

Read all about it!



Welcome

Welcome to Bollington's Spring Newsletter! We would like to start by welcoming the following children who have joined our Footprints Family recently:

Babies: Maeve, Archie, Martha, Oliver, Bertie, Henry, Sebastian, Corey, Harry, Rhys, Heidi, Isla, Edith, Zack and Ivy.

Tots: Isabelle and Austin.

Pre-School: Matilda.

We hope you have had a great start to your Footprints Journey and we look forward to building lots of memories with you and your families.



Dates for the Diary

We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next few months, make sure to add a few key dates to your diary:

3rd May – Parents' Evening

14th May – The Royal Wedding Celebrations (week commencing)

2nd August – Graduation Day

11th August – Summer Fayre in aid of Ollie's Army (10am-12noon)

School Transition

Last week our anxious Pre-School parents found out which school their child will be attending in September. I really hope you are all happy with the school your child has been allocated.

We are very lucky here in Bollington and the surrounding areas to have such lovely schools to choose from, we have good relationships with many of the local schools and reception teachers, and we will be inviting them in to nursery soon to meet your child.

We know your children so well so not only is it an ideal opportunity for us to talk to the teachers all about your child from a professional point of view – where they are up to in terms of their development, how they like to learn, where they may need a little support etc., but it is also really lovely for your child to meet their teacher in their environment, where they feel comfortable.

We have done this for many years now and it really does have a positive impact on the big “transition to school”.



A Guide to Time...

As a parent myself I am now, more than ever, aware of how hard it can be to manage “challenging behaviour” but I am also very aware of how challenging life can be for our little people.

Children need lots of experiences and conversations to acquire a sense of time, it’s a concept that is much more than being able to read a clock face. Without this understanding of time children can experience frustration and anxiety as they don’t understand why certain events are not happening immediately.

This is particularly evident when we ask children to share or give something up. Something we find works really well to support this is a **sand timer**. Children can see the sand passing through and it has much more meaning than looking at the numbers on a digital clock or being expected to understand how long “5 minutes” is.

At home you can use the sand timer to help your child share or to help them understand how long they have left before you finish or begin a new activity.

Another positive visual aid to use are **photos**. Stick photos that indicate specific times throughout their daily routine e.g. photos of breakfast, nursery, Rugby Tots, bath time, bed time in a line so they can see what event is happening next.

Children love to **sing**; songs can help children develop an understanding of how long an activity should take, for example sing the same nursery rhyme when changing your child's nappy or washing their hands. Or let your child choose their favourite song to play while they tidy up. They will know when the end of the song is coming and in time will understand that the activity/event is coming to an end too.

Advent calendars are helpful for the countdown to Christmas and the same approach can be used for other future events too. Our Pre-School children will be surrounded by the talk of "school" and "September" at the moment but do they really know what school and September are? Perhaps you could use a calendar to mark off the days until they start school.

A **photo album** is a great talking point to help children see how they have grown, developed and changed over time – remember to ensure that the sequence of photos is accurate.

Don't be afraid to use language of time with your child, the more we expose them to it the better understanding they will have e.g. after, afternoon, later, before, evening, tomorrow, morning, next etc.

I'm sure at some point you have all enjoyed a family trip to the park playing "**Pooh sticks**" over the river – this fun and exciting game is another way to support and develop children's understanding of time, whether this is your baby or toddler watching in anticipation how long the stick takes to get from one side of the river to the other or your Tot or Pre-Schooler excitedly counting the seconds it takes, both are developing an awareness of time.

Staff Member of the Month

Congratulations to our two most recent winners of "Staff Member of the Month", Melissa Ross in our Pre-School room and Kelly Hudson in our Tots room.



Thank you to both Melissa and Kelly for the bonds you have made with our children, and for the loyalty and dedication you show to Footprints.

On Thursday 11th January 2018 we very sadly lost our “Granny Margaret”, Founder of Footprints. After an amazing career of 40 years working with children in primary schools all around the UK, as well as opening a school in Thailand, Margaret decided to open Footprints Macclesfield in 2002. I was lucky enough to begin my Footprints journey with Margaret by my side and it was obvious to see how much she wanted the very best for every child that came through her doors. Due to the success of Footprints Macclesfield she opened Footprints Bollington in 2011. Claire Huntington, Margaret’s daughter and also an Early Years Teacher, decided to leave teaching and join Footprints in the summer of 2016. Claire has now taken on a larger role in Footprints as Operations Director. You will see Claire around the nursery on a regular basis as she supports the children, parents and staff just as Margaret once did. Through Claire, her other children and all of us here at Footprints, Margaret lives on and we will continue to deliver outstanding care to you and your children just as she would have wanted us to.



Extension

At long last we now have our wonderful Tots extension! There are still a few loose ends to tie up until it is totally finished but it is looking great. Kelly and the Tots team are doing a great job in creating exciting independent learning areas for our children to develop their skills and knowledge. I would also like to thank Miss Smith and all the staff at Dean Valley School for being so accommodating whilst the works were taking place.

*Take care, see you soon
Rachel*

If you have access to social media and would like to see what activities and achievements are going on in our nursery day to day, then please like us on Facebook and on Twitter.

 [facebook.com/FootprintsDayNurseries](https://www.facebook.com/FootprintsDayNurseries)  twitter.com/FootprintsDN

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