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11th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will know, our Nursery received an “Outstanding” OFSTED report in November 2019; this followed a previous judgement of “Outstanding” some six years earlier.

In addition, on our website and in the implementation of all our policies and practices, we state, “Safeguarding is of paramount importance to us all”. We hope this claim is substantiated in terms of parents’ and carers’ knowledge and perception of our Nursery. This is certainly the view of all the Directors who feel justified confidence and trust in the work of Mel Mitchell, Nursery Manager, and our staff.

The Nursery and Childcare Centre was Inspected in June 2025 by an OFSTED Inspector; we had felt cautiously optimistic of achieving another such pleasing outcome. However, we have been judged to be “Inadequate”, the lowest of the four gradings.

The reasons for the judgement and outcome are principally a “Safeguarding Failure”, identified by the Inspector. In short, one young child, engaged in a structured and risk assessed sensory activity in class, put a stone which was being used as part of the activity into their mouth. One of our staff members present used ‘a hooking motion with a finger’ to remove the stone quickly and successfully from the child’s mouth. There was no choking incident. The Inspector stated, as a judgement, that staff should have been more immediately vigilant.

The OFSTED inspection criteria states:

“Inspectors are likely to reach a judgement of ‘Inadequate’ under a particular judgement if one or more of the inadequate criteria applies.”

The Inspector judged our “Overall Effectiveness” to be ‘Inadequate’ because “Safeguarding is ineffective”.

In addition, the Inspector judged “Leadership and Management” to be ‘Inadequate’ because, “Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements are not met. Breaches have a significant impact on the safety and well-being of children.”

The Nursery and Childcare Centre will be reinspected by OFSTED within six months’ time from the previous inspection day, giving us an opportunity over the coming months to work hard to ensure an upgrade from the judgement of ‘Inadequate”. Our leaders and staff will be doing everything they can both to see the overall judgement return to ‘Outstanding’ and to regain our reputation as a first-class provider. This is, of course, secondary to our ambition to continue to be “outstanding” as far as a safeguarding judgement is concerned because safeguarding is of paramount importance to every member of our nursery.

Should any parent or carer wish to know more about safeguarding policies and practices and about the Inspection and our work since the Inspection, please do not hesitate to contact the Nursery Manager, Mel Mitchell, to make an appointment to discuss any concerns which you might have. Equally, it would be possible for you to meet with Directors should you wish this.

Meanwhile, we will return to what we believe we do best and that is to provide a safe environment, one which has happy and interested young learners – your children – in it, whilst we regain our confidence and work towards restoring our reputation.

Yours sincerely

Iain Brown

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On behalf of the Board of Directors