



Read all about us!

TKC had an extremely busy end to 2024 exploring 'Around the World at Christmas Time'. We hope the children enjoyed showing you the fantastic pieces of work they created, which will be a lasting memory of their time at TKC. We have had a positive start back to the New Year and each room has dived straight back into our new topic 'Our World and the Planets'.

Your child's Key Person should have contacted you with this month's first assessment and some ideas on how you can support and enhance nursery activities at home. If you would like to speak with your child's Key Worker about the first assessment or focus of your child's ongoing learning, please let me know. Your opinion is very important and a valuable part of your child's learning and well-being.

Vicky x

Investigators

Not only are we welcoming back our Investigators, but we are also giving a warm welcome to the new children who have transitioned this term. Our first topic of the year 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 are so excited to learn all about the different countries the Investigators have visited! We will also be helping Carol in the kitchen to cook exciting meals from all around the world, which also ties in with our TKC Committee recipe book. The children will be learning simple greetings

such as "hello" "goodbye" and "thank you", in a variety of languages.

As part of the topic, we will 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 would be needed to keep us safe in space. We will use space as an opportunity to learn about weight, vacuums 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. Throughout the topic we will be creating various mediums - from paper mâché 3d planets, to foil covered space helmets, and junk modelling our own rocket to blast off into space. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, blast off!

Chloe

Adventurers

What a wonderful welcome both Emily and I have had back in the Adventurers room, working alongside Ann too. We've blasted off to the moon and stars, and the children have really enjoyed creating a space station area in our room. As we continue with our topic, I'm excited to bring the children's imaginations to life with artistic, science-based activities and engaging conversations that will inspire broader learning. Should you need anything, please feel free to reach out to one of us.

Vicky, Ann and Emily x

Explorers

Firstly, I would like to say a big welcome back. To those of you joining TKC this month,

welcome to our room. We will be spending the next couple of weeks getting back into nursery routine and settling our new starters. Our subtopic for the next fortnight is animals and habitats, which we are all super excited about. For any of you unfamiliar with how our topics work...throughout the year the nursery will focus on a variety of topics from "All about Me & My family" to "The World and Planets". These topics simply help guide and inspire nurserywide activities and are a vital part of the TKC curriculum. Please see **page 2** of this newsletter to find further information on TKC Topics.

Learning at TKC is not limited to topics. As practitioners we use the children's interests and staff knowledge of their learning and stage of development to provide challenging and exciting learning opportunities for each individual child. Through parent partnership we draw upon the areas of learning you would like to us to focus on or incorporate into our planning for your child. So, please feel free to pop us a message on Family or chat to us during a handover.

There will be four permanent members of staff working in the Explorers room this term: myself (Explorer's Room Lead), Immy and Lily. New key workers have been assigned, and assessments for the month of January will inform you of who that is. As always, please don't ever hesitate to contact any one of us with any questions/queries you may have. We look forward to sharing what we get up to with you!

Annie x

Welcome!

We would like to say a very big welcome to all our new children and their lovely families: AG (10 mths), DM (9 mths), KS (1 yr), MF (1 yr), ML (1Yr), OW (11 mths), ALF (1 yr), MHW (2 yrs)

Goodbye

We would like to say our goodbyes to the children leaving TKC this term. We are all sad to have you leave: OM and MM

A big thankyou

Thank you for your generosity in the way of thoughtful gifts and cards at Christmas time. The love and appreciation behind each one is what means the most to all of us! Our fabulous parents, thank you for entrusting us with your children, it is the ultimate privilege.

Notices

Ongoing Topics

We have now edited our curriculum to focus on four main topics across the year. This is to ensure the children gain a deeper understanding of the themes and that this knowledge is embedded.

To help ensure you have the chance to get involved at home, our themes are the following:

September-November:	All about me and my family.
December-February:	Our world and the planets.
March-May:	Our body and the life cycles.
June-August:	Our community and where we live.

If you need some ideas of activities to do at home please visit the TKC website. Please share any activities you do with your Keyworker through Family. We absolutely love talking with the children about what they have been doing during circle time.

Family Update - Contact & Consents

We would like to ensure we begin the New Year prepared. To do this we kindly ask you to regularly review all the information attached to your Family login.

An audit of TKC Family accounts is currently underway. For parents who have not updated their accounts or provided the requisite information, you will be asked to complete the information within nursery, prior to your child attending the next session.

Emergency contacts

Please could all parents/carers ensure their phone is switched on during the time their child is at nursery. You may need to contact you regarding your child's personal wellbeing or in an emergency. If you are not contactable during the day for any reason, please ensure you have provided TKC with an alternative number. Please see the heading Family above.

January transitional period

For parent/carers of children who have transitioned into new rooms, we are pleased to say that the children have transitioned seamlessly. Over the next few weeks your Keyworker will be in touch and Vicky will perform general wellbeing checks on all the children.

Communication

Ongoing, useful information will be shared through Family App. This is a quick easy way for us to share information and to also know that you have received it. If you like something in particular, give us a like or a thumbs up, the staff work hard to send over daily snippets and observations/assessments and enjoy seeing your reactions.



Dates for your diary

January 2025

2 nd	Nursery reopens
7 th	Start of new term
29 th	Chinese New Year Lunch and celebrations

February 2025

1 st -4 th	National Storytelling Week
9 th	Random Acts of Kindness Week
14 th	Valentines Day. Wear red to nursery. Details to follow.
14 th	Last day of term
24 th	Start of new term
28 th	Eid and Ramadam

March 2025

4 th	Pancake day fun
6 th	World Book Day.
14 th	International Mathematics Day
17 th	St Patrick's Day
20 th	World Oral Health Day
27 th	Last Day of Term
30 th	Mother's Day

April 2025

10 th	Siblings Day – details on Family
13 th	First Day of Term
15 th	World Art Day
18 th	Good Friday – Nursery closed
21 st	Easter Monday – Nursery closed
29 th	International Dance Day – dance the day away!

What is the Keyworker approach?

The keyworker approach TKC adopt forms a vital part of not only our settling process but our whole approach to care. I would like to share with you what the keyworker approach is and why it forms such an important aspect of our role.

While beginning nursery is an exciting and enriching time for a child, it can also be daunting and stressful. Settling into a new routine in an unfamiliar environment can be difficult for young children, with the main contributor to the distress felt being separation from their main caregivers. To help young children manage this transition, at TKC we make it our main priority - to start building reliable, trusting bonds with each child beginning their nursery journey. You may be surprised to know that this starts as early as the first visit or settle session in the setting. This is where the importance of the keyworkers come in, as they become the child's main carer while they are at nursery. Just like the attachment relationships that the child forms with their parents/carers and wider family, this unique relationship is the very foundation upon which children build their capacity to explore, play and learn. The keyworker has a range of responsibilities such as feeding, changing, activity planning and monitoring of that child's developmental progress. At TKC, each keyworker writes a monthly assessment outlining what the children have been doing to provide you with a general overview of your child's nursery life. Our monthly assessments also provide the perfect opportunity for you to: comment; share any new interests developing at home; tell us of any new developmental milestones; changes you would like or requests from us. While we continually communicate with our parents/carers, the monthly assessment is often a helpful way to open conversations that can provide invaluable insights.



How are the keyworkers allocated at TKC?

It is not unusual for key workers to be allocated before the first session at TKC setting, however at TKC we have found great success in allowing the children to decide. Children naturally gravitate and begin to bond with one person during their first few sessions with us, and so it made sense for that person to become the child's keyworker. This approach has proved very successful so far, and we are incredibly proud of the bonds we have built with the children in our care and their parents/carers, alike. I would also like to highlight that while we value the importance of the keyworker role, we are also fortunate to work in a small community setting that allows all staff to build strong bonds with the children nursery-wide. As an Explorer's staff member, I really look forward to nipping downstairs and catching up with my friends in the Adventurers and Investigators room.

I hope I have offered an insight into what the Keyworker approach is and how we apply this at TKC. If you ever have any questions or queries, please do reach out to me on either on Family, or during handover.

Annie (Explorers Room Lead) x