

FOOTSTEPS CARE



Newsletter – November 2025 Issue

As November draws to a close, we find ourselves welcoming December and all that it brings. The days have definitely grown shorter, the weather colder, and cosy jumpers, warm drinks, and twinkling lights are becoming part of everyday life across our homes.

It has certainly felt like a long term for everyone. The children and young people have worked incredibly hard, and we are proud of them all. They are all counting down the days to the Christmas holidays and a well-deserved rest. As we move into December, there is a real sense of excitement building, talk of Christmas, decorations, festive activities, and excitement for our favourite time of year.

November appears to have been a month of reflection and appreciation, as we received several wonderful, heartfelt compliments, including a beautiful card from a former resident informing us of what they have been up to recently and recalling their time living as part of our family. They have fond memories, and next month we will share some of the recent compliments as a nice way to end the year.



NEWS FROM OUR GOODMAYES ADULT SERVICE

Out and About

This month has been full of exciting activities, with everyone enjoying shopping trips, meals out, park visits, and adventures on buses and trains. These outings offered opportunities to build confidence, practise independence skills, socialise with others, and explore the local area at a comfortable and supportive pace.

Despite the colder weather, we have enjoyed some time outdoors exploring in nature and in the parks. Brisk winter walks help us to feel refreshed.

We have also enjoyed a number of festive outings as the month went on, helping to build excitement as we move closer to the holiday season. A Christmas pub lunch with friends was a particular highlight. It was enjoyed by everyone, and there was much laughter and fun as we immersed ourselves in the magic of the season.

We are really looking forward to the excitement, celebrations, and opportunities that December will bring.

Active Adventures

Our young adults have been keeping active with trampolining, swimming, tubing at Brentwood Ski Centre, and lively Zumba sessions. These activities continue to support health, motivation, and well-being, while offering fun ways to try new experiences. We always try to emphasise and encourage exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Celebrations

This month, we proudly celebrated birthdays for both staff and residents, bringing everyone together to celebrate. Happy birthday to you all. We hope your day was as magical as you! xxx

OUR MISSION

Working together to create one home, one family.

OUR VISION

We endeavour to ensure every child and young person in our care feels respected, happy, safe, loved, valued, and cared for.

We provide a homely environment which supports children and young people to build on their skills and abilities enabling them to develop greater independence and confidence to take them into adulthood.

We are empowering children and young people with learning disabilities and additional support needs to overcome obstacles and reach their highest potential, whilst promoting welfare and wellbeing.

VALUES

Family, Compassion & Empathy, Safety & Security, Nurture & Empower, Passion, Opportunity.

Our company values are the core principles that define who we are.

We aim to create a healthy culture within a long-lasting, successful, motivating, and safe home where we embrace diversity and uniqueness.

We celebrate great teamwork and foster respect, support, positivity, and kindness.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 8: Bodhi Day (Buddhist) and Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic)
December 15–22: Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21: Winter Solstice and Yule (Pagan/Wiccan)
December 25: Christmas Day (Christian)
December 26: Boxing Day (UK) and St. Stephen's Day (Christian)
December 31: New Year's Eve



NEWS FROM OUR GOODMAYES CHILDREN SERVICE

November has been a magical and memorable month here at Green Lane!

As the festive season draws closer and the chilly air settles in, we've been embracing cosy moments indoors as well as plenty of exciting adventures out and about.

Out and About

We've kept our spirits high with plenty of wonderful outings this month. A major highlight was our enchanting trip on the Polar Express train, where the children immersed themselves in the festive magic, from the twinkling lights to the joyful atmosphere. We sang, drank hot chocolate, read a story, and even saw Santa! All of that on one train ride! It was a truly unforgettable experience that the children thoroughly enjoyed.

In November, our children also enjoyed the thrill of visiting the arcades, where they loved riding on the bumper cars. There was much laughter and fun for everyone.

We have also enjoyed local train and bus rides, which are always a firm favourite. We've made the most of the crisp weather with lots of visits to local parks and further explorations across Central London, taking in the sights, sounds, and seasonal charm the city has to offer.

Home Comforts

When we haven't been adventuring outside, we've been creating cosy days at home. Our movie nights, both in the cinema and snuggled up at home, were big favourites with everyone. We also celebrated Cake Day, which filled the home with delicious smells and happy smiles. We all ate lots of sweet treats, and this is a day we are happy to support each year!

The 'C' Word

It is never too early for Christmas!! Joy does not have a time stamp.

We started in November, and why not?!

The children have been decorating the home for Christmas, and their creativity has truly brought the festive spirit alive. Glitter, colours, and cheerful decorations are already making our home feel warm and magical. We cannot wait for the festivities. 😊

Days To Note

This month, we proudly acknowledged Remembrance Sunday, participated in Diabetes Day, and Children in Need Day. We did many activities to mark all of these events and helped our children learn about important causes, take part in themed activities, and express kindness, empathy, and understanding. We raised money for all causes. Thank you and well done, everyone!

Congratulations Nishana

A HUGE congratulations to Nishana, who has recently qualified as a social worker. We are all so proud of you and excited for you and your future. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment to supporting our children shines through every day, and this qualification is very well deserved. A huge congratulations from all of us!

Looking Ahead

As we move into December, we are excited for even more festive fun, cosy celebrations, and plenty of magical moments together. Thank you to our young people and staff for making this month so special.



NEWS FROM OUR LEYTON CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Birthday acknowledgements

This month we say Happy Birthday to Deputy Manager Emily, also Mariann, Rebecca and Ebenezer. Happy birthday to you all. We hope you had a wonderful birthday! 😊

A busy Month

Well, November was a very busy month for us here at Ambleside. We have crammed so much into the final autumn month. The children have enjoyed the Junior Gym, which supports physical wellbeing and healthy routines. As usual, we have enjoyed lots of baking sessions this month, as well as cinema trips and bus rides.

Alongside these familiar activities, the children also embraced a number of new and exciting activities. Visits to the Tower Bridge Collective kids' cooking club were particularly well received, giving everyone the chance to try new recipes, work as part of a team, and explore food in a fun and supportive environment. Computer coding sessions introduced problem-solving skills and creativity, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm as the young people learned something completely new. It was very surprising how quickly some of them took to this!

Remembrance Sunday

The children took part in a trip to the Imperial War Museum, which provided a valuable opportunity for learning and reflection. During the visit, they explored a range of exhibitions and took time to discuss the significance of Remembrance, helping them to develop an understanding of history and the experiences of others. The trip encouraged thoughtful conversations.

In the home

Indoors, there was no shortage of creativity and calm activities to enjoy. Arts and crafts sessions are always ongoing and allow the children to express themselves freely and proudly display their creations, while themed activities around Guy Fawkes added an element of seasonal fun. One-to-one reading time was also a highlight, with the "choose your own ending" storybook series proving especially popular, encouraging imagination, decision-making, and a love of reading.

Youth Parliament

The young people attended the Hackney Youth Parliament, which celebrated Black History. It was a wonderful, joyful event filled with performances, food, and activities. The arts projects were particularly well appreciated and engaging. The project was inspiring the young people to acknowledge history, achievements and to advocate for having a voice in the community.

Young leaders' group

The young people have started participating in a young leaders' group, which has given them the independence to advocate for each other using their preferred communication. The idea was formed to support building peer relationships, learning and creating ideas together, as well as enhancing life skills in preparation for adulthood. Within the group, they can plan as well as free-style what they would like to discuss and learn through videos, handouts, and discussion. First of which was about drawing up a Christmas wish list, discussing and appreciating various things, and most of all, our differences, which make us unique!

Let's Celebrate!

The young people always love a celebration. This month was no different, and we enjoyed celebrating International Children's Day with plenty of music and fun. We also enjoyed celebrating a Birthday at home with lots of entertainment and laughter. Happy birthday, young man! 😊



I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge, heartfelt thank you to all of our staff for your continued hard work, dedication, and commitment. You all work tirelessly to advocate for and support the children and young people in our care, always striving to ensure they feel safe, valued, and understood.

The role you play goes far beyond day-to-day care. As corporate parents, you provide guidance, consistency, and positive role modelling, helping to instill strong values, morals, and life skills that will support the children and young people well into the future. Your patience, compassion, and resilience make a lasting difference, particularly during challenging times, and your willingness to go the extra mile never goes unnoticed.

Through teamwork, communication, and genuine care, you create nurturing environments where children and young people can grow, develop confidence, and reach their full potential. Thank you for everything you do.

Thank you. Jo x

HEALTH & WELLBEING

All staff members have access to the Care First Zest platform provided by My Possible Self. The platform offers fully confidential Health and Wellbeing Support Services, including 24-hour fully confidential telephone counselling and an interactive health and wellbeing management portal.

RECRUITMENT

If you know someone who would like to join us, please direct them to our website where they can download an application pack to complete and return to applications@footstepscare.net

STAFF HANDBOOK

Please take the time to read through the staff handbook which can be found on our system, in each office and on our website. The staff handbook contains all the HR policies.

WEBSITE

Our website is regularly updated. To access information about the organisation, commitment to safeguarding, important contact details, newsletters and the gallery, please follow the link below. <https://www.footstepscaregroup.co.uk>

YOUR FEEDBACK

Your input means so much to us, and we truly appreciate your thoughtful feedback. The survey is also available on the website. This helps us better understand your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas for improving our workplace. Your feedback plays a key role in shaping our plans for the year ahead. Thank you again for helping us build a better and more inclusive workplace. Stay tuned for updates on our progress and next steps! Click on the QR code and leave your feedback.



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Our policies and procedures are available to view and read on the FODS system and Footsteps Care Drive. Our core HR policies are also in the staff handbook.