



# Grafton Childcare

24 Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1AJ, Tel: 01626 355066



**Owl Babies** - Wednesday 2nd January - Friday 1st February 2019



## Frugi Puddle Busters

As part of our ethical journey here at Grafton Childcare to cut out single use plastic and when replacing toys, equipment and all other bits a bobs we strive to buy ethically.

Recently when we took the decision to replace our staff coats we opted for the Peter Storm range of 3 in 1 Jackets, which have gorgeous cosy 100% recycled polyester fleece linings. Some of our Muddy Puddles waterproof children's trousers were coming to the end of their life, so we have replaced them with some Frugi Puddle Busters. These are 100% waterproof trousers made from recycled materials which feature amazing attention to detail to ensure that the children stay warm and dry in wet and rainy weather. From stormy walks, to jumping in puddles, the Frugi collection is made for adventure!



# Owl Babies

Our first topic to kick off 2019 will be focusing on the 1992 Modern Classic written by Martin Waddell, 'Owl Babies'. He also wrote Farmer Duck and Can't You Sleep Little Bear, both of which are very firm favourites with all of the children here at Grafton Childcare.

We will be expanding this topic by adding our beautiful hand crafted Wooden Trees and a whole assortment of natural loose parts which will be used as open ended invitations to play for the children to expand on the story and create their own adventures for Sarah, Percy, Bill and of course their Owl Mother.

We have managed to pick up some great natural rustic napkin rings in the January sales which the children have already repurposed for their own Owl Nests along with some rustic sticks we have had in the back of a box for ages!

On Friday we enjoyed our first Woodland Adventure of the year down to Bradley Woods when the children enjoyed a delightful few hours creating a giant owl nest with lots of twigs and branches which the children were able to gather themselves in the woods.

It was delightful standing back and watching the team work and problem solving between the children, who were all working together to gather, transport and then create their giant wooden Owl's Nest complete with an assortment of leaves to keep our Owls warm just like the one from the original book. You will find our full list of Woodland Adventures and Library Trips further inside this newsletter.

Printed on 100% recycled paper



### Viewing Your Child's Learning Journal

If you would like to arrange to come and view your child's Learning Journal and have a chat with your child's Key Worker or Buddy about how your child is progressing, then you are very welcome to come in for a chat about our planned 'Next Steps' for your child, you will be sent a copy of these with this newsletter. You could also arrange to come in and discuss any developmental concerns, issues or worries you may have in confidence with Lara, Natasha or Zoe. Or you could simply come in for a chat about exactly what all the little codes we use sometimes in your child's Daily Diary are all about!

**Lara** is available on Wednesdays and Fridays between 5 - 6 pm, **Natasha** is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5 - 6 pm and **Zoe** is available on Mondays and Wednesdays between 5 - 6 pm & **Gary** is available on Fridays. If you would like to arrange to come in just pop a note into your child's Communication Booklet or Daily Diary and we will arrange an evening for you to do so.

### Grafton's Mobile Number

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Have you popped our Mobile Number into your phone book yet?

# 07598827463

Grafton's mobile is only used when we are out and about with the children, so that we can contact parents if we need to for any reason. The rest of the time it is switched off so please use our landline at all other times.

## Spring Cleaning

With the start of the new year we are sure that many of you have been having a Spring clean at home whilst taking down the decorations and finding homes for all of the wonderful presents which you have received during the festivities. We were stunned at the amount of cobwebs we found amongst our paper chains.

So when you are in Spring cleaning mode at home could we request that you empty out your child's nursery bag and remove any lingering Christmas Crafts, Cards, Accidents Forms and all of those random bits and bobs that really shouldn't be in there!

Then restock it ready for this terms high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans here at Grafton Childcare. Remember we need the following items **every single day your child attends** please:-

1. A warm water proof coat with your child's name in it
2. A pair of labelled welly boots, which we would prefer are left in our Welly Rack in our front garden.
3. Your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet tucked securely inside it's little A5 plastic wallet.
4. Inside this little A5 plastic wallet please remember to store 2-3 sachets of calpol.
5. At least two-six complete changes of clothes should your child need to be changed during the day. We Ask for a minimum of six changes of pants/knickers, loose fitting trousers or joggers and socks whilst your child is in the first few months of toilet training.
6. Enough disposable nappies for your child to use during the day 'if' you don't wish to use Grafton's amazing washable nappies.
7. If you do use Grafton's washables please remember we need one of your disposables or your own washables to send your child home in a fresh clean nappy at the end of the day.
8. For our 2-4 year olds - your child's Grafton Phonics Pot. We go through the child's Phonics Pots every single day here at Grafton this helps to reinforce our letter of the week with your child. So it's really important that you try to remember to restock it each weekend.
9. Your child's large Blue Going Home Book Bag. We have 200 of these for each child to enjoy at home, so it's vital that you remember to return your child's current book weekly. Remember we have an ongoing reward scheme, the more they read the more free paperback books they can earn to keep and enjoy at home.

### Family Photos

We still have a few children who don't have a photo of their family displayed in our playroom. If you have not yet sent in a photo of your child with their siblings and significant family members please do consider doing so, thank you.

**Do you have any Wooden or Brass Owls or Elephants?**

We are collecting wooden Owls and Elephants for our small world role-play resources for our topics in January and February.

Do you have any gathering dust on a shelf that you would like to part with and donate to Grafton Childcare. We have managed to pick up a few in charity shops and car boots but could do with a few more to build up our flock and herd!

**Recommend Grafton Childcare to a Friend**

Do you have a friend looking for Family Friendly Flexible Childcare in September 2019?

Then why not recommend Grafton Childcare to them, so that they can also enjoy 'The Grafton Experience'!

Remember as a thank you we will give you a £25 Pizza Cafe Voucher for each family we sign up to join us here at Grafton Childcare.



## Thank You Very Much

As always we are very grateful for bits and bobs which our parents pass onto us to make use of here at Grafton Childcare. In no particular order we would like to thank Rebecca, Noah, Jack, Alfie, Theo, Mason, Felicity and Layla for the following much appreciated items:-

Lots of of Shirt Cardboard and Tissue Paper, Herbs & Spices, Cookie Cutters, Cupcake Cases, Red Milk Bottle Tops, Wooden and Mesh Sorting Trays, Shoelaces, Thread, Pipe Cleaners, Felt, Ribbon & Buttons, Cardboard Guttering, A3 Paper, Assorted Children's Books, A4 Coloured Card and a Wooden Toy.

All of the staff from Grafton Childcare would like to thank our parents who very kindly sent in Tins of Biscuits, Chocolates, Bottles of Wine, Bath Bombs, etc etc as Christmas gifts for our staff. We were really quite overwhelmed with the quantity of thoughtful gifts this year from all of our parents. All staff were delighted to take home three carrier bags filled with goodies to share with their own families, so thank you.

## Nappy & Clothing Wet bags

The perfect on-the-go waterproof bag for busy mums and wet bums! The Bambinomio handy wet bags are perfect for transporting wet clothes and nappies home while keeping the rest of your child's belongings drip-free and dry in their nursery bag.

<https://www.bambinomio.com/en/wet-bag>

A number of our parents now have these bags which they use to transport home their child's wet nappies and clothing. They are amazing and we highly recommend them as they contain everything very neatly for you to decant and sort out once you are at home.



## My Favourite Things Pages

Please remember to complete your child's, 'My Favourite Things' page for December in your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet. So that your child's Key Worker can support their current interests and fascinations and work in partnership with our our families.

## Spring Term Phonics Pots

Please remember that all items must fit inside your child's Phonics Pot with the lid on, to help ensure we do not lose any of your items at Nursery thank you.

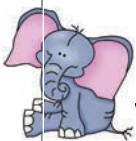
**January's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by The Owl Babies

- Wk. 1 - 2nd January - 'Q' for Quill/Feather
- Wk. 2 - 7th January - 'R' for Red Chested Owl
- Wk. 3 - 14th January - 'S' for Snowy Owl
- Wk. 4 - 21st January - 'T' for Tawny Owl
- Wk. 5 - 28th January - 'U' for Ural Owl



**February's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by The Large Family

- Wk. 6 - 4th February - 'V' for Very Large
- Wk. 7 - 11th February - 'W' for Wrinkled Skin
- Wk. 8 - 18th February - 'X' for EXtremely Large!
- Wk. 9 - 25th February - 'Y' for Young/Calf



**March's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by Nursery Rhymes

- Wk. 10 - 4th March - 'Z' for Zoom, Zoom Zoom
- Wk. 11 - 11th March - 'A' for A Sailer went to Sea.
- Wk. 12 - 18th March - 'B' for Baa Baa Black Sheep
- Wk. 13 - 25th March - 'C' for Cock a Doodle Do!



**April's** Phonics Letters are all inspired by The Squash & Squeeze

- Wk. 14 - 1st April - 'D' for Julia Donaldson!
- Wk. 15 - 8th April - 'E' for Egg
- Wk. 16 - 15th April - **Closed Reopen Tuesday 23rd**
- Wk. 17 - 23rd April - 'F' for Farmyard
- Wk. 18 - 29th April - 'G' for Goat



# Spring Term's out & about around Newton

**Bakers & Decoy Woodland Experiences; Newton Abbot Library, Jacksons Fishmongers; Hoopers Family Butchers & Ashfords Greengrocers.**

Here at Grafton Childcare we like to get involved with activities and trips out and about in our local community and know that our parents love that we take our children out and about regularly.

Below we have provided a list of just a few of the **confirmed** dates when we plan on getting out and about around Newton Abbot, with our children, this term.

These outings are predominantly planned with our Preschool Children in mind, so our three and four years olds. However weather permitting we hope to take our under threes as well. The decision to include our under three's will be made on trip by trip basis.

- 4th January - Bradley Woods Woodland Experience
- 8th January - Newton Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 18th January - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- 23rd January - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 29th January - Bradley Woods Woodland Experience
- 7th February - Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 13th February - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- 22nd February - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 28th February - Bradley Woods Woodland Experience
- 5th March - Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 15th March - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- 20th March - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 26th March - Spring Term Adventure!
- 4th April - Library, Jacksons & Ashfords
- 10th April - Decoy Park Woodland Experience
- Monday 15th April - Monday 22nd April Grafton Childcare will be closed for Easter and will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April for the Summer Term.**
- 26th April - Library, Hoopers & Ashfords
- 2nd May - Bakers Woods Woodland Experience

Parents please remember to always send your children equipped with suitable warm waterproof coats, shoes and or welly boots (inc. long welly socks) for our regular educational excursions to Decoy and Bakers Parks. So they can enjoy our high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans to the full.

## Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Spring Term (1)

Mon. 24th December - Tue. 1st January Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Christmas Holiday and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 for the beginning of our Spring Term. 2019				
<b>Owl Babies</b>				
Closed	Closed	2 January 2019	3	4 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>
7 <small>Yoga</small>	8 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	9 	10	11
14 <small>Yoga</small>	15	16	17	18 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>
21 <small>Yoga</small>	22	23 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>	24	25
28 <small>Yoga</small>	29 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	30	31 	1 February
<b>The Large Family</b>				
4 <small>Yoga</small>	5	6	7 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	8 
11 <small>Yoga</small>	12 	13 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>	14	15
$\frac{1}{2}$ term for term time only kids 18th - 22nd February 2019				
18 <small>Yoga</small>	19	20	21	22 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>
25 	26	27	28 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	1 March
<b>Nursery Rhymes</b>				
4 <small>Yoga</small>	5 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	6	7 	8
11 <small>Yoga</small> 	12	13	14	15 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>
18 <small>Yoga</small>	19	20 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>	21	22
25 <small>Yoga</small>	26 <small>Spring Term Adventure!</small> 	27	28	29
<b>A Squash and a Squeeze</b>				
1 April <small>Yoga</small>	2	3	4 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	5 
8 <small>Yoga</small>	9 	10 <small>Decoy Woodland Experience</small>	11	12
Mon. 15th April - Mon. 22nd April Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Easter Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 for the beginning of our Summer Term. 2019				
22 Closed	23	24	25	26 <small>Library, Hoopers &amp; Ashfords</small>
29	30	1 May	2 <small>Bradley Woodland Experience</small>	3 
<b>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</b>				
6 Closed	7 <small>Library, Jacksons &amp; Ashfords</small>	8 	9	10

Parents please remember to always send your children equipped with suitable warm waterproof coats, shoes and or welly boots (inc. long welly socks) for our regular educational excursions to Decoy Park and Bradley Woods. So they can enjoy our high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans to the full.

# Grafton Childcare's Annual Calendar 2019

We will be closed on all the dates marked below in **Red** and **Purple**

January							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5	28	29	30	31			

February							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5					1	2	3
6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9	25	26	27	28			

March							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

½ term for term time only kids 18th - 22nd Feb.

April							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

May							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

June							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Easter for term time only kids 8th Apr. - 22nd Apr. ½ term for term time only kids 27th May - 31st May

July							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

August							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

September							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

November							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31	1				

½ term for term time only kids 21st - 25th Oct.

Summer closure - Monday 26th August 2019  
- Friday 30th August 2019  
reopen Monday 2nd September.

Christmas closure - Tuesday 24th Dec. 2019  
- Wednesday 1st Jan. 2020,  
reopen Thursday 2nd Jan.

<b>1st January</b>	New Year's Day	<b>6th May</b>	Early May Bank Holiday	<b>25th December</b>	Christmas Day
<b>19th April</b>	Good Friday	<b>27th May</b>	Spring Bank Holiday	<b>26th December</b>	Boxing Day
<b>22nd April</b>	Easter Monday	<b>26th Aug.</b>	August Bank Holiday	<b>Bank holidays 2019 (UK)</b>	