



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderfully busy term here at the nursery, and we have been delighted to welcome several new families into our community. While we have said some sad goodbyes to valued members of staff who have moved on, we are incredibly grateful for everything they have contributed and wish them every success in their next chapters. At the same time, we are excited to introduce some fantastic new additions to our team. We are pleased to welcome our new Deputy Manager, Lesley, who joins us from a pre-school nursery in Goring and brings with her over 18 years of experience. We cannot wait for you to meet her. We have also welcomed Caz, our new Kitchen Assistant, who has a wealth of experience and knowledge in catering and will be a great support to George in the kitchen.

We would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the term, and we look forward to welcoming even more new faces as we head into the new year.

We have also been incredibly proud of our recent Food Bank collection. Together, we raised over £50, which enabled us to purchase many essential items to support the Food Bank, alongside all of your very kind donations. This support went a long way in helping those in need. It has been a valuable learning opportunity for the children, encouraging them to think about others in our community and how we can help and support different people.

Lastly, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm wishes,
Rachel

Dates for your diary

January

- **Thursday 1st** – New Year's Day (Nursery Closed)
- **Friday 2nd** – Nursery Re open
- **Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th** – RSPB Big Bird Watch
- **Thursday 29th** – RNLI Day

February

- **Monday 1st – Friday 6th** – National Storytelling Week
- **Tuesday 17th** – Random Act of Kindness Day
- **Tuesday 17th** – Pancake Day
- **Tuesday 17th – Tuesday 3rd March** – Chinese New Year celebrations

March

- **Tuesday 3rd** – Holi
- **Thursday 5th** – World Book Day
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th** – British Science Week
- **Sunday 15th** – Mother's Day
- **Friday 20th** – Spring Equinox
- **Friday 20th** – Red Nose Day

April

- **Friday 3rd until Monday 6th** – Easter
- **Tuesday 14th** – Vaisakhi
- **Wednesday 15th** – World Art Day
- **Wednesday 22nd** – World Earth Day
- **Saturday 25th** – Open Day
- **Wednesday 29th** – International Dance Day



Baby Snug

Our Baby Unit has had a lovely and creative term, with the team providing a warm and nurturing environment where the children continue to thrive. The babies have shown a real love for books and stories, enjoying daily reading experiences that support early communication and curiosity. Outdoor play has also been a firm favourite, with plenty of opportunities to explore, move, and discover in the fresh air. More recently, the children have enjoyed trips out into the local community, including visits to the park and the library. These experiences have been wonderful in supporting the babies' confidence, curiosity, and growing sense of adventure.

Continue at home

You can support your baby's learning at home by sharing books daily, talking about the pictures, and encouraging babbling or pointing. Spending time outdoors, even for short periods, allows your baby to explore different sounds, textures, and movements. Simple outings, such as a walk to the park or visiting your local library, also help build confidence and curiosity while creating special moments together.



Toddler Den

Our Toddler Room has been full of energy and excitement this term. The children have especially loved spending time outdoors, making the most of the bikes and sports equipment as they build confidence, coordination, and teamwork. Indoors, they have been getting very creative with our Christmas activities, and we hope you have enjoyed the wonderful creations they have brought home. Supporting the children's growing independence continues to be a key focus for the team, and we are looking forward to encouraging this even further as some new friends join us from the Baby Snug very soon.

Continue at home

To build independence, offer opportunities for your child to practise everyday skills like putting on their coat, helping to tidy up toys, or choosing between two options. Creative activities such as drawing, painting, or festive crafts at home also help develop fine motor skills and confidence while spending quality time together.



Pre-School

Our Preschool has recently welcomed Ella into the team, and she is doing amazingly well, getting to know the children and building strong, positive relationships with them. As you know, we love to be creative, and the lead-up to Christmas has given us plenty of opportunities to put these skills to good use. Through our creative activities, we focus on developing pencil control and hand grip, as well as supporting fine motor skills such as cutting and using a variety of tools and resources, including hole punches and rulers. These activities help to build muscle strength, coordination, and confidence. Looking ahead to the new year, our focus will increasingly be on school readiness, supporting the children to develop confidence, independence, and key learning skills. We look forward to working closely with parents over the next two terms to support this important transition and ensure every child feels ready and excited for their next step.

Continue at home

Support your preschooler at home by encouraging activities that build fine motor skills, such as drawing, colouring, cutting with safety scissors, threading beads, or using playdough. Simple daily tasks, like practising putting on coats, zipping up jackets, or tidying up toys, also help develop independence. Reading together, playing memory or matching games, and talking about daily routines supports language, problem-solving, and readiness for school.

Recipe of the Month

BEETROOT BROWNIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 500g whole raw beetroot
- 100g unsalted butter, plus extra for the tin
- 200g 70% cocoa chocolate
- 1 tspn vanilla extract
- 100g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 100g plain flour
- 25g cocoa powder

Instructions

1. Wearing a pair of rubber gloves to stop your hands from staining - top, tail and peel the beetroot - you'll need about 400g flesh.
2. Roughly chop and put into a large bowl. Add a splash of water, cover with cling film, pierce, then microwave on High for 12 mins or until tender.
3. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
4. While the beetroot cooks, butter then line a 20 x 30cm traybake or small roasting tin.
5. Roughly chop the chocolate and cut the butter into cubes. Tip the cooked beetroot into a sieve, drain off any excess liquid, then put into a food processor or blender with the chocolate, butter and vanilla.
6. Whizz until the mix is as smooth as you can get it. The chocolate and butter will melt as you do this.
7. Put the sugar and eggs into a large bowl, then beat using an electric hand whisk until thick, pale and foamy, about 2 mins.
8. Spoon the beetroot mix into the sugar and eggs, and use a large metal spoon to fold together.
9. Sift in the flour and cocoa powder, then gently fold to make a smooth batter.
10. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 25 mins or until risen all over, with just the merest quiver under the centre of the crust when you shake the pan. Cool completely in the tin, then cut into squares.



Recent Training

We are proud to share that several members of our team have recently completed important training and qualifications. Jess, Ella, Katherine, Sonya, and Lydia have all successfully completed First Aid training.

We are also delighted to celebrate that Nicky and Rachel have completed their Level 3 SENDCo course.

A very special congratulations go to Lucy, who has completed her Level 3 in Early Years Workforce. This is a huge achievement, and we are incredibly proud of her dedication and hard work in reaching this milestone.

Colleague Spotlight

We are delighted to recognise Eva, who has stepped up into the role of Third in Charge and has been a huge support to the whole team. She has grown tremendously in confidence in this role, and it has been wonderful to see her development and the positive impact she has across the nursery.



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