



Bumblebee Newsletter – Welcome Back!

Dear Bumblebee Families,

Welcome back from the Christmas break. We hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas and enjoyed a lovely New Year. It has been such a joy welcoming all the children back into the Bumblebee room. If you're new to the Bumblebee family, then a big warm hello! My name is Cora, and I am the Senior Practitioner. Each week, I'll be sending out a newsletter with updates, reminders, and anything important you may need to know.

It has been lovely to see how settled the children have been on their return. However, please don't worry if your child has moments of upset or needs a little extra reassurance. After a couple of weeks away, this is completely normal and expected.



Helping Your Child Settle Back Into Nursery

Here are some gentle tips to support your child as they readjust to nursery life:

- **Talk positively about nursery** – share excitement about friends, toys, and familiar routines.
- **Keep goodbyes short and confident** – long, emotional goodbyes can make separation harder.
- **Re-establish routines at home** – consistent bedtimes, wake-up times, and morning routines help children feel secure.
- **Bring a comfort item if needed** – a teddy, blanket, or familiar object can help ease transitions.
- **Acknowledge their feelings** – let them know it's okay to miss you and that you always come back.

These small steps can make a big difference in helping your little one feel safe and ready for their day.



Welcome Back, Zainab!

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome **Zainab** back to the Bumblebee team. We have definitely missed her, and the children are already so excited to see her smiling face again. Please do say hello when you see her.



Winter Weather Reminders

The weather has been extremely cold, snowy, and icy. The children have loved exploring the snow outdoors, so please ensure they come to nursery with:

- Warm coats
- Hats, scarves, and gloves
- Wellies
- An all-in-one waterproof suit

This helps us keep them warm, dry, and ready for lots of outdoor fun.

Spare Clothes Donations

Our spare clothes box is running very low. If you have any children's clothes at home that your little one has outgrown and you'd like to donate them, we would be so grateful. Please hand any donations to a member of the Bumblebee team.

Winter & Snow Activities to Try at Home

If you're enjoying the winter weather together, here are some simple, fun activities you can do at home:

- **Snow painting** – fill spray bottles with water and food colouring and let children “paint” the snow.
- **Treasure hunt** – hide natural objects (pinecones, sticks, stones) in the snow for children to find.
- **Ice excavation** – freeze small toys in containers of water and let children melt or chip them out.
- **Winter walks** – look for footprints, icicles, frosty leaves, and talk about the changes you see.
- **Cosy indoor play** – hot chocolate picnics, winter-themed stories, or building a “snowy” sensory tray with cotton wool, scoops, and winter animals.

These activities support creativity, language, and sensory exploration.

Toilet Training Guidance

Toilet training can feel like a big step, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. Here are some signs your child may be ready:

- They stay dry for longer periods
- They show awareness of being wet or soiled
- They can follow simple instructions
- They show interest in the toilet or potty
- They can pull their trousers up and down with some help

Tips for getting started:

- Introduce the potty or toilet gradually
- Let your child sit on it fully clothed at first
- Use simple language like “wee” and “poo”

- Celebrate small successes with praise
- Dress your child in easy-to-remove clothing
- Expect accidents – they're part of the process

If you'd like more guidance, the NHS website has helpful information for parents. And of course, if you want to discuss toilet training or need support, please feel free to email me on c.leighton@lanterns.hants.sch.uk or catch me at handover.

Looking Ahead

We are so excited for all the fun, learning, and adventures that 2026 will bring for our Bumblebee class. Thank you for your continued support, kindness, and partnership. Your children brighten our days, and we feel very lucky to be part of their early years journey.

Wishing you all a warm and wonderful week ahead.

With kindness,

Cora and The Bumblebee Team 