify under Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

How to get the application leaflet

You can get an application leaflet by:

- asking your midwife or health visitor or early years staff for one
- calling the Healthy Start helpline on **0345 607 6823** and asking them to send one to you by post
- filling in the form online and then printing it off

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/>

Button Batteries

Be aware!

We rely on button batteries to power everyday objects like car key fobs, remotes and children's toys. But did you know that if they are swallowed they can badly injure, or even kill a child?

How to keep children safe

- Store spare batteries securely
- Know which toys and gadgets use button batteries
- Check your home
- Teach older children the dangers
- Get rid of 'dead' button batteries immediately

If you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery

Symptoms may not be obvious. Your child might be coughing, gagging or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy. Unclear or fluctuating symptoms mean it's important to be vigilant. If you think your child has swallowed a battery, take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance.

Do:

- take the battery packaging, toy or gadget - if you can - to help staff identify the battery

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- trust your instincts and act fast, even if there are no symptoms

Don't:

- let your child eat or drink
- make your child be sick

Find out more by following this link [Button Batteries | Home | Child Accident Prevention Trust \(capt.org.uk\)](#)

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