



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter! Hopefully we can look forward to sunnier days now the daffodils are starting to bloom! We have been enjoying getting out and about and hope to continue this throughout the Summer Term.

During the coming weeks we have lots planned so please make a note of the following dates for your diaries.

We look forward to welcoming lots of new families to the nursery in April and May!

The new working parents two year funding starts in April. If you are eligible (your child must have turned two before 31st March) please make an application via the Childcare Choices page on the Government website. The nine month funding starts in September - more details to follow.

Chloe will be leaving at the end of May to start her Maternity Leave. We look forward to hearing Rob and her happy news!

Finally a big Congratulations to Kate, who is got married on 9th March! Kate is currently off on her Honeymoon for a few weeks and we all wish her loads of good wishes for the future.

Helen

## Dates for your diary

### Holidays and Closures:

- Half term for Term Time Only children - 29th March until 12th April
- 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:

- Parents evenings - w/c 18th March
- Fundraising week - May (TBC) we will be raising money for Guide Dog Charity and are hoping to have a visit from a puppy in training. We will be taking part in a charity event.
- Funding application deadline - 31st March
- Easter Sunday - 31st March

## Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

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

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



### The Baby Snug

The Baby Snug has all been about sensory experiences lately. We have had fun with oats, straw and shaving foam. By adding everyday resources to different materials we are encouraging exploration and curiosity. The baby group have also enjoyed finger painting and sticking, more sensory opportunities but this time with an end result – I know there have been lots of Mother's Day surprises going on.....

The Baby Room book of the month is 'Dear Zoo' and the children have enjoyed lots of different activities based around this theme. This a great way to continue a love of stories. Children like repetition and soon join in with familiar text. This is the very beginnings of reading and writing!

### Continue at home

Does your little one have a favourite story to read with you at home? Let us know and we can be sure to add it to our collection and build more activities and experiences for the babies around their favourite books.

Don't forget to upload any home learning to EYLog so we can extend the learning further whilst at nursery too.

### The Toddler Den and Pre-School Study

The group really enjoyed making bird feeders to take home and we have been keeping a look out for birds in our garden. Unfortunately, I think we make a bit too much noise for any bird to stay for very long, but I'm sure they are enjoying the bird food at the weekends!! Taking care of our natural environment is an important learning opportunity and hopefully we will start a love of nature that the children will continue to build on.

We have been developing our fine motor skills with lots of threading and cutting activities. This develops hand eye co ordination and also strengthens muscles in fingers for future handwriting.

### Continue at home

Keep a look out for what birds and other nature you can see in your garden at home or around you in the local park and community. Let us know what you are able to spot and where you found it! You can ask your key worker for a nature checklist and you can tick off all the things you are able to see, hear and find.

# 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

### Training

Several of the team are refreshing their Paediatric First Aid and First Aid At Work training this month. All of the team complete this training and it is redone every three years.

### Staff News

Tierney and Rhianna have now completed their probationary periods and are fully fledged members of the team! I'm sure you will agree they are both assets to the nursery!

## Colleague Spotlight

### Rhianna McKenna

Rhianna started with us in November and has really become an asset to the nursery. Despite having her two young children at nursery, Rhianna remains professional and committed to her role at all times. She has taken on a group of key children and has made lovely relationships with them.

