

FAMILY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a wonderful summer term, enjoying lots of sunshine, outdoor play, and exciting activities with the children. As we move into the new term, we're really looking forward to all the magic that autumn brings – crisp leaves, seasonal activities, and cosy indoor learning experiences.

In September, we will be exploring the theme "All About Me" which is always a lovely way to introduce all of our wonderful new children to the setting.

October will be filled with autumnal celebrations. During the week commencing 5th October, we will be celebrating Grandparents Week, including Grandparents Day on 7th October. Later in the month, the week commencing 20th October will focus on Diwali, with activities centred around lights and colours.

In November, we will join in with Children in Need on 14th November, with Odd Sock Day on 11th November to support Anti-Bullying and Kindness Week. The week will also include World Kindness Day on 13th November and World Nursery Rhyme Week, giving the children the opportunity to celebrate both creativity and compassion.

December will bring all the excitement of Christmas and Hanukkah, with Hanukkah activities running from 15th to 22nd December, and Christmas celebrations taking place throughout the month.

We will be carrying out Focus Child sessions each week, so please do share any of your child's current interests with us. This helps us plan activities that are tailored to what excites and engages them. We are also developing our Role Play Area to support children's imaginative and expressive learning, and we would be grateful for any donations to help us create a variety of scenarios, such as a fruit and vegetable shop, hospital, vet, optician, or post office.

Many thanks for your continued support – we can't wait to make more wonderful memories this autumn!

Helen

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Closed for Christmas from Thursday 25th December and return on Friday 2nd January.

Other:

- **STEM stars open day:** Saturday 4th October –
- **Half Term:** Monday 27th – Friday 31st October
- **Parents Evenings:** Week commencing 3rd November
- **Seasonal Sing-A-Long (Pre-school only):** Wednesday 18th December
- **Christmas Fair:** Date TBC

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our Social Media:**

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The Baby Snug

We have been enjoying the book *What the Ladybird Heard* at the Zoo, with the children exploring different animals, making their noises, and talking about what they look like. Zoo-themed sensory tuff trays have offered lots of opportunities for hands-on play with a variety of materials and textures. We extended the theme into the garden, encouraging the children to stomp like elephants, roar like lions, and stretch like giraffes during physical play.

Summer has inspired plenty of water and sand activities, both indoors and outdoors. At the same time, the baby snug has enjoyed an under-the-sea theme, exploring fish, jellyfish, and other sea creatures. We have also loved reading *Tiddler* and *The Rainbow Fish*. As always, the children have taken part in daily yoga, Baby Picasso arts and crafts, and Baby Mozart sessions, experimenting with different instruments, scarves, and music to enhance their creativity and sensory experiences.

Continue at home

Encourage your child to explore animals and their movements at home. You could set up a small sensory tray with rice, pasta, or pebbles and hide toy animals inside for them to find. Sing songs about animals, make the noises together, and act out their movements – stomping like elephants, hopping like frogs, or stretching like giraffes. You could also explore water and sand play in a small tub or tray, adding cups, spoons, or small sea creatures to spark curiosity and creativity.



The Toddler Den

Over the last few months, we have been enjoying a variety of summer activities, inspired by the children's interests and holiday experiences. The children have loved exploring beach-themed tuff trays, engaging in water play, and developing their motor skills in the sand pit. We've also spent lots of time in the garden, observing bugs and flowers, and taking care of our growing vegetables and sunflowers.

Looking ahead to the following term, we will be supporting our new toddlers as they settle into the main nursery setting, providing stability, comfort, and encouragement as they explore their new environment. Our focus will be 'All About Me', helping children gain confidence and independence. For our older toddlers, we will continue to support individual development through focus child planning, while introducing activities around the autumn season, colder weather.

Continue at home

Encourage your child to explore the changing seasons outdoors. You could go on a mini autumn walk to collect leaves, acorns, or pinecones, and talk about their colours, shapes, and textures. At home, you could create a simple sensory tray using these items, or use them for a small art project like leaf printing or a nature collage.



The Pre-School Study

Over the last term, we said a fond goodbye to a large group of preschool children, all now embarking on their exciting new school journeys. We have enjoyed taking part in a range of extra-curricular activities, from learning to use real tools in Construction Club to exploring stories and their messages during Book Club. Now that your child has transitioned from toddlers to preschool, they are settling in, getting to know their new keyworker, and spending more time in the Preschool Classroom upstairs.

This term, our preschoolers will be enjoying autumnal activities, including artwork inspired by autumn colours. We will also be exploring different habitats and lifestyles of animals, such as hedgehogs. As the evenings grow darker, we look forward to celebrating Diwali, an important Hindu festival, bringing light, colour, and stories into our nursery.

Continue at home

Take a walk together in your local area and collect autumn treasures such as leaves, acorns, and pinecones. Use them to make a colourful collage or create your own autumn nature crown. You could also look for signs of animals preparing for winter, like hedgehogs or squirrels, and talk about how animals adapt in the colder months.

Recipe of the Month

VEGETABLE BIRIYANI

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp Vegetable oil
- Tin of mixed pulses, with no added salt or sugar – rinsed
- 1 small cauliflower, broken into florets
- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1L salt-free vegetable stock
- 3 tbsp mild curry paste
- 1 red chilli (medium heat), seeded and finely chopped
- Large pinch of saffron strands
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 200g basmati rice, rinsed
- 140g trimmed green beans, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 2 lemons, juiced
- Handful of fresh coriander leaves



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/gas 7/fan 200C.
2. Pour the oil into a large roasting tin or oven proof dish and put in the oven for a couple of minutes to heat through.
3. Add all of the vegetables to the tin, except the beans, stirring to coat them in the hot oil. Season with pepper and return to the oven for 15 minutes until beginning to brown.
4. While the vegetables are roasting, heat the stock until hot, then stir together with the curry paste, chilli, saffron and mustard seeds.
5. Mix the rice, pulses and green beans with the vegetables in the tin, then pour over the stock mixture. Lower the oven to 190C/gas 5/fan 190C. Cover the dish tightly with foil and bake for 30 minutes until the rice is tender and the liquid has been absorbed.
6. Stir in the lemon juice, then scatter over the coriander.

Recent Training

We're delighted to share some fantastic updates from our team:

- Safia and Adele have successfully renewed their Paediatric First Aid and Emergency First Aid at Work qualifications.
- Taherah and Chloe have also renewed their Paediatric First Aid training.
- Hayden will shortly be starting her Level 3 in Childcare and Education – we wish her the best of luck on this exciting journey.
- Chloe T, who joined us at the end of July, has now completed all of her mandatory initial training courses – a great start to her time with us!
- Claire continues to add to her wealth of knowledge in SEND, completing additional training in Positive Mental Health in Early Years and All Things Communication and Play.

A big well done to everyone for their hard work and dedication

Colleague Spotlight

We're delighted to share that Tierney has taken on the role of Toddler Room Lead from September. Tierney is a dedicated and proactive practitioner who has built wonderful relationships with children, families, and the team. She is already proving herself to be a strong leader, having started to implement positive improvements within the room.

We're really excited to see the fantastic direction she will take the Toddler group over the coming months!

