

May 2023

ACE Nursery School & ACE Day Nursery Newsletter



It has been a busy first half of the summer term: the Day Nursery celebrated its 19th birthday; there have been coronation activities at both settings; letter writing has been in full swing; pets have visited the two nurseries and a parents' social evening took place last week! Read on for news from both nurseries and dates for your diaries.

ACE Nursery School News

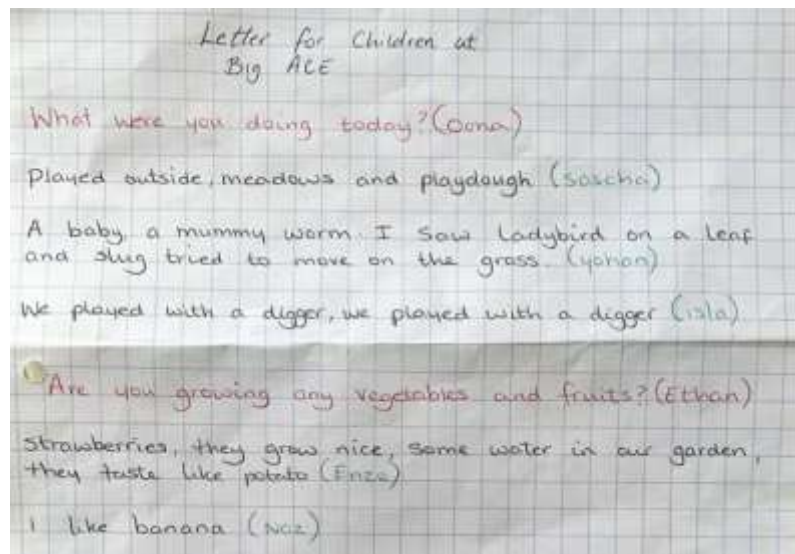
Update

At the Nursery School we've been enjoying letter writing, science experiments, gardening, acting out Jack and the Beanstalk

and most recently a construction project – to make a model of the Nursery School. We've also had a number of parent visitors.

Letter writing

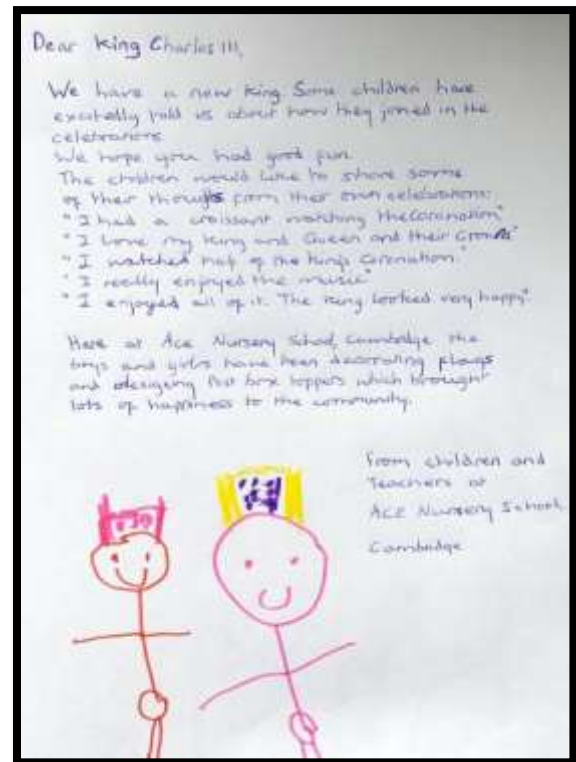
Partly inspired by the coronation postbox topper (made by the children out of recycled materials and placed on the box outside ACE) the boys and girls have shown a keen interest in **letter writing**. We started by putting together a letter to our friends at Little ACE, asking what activities they were enjoying at the moment.



Naturally we responded again, with Flora including a self-portrait as well as one of her brother who attends the Day Nursery.

ACE Nursery School News

The combination of the coronation and the letter writing led one child to suggest that we should write to **the King**. Heather took on this responsibility and when the letter was ready, she took a group to the postbox outside ACE to post it. We eagerly await a response from Buckingham Palace!



Modelling the Nursery School building

We recycled a large canvas so the children could use it to create a **detailed plan** of the Nursery School building. They started by investigating all the rooms (including the top floor office and staffroom where they don't normally go) and making notes of the colour each one is painted. Then they drew self-portraits as well as those of the teachers and the office team. These were added to the canvas, along with a staircase. Everyone was pleased with the final outcome, which we brought out into the ACE front garden for parents to see at collection time. We plan to hang it on a wall in the Little Room.



The canvas effectively acted as

the design plan for a bigger project. Someone had the good idea of using it to form the basis of a **3D model** of ACE, to be made from recycled materials. We started with boxes, then painted the interior of each to represent a particular ACE room, chose flooring from fabric sample books and made clay furniture which was painted when dry before being placed in the model for the children to play with. We extended the project by inviting in Ariana, Luca O's mummy and an interior designer, as well as her father, an architect. They did some sketches and showed us how the designs they put together turn into garden studios and buildings. Thank you both for an inspiring session.



ACE Nursery School News



Science experiments

We've enjoyed lots of experiments this half-term, including several with eggs! A Penguin child became the teacher as he had been doing a ***Magic Milk* experiment** at home and wanted to share it with friends. Method: Pour milk onto a plate, drip in food colouring, and dip a cotton bud into the centre - which has previously been coated in washing up liquid. The fat in the milk reacts with the soap and disperses to the edge of the plate. The children added another colour and repeated the process, creating rings of colour.



ACE Nursery School News

Parent visitors

Thanks to everyone who has been in to share experiences with the children. It really enriches what we are able to offer. Thank you to Ayesha, Esfir's mummy, for coming in to explain about **Ramadan**. Thanks to Jessica, Oscar R's mummy, for **playing** with us in the garden one afternoon. Thank you Regev, Yotam's daddy, for running two **music sessions** at ACE when he played the piano and guitar. He's been introducing us to *Here comes the Sun*, and *Teddy Bears' Picnic*, in preparation for our social event in June. Thanks to Becca (Gilbert's mummy) and Kanika (Maia's mummy) for **reading** with the children. Dom (Maia's daddy) is a professional **chef** and came into make some extremely tasty energy balls with the girls and boys.

A big thank you to Ben, for coming in to talk to us about the **Jewish custom** of wearing a kippah. He explained that it acts as reminder

to be kind to others as well as being a source of pride to the wearer. Ben brought in a selection of kippahs for the children to look at and try on, together with some Tzitzit (prayer shawls).



Pet visitor

Our VIP visitor this half-term was **Scrumpy the tortoise**. He belongs to Iris's family and first visited us when Iris's mummy was at ACE some years ago! Scrumpy came in to see us last year and made a big impression, so we were delighted to have him back for his third visit. We sketched him and gave him some salad to eat. We also looked up interesting tortoise facts e.g what sizes and ages can tortoises achieve? Thank you to Iris, Vicky, Mark and the whole family for bringing in Scrumpy again.



Now it's time for news from ACE Day Nursery...

ACE Day Nursery News

Update

At the Day Nursery, we've been to visit dinosaurs, the pop-up science centre in The Grafton and enjoyed coronation activities.

We've also celebrated 19 years of the Day Nursery, with a parents' social event on the same day: 17th May.

Dinosaurs

Just after the Easter break we organised a visit to the Grand Arcade to see the full-size **animaltronic dinosaurs**, including a stegosaurus and velociraptor. Laura and Carmen took a group to see these impressive creatures. We also found some of the huge dinosaur eggs on the Jurassic egg hunt trail.



Science Centre

Another lovely recent outing was to the Cambridge **Science Centre** STEMtots pop-up in the Grafton Centre. Bably and Gabi took a group of children to spend about an hour there participating in different science activities.

The children crawled through tunnel cubes, and watched paper blowing in an air flow tube. There was also messy play, tower building, drawing and books to explore.

ACE Day Nursery News



Visitors

Lindsay, Tamar's mummy, has been in to lead **singing sessions** at Little ACE. It's always good fun and we usually join in with instruments and scarves. We repeat some old favourite songs - with actions - and also learn a new song from time-to-time. The children are really comfortable with Lindsay as she has been a frequent visitor. Thank you, Lindsay!



ACE Day Nursery News

Thanks, also, to Dave, Oscar's daddy, for bringing in the family **dog, Snoop**, for a visit. She's a rescue dog who may be around 12 years old. She seemed very happy and relaxed at the Day Nursery, letting us all stroke her. If you have a friendly pet you would like to introduce us to, please get in touch.



Coronation celebrations

Sarah H and Laura took charge of **coronation celebrations** at 6A Priory Road! Firstly, we went to visit the incredible hand-made, crocheted post box topper in Priory Road in the shape of a crown. We then came back and made our own crowns from card. The

boys and girls also decorated a table cloth for lunch/tea. Sharon made us the official coronation quiche for lunch with cherry trifle for pudding, followed at tea time by egg and cress sandwiches, scones and jam.



ACE Day Nursery News



Gardening

Victoria, Anouk's mummy, kindly bought us some **herbs**. The children helped Hanna to plant them into old wellington boots and hang them up in the mud kitchen area. The children can access the plants when they are playing in the kitchen as part of their role play. Sharon also uses them in her cooking. Indoors we've grown lots of vegetable seeds on the windowsills e.g. peas, broad beans, radishes, and the girls and boys helped transplant them into our vegetable patch.



ACE Day Nursery News



Farewell to Maria

After Easter we said *hasta luego* to **Maria**, who is now based full-time at the Nursery School. We're looking forward to seeing her again when we go on visits to Big ACE where she's known as "Little Maria" to distinguish her from the original Maria who already works at the Nursery School.



Staff News

This month we feature **Amy** from the Day Nursery.



*My name is Amy and I work at Little ACE.
I was born and raised in London and moved to
Cambridge in 2018 with my partner. I started
at Little ACE back in January 2019 full time.*

*I had my daughter at the beginning of 2022
and came back to work at ACE two days a
week, Mondays and Tuesdays, from the
middle of April 2023.*

*In my spare time when I'm not working at
Little ACE, I take my daughter out to
playgroup or to the park - as her favourite
thing at the moment is a slide.*

*We often go and visit mine and my partner's
family in London and enjoy walking our dog,
Luna (we also have two cats called Rob and
Raven).*

*I can play guitar and ice skate, and love
painting too.*

Other staff news



Congratulations to **Gemma**
on the safe arrival of her
daughter, Clemmie, at the
end of April. Gemma has
been singing ACE songs to
Clemmie and generally
enjoying being a Mum. We
hope to see them both
soon!

Co-op Hours



ACE was founded as a parents' co-operative 57 years ago and the input of parents in the running of the nurseries is a huge part of the ACE ethos. All families are asked to contribute practically via co-op hours every term or to pay in lieu @£17/hr if it isn't possible to help out. Many of you have been volunteering your skills in a variety of ways, but if you haven't managed to contribute yet this term, get in touch and we'll find you something to do!

Big ACE co-op hours

Washing: Thank you to the washing team this term, including Jessica (Oscar R's mummy), Jon and Hanna (Clara's parents), Regev and Yael (Yotam's parents), and Luke and Ayesha (Evren's parents).

Music: Thanks to Regev (Yotam's daddy) for coming in to play the piano and guitar.

Shopping: Thanks to Cise and Niyazi (Mirai's parents) to Lana (John's mummy) and to Andreia (Maria's mummy) for doing the ACE shopping each week. Thanks also to the families who purchased and delivered more compost to us for our growing activities: Tom (Helen's daddy) and Dom (Maia's daddy).

Cooking: Thanks, again, to Dom (Maia's daddy) for coming in to cook with the children.

Repairs: Thanks to Valerie, Helen's mummy, for doing an amazing job on repainting the sandpit. Once it has dried we'll be able to buy sand and fill it up for the children to start enjoying in this lovely weather.

Gardening: Thanks to Will (Neva's daddy) for trimming the front hedge and to Oliver (Max de G's daddy) for cutting back lots of greenery in the rear garden.

Painting: Thank you Sikander (Rayyan's daddy), for painting the canvas a neutral white for us to use for the Big ACE diagram referred to above. Thanks also to Bethany (Eusebio's mummy) for the lovely bee chair pictured here.



Poster design: Thanks to all the parents who have been busy designing invitations for us, including Luke (Evren's daddy), Ana (Luka W's mummy) and Yashi (Ethan's mummy).

Mud kitchen: A huge thank you to Chris, Rein's daddy, for making this wonderful mud kitchen unit out of a wooden pallet provided by Alison (Oscar M's mummy).

Reading to the children: Thanks Becca (Gilbert's mummy) and Kanika (Maia's mummy).

Playing in the garden: Thank you Jessica (Oscar R's mummy) as well as everyone who helped us move gravel from the back garden to the front.

Architect/interior design talk: Thank you to Ariana (Luca O's mummy) and her father for coming in to tell us about their professions.

Tortoise visit: Thanks to Vicky and Mark (Iris's mummy and grandfather) for bringing in Scrumpy.

Ramadan: Thank you Ayesha, Esfir's mummy, for talking to us about Ramadan.

Jewish customs: Thank you Ben for coming in to explain about kippahs and Tzitzit.

Little ACE co-op hours

Mud kitchen: We're extremely grateful to Friso (Julian's daddy) for updating one of our mud kitchen units and designing us a new one to replace a rotten unit.

Painting: Thank you Sargon (Yohan's daddy) for repainting the back doors that lead from the playroom to the garden.

Useful Info

Laundry: Thanks go to Sophie and Giles (Marina's parents), Victoria and Michael (Flora's parents), Ella and Mustafa (River's parents) and Zeynep and Mehmet (Naz's parents) for doing our washing this term.

Gardening: Alice (Isla's mummy) donated and planted a range of flowers in the front garden – thank you. She also gave us some vegetable seedlings and collected wooden building bricks from the Nursery School for the children to play with at the Day Nursery. Thanks to Victoria (Anouk's mummy) for buying herbs for the garden.

Singing: Thanks to Lindsay (Tamar's mummy) for running music sessions with us.

Dog visitor: Thank you Dave, Oscar's daddy, for bringing in Snoop to visit.



Useful information

- **Primary school places** were announced on 17th April and most families have chosen to share their child's school destination with other ACE families leaving ACE this summer. We put together a list of leavers, schools and parent contact details so you can organise play dates with children heading to the same school. It all helps with the transition process.

Reception teachers are now getting in touch to talk to nursery staff about the child/ren moving to their school. There will be quite a focus on transitions in the second half of the summer term, with settling in sessions for Little ACE children who are moving up to Big ACE, as well as new starters at both settings, and talk about primary schools for those moving on from ACE.

- A **group photo of the children and staff** will be taken at both nurseries on **Thursday 8th June**, by Lorna of Moonbeams Photography. If your child is not normally at ACE on this day of the week, please come in and join the photo which is being taken at 10.00am at the Nursery School (please aim to arrive by 9.45am as it takes a while to get everyone into position) and at 11.00am at the Day Nursery (please arrive by 10.45am). Hard copies will be available to purchase afterwards.
- Please let us know if your child will be away **on holiday** during term time. We would enjoy receiving postcards from home or away over the summer holiday season, to continue the letter writing theme.

ACE Parents' Committee

ACE Committee 2022/23

Chair	Caspar Rebling
Treasurer	Liam Kelly
Secretary	Rene Oosthuysen
HR/staff liaison	Anna Masefield & Charlotte Eccles
Child protection/safeguarding lead	Miriam Haaser
Newsletters	Charlotte Eccles
Social events	Anna Masefield
Social events	Angharad Walter
Social events	Becca Handley
Social events	Vicky Hallam
Social events	Ariana Rees-Roberts
Social events & policy review	Bego Carod Alonso
Social events & policy review	Mircea Iliescu
Community liaison & policy review	Julia Forman
Headteacher	Lisa Tuohy
Day Nursery Manager	Hanna Ochalik-Baca

The parents' committee met on **May 10th 2023** to discuss finances, policies, and to plan the teddy bears' picnic in June. A finance meeting will be held in the second half of term to decide upon fees and salaries for the new academic year.

The ACE parents' committee can be contacted independently of either nursery via ace.parents.committee@gmail.com. There is also a separate email address for any safeguarding queries: acesafeguarding@gmail.com. These email addresses divert to two different committee members and operate independently of the ACE staff teams.

Committee Update

We are looking for someone to fill an important non-committee role: someone to update the ACE website on a regular basis. Rob (Jamie's daddy) has fulfilled this role for many years whilst his three children have been through ACE but sadly he'll be leaving us in the summer when Jamie goes to primary school. If you are interested, please let us know. Rob would be happy to show you the ropes. It's a fully remote role and means your co-op hours are fulfilled each term by updating the website with policies, documents, photos etc.

Term Dates

ACE Nursery School

Summer Term 2023

Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June: half-term holiday. Holiday playscheme available from Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June inclusive. Closed on Monday 29th May for the Spring Bank holiday. Places are still available for the Weds/Thurs/Fri of the playscheme, so please contact the office if you would like to book in your child.

Thursday 20th July: last day of term

Friday 21st July: closed

Monday 24th July - Friday 18th August inclusive: Summer holiday playscheme

Autumn Term 2023

Wednesday 6th September: first day of term

ACE Day Nursery

Summer Term 2023

Monday 29th May: closed for Spring Bank holiday

Friday 18th August - Thursday 31st August inclusive: Summer holiday closure period

Autumn Term 2023

Friday 1st September: first day of term, staggered start for new children

Full term dates for the Day Nursery and the Nursery School are available on our website.

Upcoming Social Event

Teddy Bears' Picnic
Saturday **24th June**, 2-4pm
Wandlebury

