



# TKC NEWS

JANUARY 2024

## Read all about us!

By TKC Staff & Partners

Welcome to the 27<sup>th</sup> issue of TKC News. We would like to welcome new parent/carers and families. TKC News provides important information about the term ahead and general nursery life.

Firstly, we would all like to start off by saying a very Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends. **Andi x**

### Explorers

Our current topic, 'The World and Planets', is a fantastic opportunity to teach the children all about the planet Earth- exploring our world, the nature within it and the solar system. This topic always sparks curiosity and stimulates the children's desire to learn more. We look to encourage this love for early learning, as this drives children to explore new concepts and areas of learning as they grow older. We will be exploring lots of different colours, textures and even tastes throughout this month, continuing to embed vital knowledge.

2023 was a year full of fun, laughter and learning. We know that 2024 will be another fantastic year filled with of the same.

**Beth and Ann x**

### Adventurers

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays, I hope you all had a restful break. It has been lovely to see all the children returning

so happily and ready to continue their learning with us.

As we continue with our topic 'The World and the planets' we have some wonderful activities planned. I personally love this topic as it sparks imagination and ignites curiosity. Learning about space is all about the unknown and the 'what if's'. It helps children become creative thinkers, it's exciting, engaging. I adore watching the amazement on children's faces when they learn about the vastness of space, the colours and sizes of the different planets and our missions to the moon and beyond! The children in the Adventurers room will be experimenting with paper mâché to design 3d planets. Last year this was the messiest and glueiest week of the year but all worth it as they hung proudly in our room!

The children will continue to learn about the art of storytelling and different reading methods through National Storytelling Week and World Braille Day. Keep your eyes on the Famly app for information about our other special events. **Vicky x**

### Investigators

Happy New Year and welcome to the children who have transitioned into my room. Our topic 'Our World and the Planet' is a fond favourite of mine. We will be exploring different places we have travelled, looking at where they are on the map, the climate/and what animals we

might find in these countries. We will also be blasting off from planet Earth, to explore the different planets within our solar system. We will learn about how we could travel there; what clothing is needed to keep us safe in space. We will use space as an opportunity to learn about weight, and gravity. The children will be encouraged to engage in activities about what we might find in space and look at the role of astronauts and NASA. **Chloe x**

### Dates for your diary

#### January 2024

15<sup>th</sup> - Martin Luther King Day  
23<sup>rd</sup> - National Handwriting Day  
25<sup>th</sup> - Burns Night food tasting.  
26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> - RSPB'S Big Birdwatch  
28<sup>th</sup> Jan-5<sup>th</sup> Feb - National Storytelling Week  
29<sup>th</sup> - National Puzzle Day

#### February 2024

4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Nest Box Week  
10<sup>th</sup> - Chinese New Year  
13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> - Children's Mental Health Week  
14<sup>th</sup> - St Valentine's Day – wear red  
17<sup>th</sup> - Random Acts of Kindness Day  
19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Half term holidays term time only children  
21<sup>st</sup> - Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday  
22<sup>nd</sup> - World Thinking Day

#### March 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> - World Wildlife Day  
7<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day  
8<sup>th</sup> - World Maths Day  
10<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day  
10<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> - British Science Week  
15<sup>th</sup> - Red Nose Day/Comic relief  
17<sup>th</sup> - St Patrick's Day  
21<sup>st</sup> - World Poetry Day  
29<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays –term time only children

# Staff Soapbox

## Staffing in the Early Years sector

TKC are fully aware of the ongoing recruitment struggle, to find qualified/experienced Early Years practitioners within the childcare sector. For the first time since opening our doors in 2012, we have had to make changes to some of our sessions, to ensure we can still provide childcare over 5 days per week, all year round. This is a decision we did not make lightly, as we are fully aware of the impact/inconvenience this causes to our families. We are hopeful it will only be on a short-term basis.

The DfE has published its annual Early Years provider survey, which sadly shows a fall in the numbers of providers and also in qualified staff. The recruitment and retention challenges have also been highlighted in Ofsted's annual report. Overall statistics are showing a 4% increase in Early Years professionals across all types of providers, but this could be partly accounted for by an increase in Apprentices. While more Apprentices can help build a qualified future workforce, the actual number of Level 3 Apprentices has fallen.

The data on SEND shows that more settings across the board now have children with additional needs attending. The provider survey 2023 details a huge range of data including workforce, costs and fees, funding and places. Here are some of the key points for the PVI sector:

- 21,200 group-based providers (a reduction of 700 compared to 21,900 in 2022)
- Group based providers deliver 1 million of the 1.56m places;
- Staff turnover rates have increased to 21% for private providers;
- 57% of staff leaving group-based providers were L3 qualified.

**Purnima Tanuku OBE, Chief Executive of National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) said:** "With the numbers of providers dropping fast but children's places increasing, there's more pressure on providers to offer more places in a shrinking sector. This report shows that voluntary and private providers tend to operate for longer hours and are more likely to be open all year round, so they are essential for consistent care for children and flexibility for parents. Staff turnover is very worrying, with more than a third of leavers finding jobs outside the education sector. Recruiting and retaining staff is the number one concern among nurseries".

When reading the many articles that highlight the current staffing issues, it may sound concerning as a parent, but rest assured, we have a reliable staff/management team here at TKC, whose main focus is the care and welfare of your children. TKC Partners, despite having other commitments, are also prepared to be called upon. Just to reassure you, even though we are currently looking to recruit qualified staff to expand our fabulous staff team, we are looking for/only willing to appoint the best!!

Information above provided by NDNA and to read the DfE survey in full, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey-2023](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-providers-survey-2023)