

# Little Beans

Weymouth



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## Happy New Year! Welcome back Little Beans.....

### ----- ROLL ON 2024!

A big welcome to all our new families and welcome back to our existing and returning families. We are looking forward to a very happy and eventful 2024, filled with fun, laughter, and exciting new challenges for everyone at Little Beans!

Leading into 2024, we thank our Little Beans' teachers for your enduring commitment and dedication to children's learning and thank all our families for your continued support and partnership in assisting us to positively influence learning and to build genuine, lasting relationships.

We also give a massive thanks to each and every child at Little Beans. The excitement we get every day as we see you playing, investigating and learning is truly fabulous. We can't wait to see the expressions of awe and wonder and joy on your faces, as we observe you play and learn in 2024!

On a sad note, we say farewell to Finelle who made the difficult decision to move back to London to be with her family. We are going to miss her very much and wish her all the best in the future.

On a positive note, we say hello to Faith Cox our newest member of the Little Beans team. Faith is a very experienced Level 2 Teacher and has been working in childcare for over 4 years. She is very excited to join us and get to know our children and families.



## This month We are learning about.....

### ----- THE WEATHER & SEASONS

We will be learning all about the different types of weather and how these vary all over the world!  
We will be exploring the four seasons and talking about what 'typical' weather we should expect in each of these — but also discussing how unpredictable weather can be!

We will be seeking to answer questions such as:

- Why do the leaves fall off the trees?
- Where do our insects and animals go when it's chilly outside?
- How do they keep cool in the summer?
- Why do some plants only blossom in the summer?
- How can we keep ourselves warm in colder weather?
- What is important to do when the weather is warm?





Little Beans Weymouth – December 2023

# Little Beans Celebrates!

## Events in January 2024

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - A day to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication.** At little Beans we will be looking at Braille, as well as learning about others ways of communicating.

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - the twelfth day after Christmas and the official end of the Christmas season,** on this day we will talk about and share our Christmas experiences and memories with each other.

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Winnie the Pooh Day!** A day to celebrate author A. A Milne’s birthday, Winnie the Pooh day celebrated the beloved honey-obsessed bear! We will be holding Teddy Bear’s picnics and making honey-flavoured treats!

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 - Red Squirrel Appreciation Day!** (We will celebrate on 22<sup>nd</sup> January). Red squirrels are native to the UK but at risk, on this day we will be exploring these colourful fluffy animals and talking about their habitats as well as ways to protect them! Did you know that Brownsea Island is one of the few places left in the UK where you can catch a glimpse of a red squirrel?



**25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Burns Night!** A Scottish celebration to commemorate Scotland’s national poet Robert Burns! At Little Beans we will be talking about traditional dishes eaten on this night such as fish soup, as well as exploring Scottish traditions and customs such as tartan patterning and the sound of bagpipes!

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 — Australia Day!** We will be learning all about Australia and the land down under and discussing the different animals, weather patterns and traditions they have!

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Lego Day!** (we will celebrate it on 29<sup>th</sup> January). The date which marks when the first 2x4 Lego brick was patented and to celebrate the fantastic journey of imagination which a simple Lego brick can take us on! We will be building and creating all day using lots of different materials and resources to show the power of the imagination and bricks!

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 — International Zebra Day!** On this day we will be celebrating all that is stripey and learning about these fantastic black and white beasts! We will be learning all sorts of fun facts such as how each Zebra’s stripes are unique just like our fingerprints are!



### Core Books

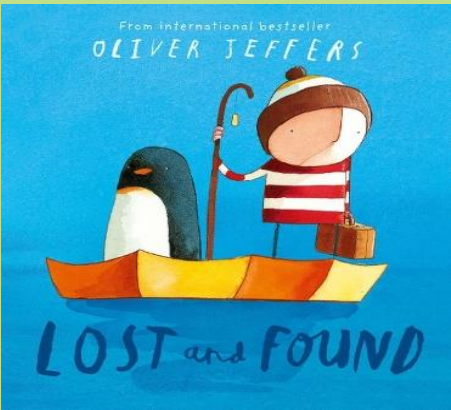
----- THIS MONTH

‘Lost and Found’ by Oliver Jeffers

This term we will be starting our learning with a story called ‘Lost and Found’ by Oliver Jeffers. If you are not familiar with the book, it tells the tale about a boy and one day a penguin arrives on his doorstep. The boy decides the penguin must be lost and tries to return him. But no one seems to be missing a penguin.

So, the boy decides to take the penguin home himself, and they set out in his row boat on a journey to the South Pole. But when they get there, the boy discovers that maybe home wasn’t what the penguin was looking for after all!

We will be using the story as a starting point to looking at the polar regions, discussing the concepts of hot + cold, floating + sinking and lost + found.





# Little Bean’s Recipe of the Month

## Quiche

### ----- INGREDIENTS

- 9oz plain flour
- 4 oz butter
- 4-5 tbsp iced water
- 3 onions
- 5 eggs
- 350l milk or cream
- 100g cheese.

### Top Tip:

If you’re not a fan of onion; try switching it out for something else. Fancy something a bit different, trying adding tomatoes, bacon, broccoli or even a type of cheese or two!

### ----- METHOD

1. Place the butter and flour into a bowl and mix into breadcrumbs.
2. Once in breadcrumb form, slowly add the water and mix until it makes a dough.
3. Place into a baking dish and bake for 20 mins on gas mark 7.
4. Whilst the base is cooking; put the milk/cheese and eggs into a bowl along with the onions (chopped) and cheese (grated).
5. Use a whisk to mix the ingredients together until lightly fluffy.
6. Add the mixture to the part baked base and place back in the oven for a further 30 mins.
7. Enjoy hot or cold with salad and/or chips.

----- Enjoy!

### TERM DATES FOR TERM TIME ONLY (TTO) CHILDREN:

#### SPRING TERM

Term 1 - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Half term – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Term 2 – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Easter Holidays – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### SUMMER TERM

Term 1 – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Half term – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Term 2 – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### TERM DATES FOR ALL YEAR ROUND (AYR) CHILDREN:

Academic year - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Autumn term - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 (16 weeks)

Spring term - 1<sup>st</sup> January - 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Summer term 1<sup>st</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Summer Holidays – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### Bank Holidays (nursery closed)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Xmas Closure Dates for your Diary (nursery closed)

25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

Little Beans reopens on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 for AYR children.

TTO children return on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024



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## Notices and Housekeeping!

### Funding from April 2024

If your child turns 2 between 1st of January 2024 and 31st March 2024 (or already has turned 2) you may be entitled to some additional funding via the government towards your nursery bill from April 2024. Little Beans will be accepting the new funding coming into place from April 2024, more information can be found here: [Upcoming changes to childcare support | Childcare choices](#)

### The big outdoors

As you know we are huge advocates on giving the children daily fresh air by spending time in the nursery garden. Not only does spending time outdoors benefit the children's physical and mental wellbeing, it also gives them a connection with nature. Exposure to nature has been found to enhance children's concentration, self-regulation and behaviour.

Outdoor play assists children to develop their teamwork skills, moral reasoning, social interaction and conflict negotiation. With this mind, please make sure your child comes to nursery with suitable warm coats and hats, as we will be continuing to use the garden whatever the weather. If possible, please can you provide them with a waterproof all-in-one and a pair of wellies.



### Facebook and Instagram

Please check out our Facebook and Instagram page, give us a 'like' and 'follow' to keep updated with dates and reminders. We also add photos regularly of what your Little Beans have been up to.

You can also leave reviews!

<https://www.facebook.com/littlebeansweymouth>

Search on Instagram under 'Little Beans Day Care'

### Little Beans Website

Our website also has lots of useful information which we up-date each month. We put all newsletters, menus, and dates for the diary on it.

You can check the website to keep updated with what's going on [www.littlebeansdaycare.com](http://www.littlebeansdaycare.com)



