



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome two new members of staff to our nursery team. Marie who will be working in the Toddler Den and Kim who will be based in the Preschool Study. They both bring with them experience of working in the industry and we are really looking forward to them being a part of our team.

The renovation work in the garden has now been completed and the nursery has an amazing outside garden space that the children can use and explore in all year round. We have some wonderful resources for the garden and there will be some great learning opportunities for the children to take part in. If you haven't seen the new garden and would like to, please ask a member of staff and we are more than happy to show you. The children access the garden every day and the weather can be very variable. Please can you ensure that your child has the correct named clothing to be able to access the garden so that they are able to take part.

We have begun a nursery Cooking Club where each week the children at nursery will take part in making / cooking something. We have been trialling it for a few weeks and the children have already made scrambled eggs on toast, pumpkin and butternut squash soup and their own pizzas with choice of toppings for tea. The children have loved being part of this and we are excited to continue this moving forward. The day that this takes place will change from week to week, ensuring that your child will be able to take part in this. If you have any questions regarding this, please do let us know.

When parking to drop or collect your child, please can you park considerately for our neighbours. We are aware that parking can be difficult with the car park being out of use, and the road can be busy at peak times, but we want to ensure the safety of all the children and people in the local community. Please where possible, either walk to nursery, or park further away from nursery and walk the last part of the journey. Thankyou in advance for your support with this.

Vicky

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Good Friday - 29th March (nursery closed)
- Easter Monday - 1st April (nursery closed)
- Early May Bank Holiday - 6th May (nursery closed)
- Spring Bank Holiday - 27th May (nursery closed)

Other:

- Connor's 10 year anniversary - 11th March
- Ellie's 1 year anniversary - 13th March
- Parents evening 6pm until 8pm - 3rd April

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

 [/thenurseryfamily](https://www.facebook.com/thenurseryfamily)

 [@thenurseryfamily](https://www.instagram.com/thenurseryfamily)



The Baby Snug

The children in Baby Snug have been exploring senses through painting using their whole bodies. They loved squishing the paint between their fingers and rubbing the paint onto their bodies and onto the paper. We developed our mark making skills and are developing our vocabulary and our gross motor skills. The children shared these experiences with their key person, developing their bonds. We have also explored water trays, swishing the water around with our hands and fingers and using little cups and jugs to pick up and pour the water as well.

The children have also really enjoyed taking part in 'Baby Boogie' time in the Baby Snug, where they are able to move their bodies to some nursery rhymes. They have especially enjoyed exploring the sounds that the different instruments and toys make when shaken, tapped and rolled around the room.

Continue at home

Give your little one a pan and wooden spoon and watch as they learn the different noises they can make by banging the two together.

The Toddler Den

The children in Toddler Den have shown a real interest in singing their favourite nursery rhymes and moving around to music using ribbons, scarves, and the parachute. This gives them opportunities to practise turn taking; choosing a song out of the song bag, and also their communication skills, practicing using their language when singing the songs.

Toddler Den have been really interested in talking about animals and creating areas for the animals to live. They have been cleaning the animals and creating their own animal faces, using their imagination to move around the room in different ways.

We have also been looking at fruit and vegetables, how they grow and what they look like when we cut inside them. The children have been able to practise their cutting using a knife and develop control by practising cutting up the different fruits and vegetables. Following on from the fruits and vegetables, we have read the 'Hungry Caterpillar' story, trying the food from the story to see if we liked it.

Continue at home

Let your little one help prepare meals and snacks at home - talk to them about what they are doing. Cooking is a great opportunity to develop all areas of learning.

The Pre-School Study

In the Preschool Study, the children have been introduced to our new class Red Panda called Rainbow. Rainbow has come all the way from China and is going to be a big part of our room. He wants to visit the children's houses and to play with them over the time away from nursery. We will be asking a different child each week to take Rainbow home with them. Rainbow has a diary that he keeps with him all the time of the places he has visited so please take some photos and write about what you have done. Leading on from Rainbow visiting, we started to talk about where different animals live around the world and the environment that they need. We have looked at jungles and oceans and the differences that they have and need. We have created a recycling bin for preschool and looked at how when we recycle different things, they need to go in the correct bin.

Continue at home

Don't forget to upload any home learning onto EYLog so we can discuss this at circle times with our teachers and peers.

Recipe of the Month

RECIPE NAME - CHICKEN FAJITAS

INGREDIENTS:

For the filling:

- 2 large chicken breasts thinly sliced (or a meat substitute)
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 red chilli, thinly sliced (optional)
- Handful grated cheese
- 1 heaped tbsp paprika
- 1tbsp ground coriander
- Pinch ground cumin
- 2 medium garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lime, juiced

To serve:

- 6 medium tortillas

For the salsa:

- 1 cucumber peeled and diced
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 250g tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 tbsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1 tspn lime juice
- 1 tspn olive oil
- 1/2 tspn ground cumin
- 1/2 tspn ground black pepper



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6.
2. Mix paprika, coriander, cumin, crushed garlic, olive oil, and lime juice together in a bowl.
3. Stir the sliced chicken breasts, red onion, red pepper, and optional chilli into the marinade.
4. Heat a griddle pan until smoking hot and add the marinated chicken.
5. Keep everything moving over the high heat until you get a nice charred effect. If your griddle pan is small, you can do this in two batches.
6. To check the chicken is cooked, cut into the thickest part of the chicken. If it is still red inside, then continue cooking
7. For the salsa, mix the diced tomato, onion, cucumber, then add the lime juice, minced garlic, cumin, and black pepper. Set aside.
8. Put the tortillas in the oven to heat up for a few minutes, and serve with the cooked chicken mixture, salsa, and grated cheese.

Recent Training

Ellie, Grace and Georgia have all started working towards their Childcare L3 Qualifications and should be finished around the end of this year. Staff took part in a Schemas training session at the recent staff meeting. The staff team are implementing what they learnt into their practise in the room.

Connor, Tara, Emma and Cicely will be renewing their first aid training this month.

Garden Refurb

CPM Contractors in collaboration with the Nursery family presents to you Ashington Day Nursery's Newly Refurbished play area.

- A newly turfed garden
- A soft play area for babies
- A custom built sand pit shed for toddlers
- A purpose built storage area
- Purpose build planters to grow fruit and veg

Did you know that CPM Contractors also undertake undertake all aspects of domestic building work from gardens to kitchens to house extensions! They are now offering a 10% discount to all parents of the nursery for any works carried out on their properties. You can contact them on 07432 859112 for a no obligation quote.

Our Website: www.cpmcontractors.co.uk

Colleague Spotlight

Georgia has worked really hard to create amazing opportunities to learn for the babies and is always supporting them in taking their next steps of development. She has stepped up while her room leader has been on holiday and has shown she has a very good knowledge of all the children's needs and routines in the room. Georgia has worked overtime to support the baby room so that the children have consistency of staff within the room. Big thankyou to Georgia for all your support.

