

FAMILY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the Winter term, we'd like to remind all parents to pack a raincoat or all-in-one wet suit in your child's bag. We'll continue spending plenty of time outdoors, embracing the wonderful experiences each season offers – rain or shine!

Please ensure all items are labelled, as we encourage independence by supporting children in managing their own belongings. However, some little ones enjoy spreading their treasures out, so labelling helps us keep everything together!

We're also thrilled to invite parents to join us throughout the Christmas period as we make more festive memories together. We can't wait to share this special time with you!

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- December 25th- January 1st Nursery is closed

Other:

- 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- 20th December - Christmas Carols 330pm-430pm
- 24th February - Baby Snug Parents Evening
- 25th February- Toddler Den Parents Evening
- 26th February - Preschool Parents Evening

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

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

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



The Baby Snug

What a fantastic month it has been in Baby Snug, filled with exploration, creativity, and plenty of fun.

Our little bakers have enjoyed making banana flapjacks, cheese straws, and fruit salads, discovering new tastes and textures along the way. We have also embraced the messy side of learning with winter sensory trays –stomping dinosaur feet through green cornflour and gathering frozen leaves to use with our farm animals.

In the Baby Snug garden, the excitement continued. The children have been racing cars down ramps, digging in the sandpit with diggers, and enjoying storytime with our new outdoor books in the fresh air.

To round off November, we started spreading Christmas cheer by crafting beautiful paper wreaths with glitter, baubles, and tissue paper.

We are looking forward to carrying this festive spirit into December and sharing even more exciting activities with our little ones as we head towards an inspiring 2025.

Continue at home

Try making simple recipes like banana flapjacks or cheese straws at home. Encourage your child to help with scooping, mixing, and tasting, which supports fine motor skills and sensory exploration.

The Toddler Den

Our Toddlers have embraced meaningful learning experiences this month, engaging with the world around them in exciting and thoughtful ways.

In honour of Remembrance Day, the children designed their own poppies, explored conversations about the people who help us, and celebrated the diversity and uniqueness of the world we live in today.

The children have also been building their independence, learning to put on their winter coats, discovering the importance of caring for their teeth, and even preparing their own snacks. A special highlight this month was the 2-year-olds' trip to the local café. This outing provided an opportunity to connect with the community, enjoy a social meal outside the nursery, and support one another during a peer walk. It was a wonderful experience that encouraged teamwork, curiosity, and social skills.

We are incredibly proud of their progress and enthusiasm for learning!

Continue at home

Make brushing teeth a fun routine by using a sand timer or playing their favourite song for two minutes. Talk about why it's important to care for their teeth.

The Pre-School Study

Our Pre-School children have been captivated by the magic of fireworks, inspired by Guy Fawkes Night. To celebrate and build on this interest, the children created stunning firework paintings using cardboard tubes and glitter.

Out in the garden, the fun continued with chalk-drawn fireworks, where the children imagined and created a variety of shapes, sizes, and colours on the ground.

This fascination with fireworks led to a deeper curiosity about the night sky, including space, stars, the moon, and planets. The children became budding astronomers, crafting their own telescopes and enjoying an evening of stargazing after tea. They observed clouds through their telescopes, noticing how they moved and sharing the imaginative shapes they saw.

Their curiosity took flight when they spotted aeroplanes in the sky! Inspired by this, the children made their own paper aeroplanes and explored how far they could fly. They even incorporated maths skills by measuring the distances of their flights.

Continue at home

Spend an evening stargazing with your child. Use binoculars or make a simple telescope from a cardboard tube. Talk about the stars, moon, and clouds, and encourage them to share what shapes or patterns they see.

Recipe of the Month

SPICED APPLE CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

- Oil
- 750g Bramley cooking apples, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 250g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 2 large eggs
- 50g demerara sugar
- 200ml semi-skimmed milk
- 100ml sunflower oil



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/Fan 170°C/Gas 5, then line a 23cm spring clip cake tin with baking parchment. Mist the base and sides with oil.
2. Put the apple slices in a bowl and toss with the lemon juice and zest.
3. Mix the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and spice in a large mixing bowl.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs with the 50g of sugar, the milk and sunflower oil.
5. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, stirring lightly until combined – use the whisk to break up any stubborn lumps.
6. Toss the lemony apples through the cake batter until evenly mixed and pour the mixture into the prepared tin.
7. Bake the cake in the centre of the oven for 1 hour until it is well risen and golden on top. Test the cake by inserting a skewer into the centre – it should slide easily through the apples in the middle and come out clean.
8. Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes before removing it from the tin and carefully peeling off the baking parchment.

Recent Training

We are proud to announce that our staff have successfully completed their refresher courses in Paediatric and Emergency First Aid at Work, as well as their refresher training in Safeguarding and our Managers have completed their Safer recruitment training.

In addition, every team member has been actively and consistently working on their professional development within their teams, demonstrating a strong commitment to maintaining the highest standards of care and safety.

Colleague Spotlight

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Lucy, one of our outstanding Preschool Practitioners. Lucy's dedication and consistent hard work have been instrumental in fostering the children's independence, enhancing the quality of provision, and supporting her team.

Her patience and compassion shine through, particularly in her work with children who have additional needs, and in promoting positive behaviour choices.

Thank you, Lucy, for being an invaluable asset to our nursery and a true team player. We are so grateful to have you as part of our team!