

# Happy Hares - Autumn Term Newsletter



September is always a bittersweet time at Happy Hares as we say **goodbye** to our school leavers and **welcome** our new starters. Many of our school leavers have been with us since they were babies, so it is always hard to see them go, but we are incredibly **proud** of them and wish them every success at school.

At the same time, we are excited to **welcome** our new children and families and look forward to supporting them as they begin their **journey** with us.

## New Starters...

This term we would like to send a big Happy Hares welcome to:

Little Hares: **Brody, Ferne, Sonny, Sahel, Aubrey S** Tweenies: **Leonardo**

Discovery Den: **Aurora, Astrid** Big Hares: **Edie**



## Our planning...

Topics this term include;



**Transport, Rainforest, Mini Beasts, Autumn, Space, Weather, Spooky Season, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Children in Need, Science, and Christmas.**



Don't forget, every month we have home learning sheets that tie in with these topics! Copies can be found in the foyer and on Famly.



## Who do I need to contact?

Contact Clare regarding invoicing and funding queries:

[clare@happyhares.com](mailto:clare@happyhares.com)

Contact Louise for anything else!

[louisehappyhares@gmail.com](mailto:louisehappyhares@gmail.com)

Please note, Clare works very limited hours, so won't be able to answer emails immediately.

## Dates for your diary...



**Parents evening - 11.11.26 (Babies & Tweenies), 12.11.26 (2's & Pre-School)**

**Christmas stay & play session - Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 3-4.30pm**



**Christmas closure - nursery closes at 5.45pm on Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec and reopens Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30am**

## A massive 'thank you'...

To everyone who joined us for our annual **garden party** and **graduation**. Your food donations were gratefully accepted, and we had a lovely spread.



We hope you had the best time!



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## Staffing Update...

Congratulations to **Emily**, who is coming to the end of her **Level 3 Early Years Educator** course. We wish her every success with her **End Point Assessment** and look forward to celebrating her achievement.

A warm welcome back to **Tash**, who is returning from maternity leave. Tash will be working with us on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, and we are delighted to have her back as part of the team.

In August we said a fond farewell to **Mia**, who has left Happy Hares to begin studying **Social Work** at university. We thank **Mia** for all her hard work and dedication during her time with us and wish her every success and happiness in this exciting new chapter.

We would also like to welcome **Megan** and **Angel** to the team. **Megan** completed her Level 3 Early Years Educator placement with us earlier this year (and has passed with a 'merit'. Well done, Megan) and has joined us as permanent lunch cover/bank staff, and **Angel** is joining us as a Level 3 Early Years Educator Apprentice - welcome, **Megan** and **Angel**!



Megan



Angel



## Summer term learning...



Exploring textures



Making snack



Having fun!



Music & rhythm



Exploration



Self-awareness

Fine motor skills



Physical play



Understanding the world



Visiting the library



Exploring nature



Don't forget to check out our **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **website** for even more photos and updates of all the fun things the children get up to whilst at nursery. Visit our website:

<https://www.happyhares.com/>



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## Updated National Safer Sleep Guidance...

The Department for Education (DfE), alongside **The Lullaby Trust**, has strengthened the national **Safer Sleep Guidance** for all early years settings. This guidance will become part of the **EYFS statutory framework from September 2026**.



We would like to reassure parents and carers that these **safer sleep practices** are already part of our **everyday practice** at **Happy Hares Day Nursery**. We have always followed evidence-based guidance to provide the safest possible sleep environment for every child. We are sharing this information so you are aware of the national guidance and the procedures we follow.

### Why has the guidance been updated?



The guidance aims to ensure all early years providers follow the same evidence-based safer sleep practices, providing consistency across the sector and further reducing the risk of sleep-related incidents.

### Our Safer Sleep Practice



At **Happy Hares Day Nursery**, we will continue to:



- **Always place babies on their backs to sleep**, unless written medical advice states otherwise.
- **Provide a clear, safe sleep space** with a firm, flat mattress and fitted sheet, free from pillows, duvets, cot bumpers, soft toys, sleep positioners, nests, pods and cushions.
- **Use appropriate bedding**, including correctly sized sleeping bags or lightweight blankets tucked in securely with babies placed in the feet-to-foot position.
- **Dress children appropriately** for the room temperature to help prevent overheating.
- **Carry out regular sleep checks**, with all sleeping children closely monitored and checks recorded by trained staff.
- **Meet individual needs** by working with parents and healthcare professionals where a child has medical or specific sleep requirements.

### How You Can Help



Please support us by:



- Providing a correctly sized **sleeping bag** if your child uses one.
- Informing us of any **changes** to your child's sleep routine or medical needs.
- Speaking to your child's key person if you have any questions about your **child's sleep arrangements**.

We remain committed to following the latest national guidance and continually reviewing our practice to ensure the highest standards of care.

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## Happy Hares Nursery and Pre-School team...

### Little Hares (6-18 months)



**Sam**  
Level 2  
Room leader



**Kaley**  
Level 6  
Deputy  
manager  
DDSL

### Tweenies (18-24 months)



**SJ**  
Level 3  
Room leader



**Andrea**  
Level 3



**Lydia**  
Level 3  
Apprentice



**Keira**  
Level 3  
Apprentice

### Discovery Den (2-3 years)



**Jodie**  
Level 3  
Room leader



**Faith**  
Level 3  
apprentice



**Emily**  
Level 3  
SENCo



**Ruby**  
Level 3  
apprentice

### Pre-School (3-4 years)



**Alison**  
Level 3  
Room leader  
SLT



**Leon**  
Level 3  
Deputy  
manager  
DDSL



**Trina**  
Level 3  
SENCo  
Forest school leader

### Management



**Clare**  
Owner  
Level 6  
B.Ed  
(Hons)



**Louise**  
Level 3  
Manager  
SENCo  
DSL  
'Thrive' practitioner

### Welcome & Welcome Back!



**Angel**  
Level 3  
apprentice



**Megan**  
Level 3  
Lunch  
cover &  
bank staff



**Tash**  
EYTS

**SENCo** - Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator  
**DDSL** - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

### What does it mean...

**DSL** - Designated Safeguarding Lead  
**SLT** - Senior Leadership Team

**EYTS** - Early Years Teacher Status

### Did you know...

16/18 of the Happy Hares team are qualified **Paediatric First Aiders**, and 17/18 hold at **Level 2 Food Hygiene** certificate? Three of the team hold a **Level 3 Safeguarding** qualification, and the rest hold **Level 2 Safeguarding**