



Dear Parents and Carers,

December is always an exciting and busy time at the nursery as we prepare for the Christmas festivities! Our preschoolers are hard at work practising their songs for the Sing-A-Long, and we hope you're joining in at home too! A big thank you for all your generous donations to our Children in Need collection. The calendars looked amazing, and we're sure they'll make fantastic Christmas presents! I'm also delighted to announce that Taherah will join the Baby Snug team on 2nd December. Taherah has worked with Tina previously and comes highly recommended. She holds an Early Childhood Degree and Level 3 qualification and has plenty of experience. We are confident she will be a great asset to the team.

Just a quick reminder to bring in your raffle prizes for our Christmas Fair on Saturday, 7th December. We're looking forward to welcoming you to our annual Christmas event, which will include a visit from the man in red, Christmas crafts and activities, homemade Christmas food, our Rowans Raffle, and even a visit from donkeys! We'll be collecting for Rowans Hospice and hope to exceed last year's total of £160.

Lastly, the deadline to apply for your funding for the Spring term is 31st December. Please ensure you complete this in plenty of time, to allow us to update the portal with all the funding information to claim for the next term. If you are contacted by HMRC, please respond promptly and reconfirm your code to ensure you receive funding for the new term. Please look out for any emails regarding funding, incase information is required.

Helen

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Friday 13th December - Last day for term time only
- December 25th- January 1st Nursery is closed

Other:

- 7th December - Join us for our Christmas Fayre Open Day!
- 9th, 10th, 11th December - Christmas Party! 2.30-4pm
The parties will be during your child's session, unless you only attend in the morning in which case you will receive an email with a party date and time.
- 12th December 2pm- Preschool Sing a long at St John the Baptist Church

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 are thoroughly enjoying their Book of the Month! Currently, we're reading *Elmer*, which has inspired some wonderful activities, including painting with bright colours and creating elephant faces. To celebrate autumn, we explored pumpkin play—a fantastic sensory experience—and used autumn leaves to introduce a range of descriptive words.

The story Room on the Broom has been a seasonal favourite, sparking lots of creativity as the children made potions and unwrapped mystery parcels. They crafted cat ears, bows, dragons, and broomsticks, all beautifully tied in with the story. Repetition and recalling familiar verses are key to early literacy, and it's lovely to see the children engaging with this so enthusiastically.

They also love their daily yoga sessions and song bags, and the new sandpit has quickly become a favourite feature!

Continue at home

Collect leaves, twigs, and other natural treasures during a walk. Use them to create collages or make leaf rubbings, encouraging your child to describe the colours, shapes, and textures they find. You could also continue making potions, fill a container with water, add the natural materials you have collected, and add spices for your child to mix and explore. Add a drop of food colouring or glitter for an extra magical touch, encouraging imaginative play.

The Toddler Den and The Pre-School Study

We've had a wonderfully busy start to the school year! For Poetry Day, the children explored rhymes, poems, and songs, both familiar and new. Activities included favourites like *Incy Wincy Spider*, *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, *Five Little Leaves*, and *Five Little Children in a Flying Saucer*. Encouraging a love of rhymes and songs is vital to early literacy development.

We also celebrated World Space Week with exciting activities, including sensory galaxy exploration, tracing and copying star constellations, and launching rockets across the garden. A video of a rocket launch fascinated the children, sparking lots of lively discussions.

More recently, the Children in Need calendars were a big hit! We also celebrated Diwali, the Festival of Lights, by creating Diva lamps, Rangoli patterns, and brightly coloured paintings. The children love learning about their wider community, religious celebrations, festivals, and their peers' Cultural Capital.

Our extra weekly clubs continue to be a highlight! The Gardening Club recently planted hanging bottles, and the Construction Crew has been busy hammering nails into wood. The Science Club has been creating 'lava' bottles and a bubbling volcano, and they're now gearing up to make their own snow!

As mentioned in our events, the Preschool Seasonal Sing-A-Long will take place on Thursday, 12th December, at 2 p.m. at St John the Baptist Church (next door). Please let us know if you haven't received your letter regarding this.

Just a reminder: We have a very large preschool group this year, and the church is small and has limited views, so we kindly ask for your patience and understanding as we make the most of the space. Unfortunately, we can only accommodate one date for the performance, so we'll all need to squeeze in! We're sure it will be a unique and memorable event for everyone.

Continue at home

Here are some exciting, easy experiments and explorations inspired by our weekly science club:

Colour Mixing Magic

- Fill three clear cups with water and add red, yellow, and blue food colouring. Provide your child with an empty cup and a small dropper or spoon to mix colours. Discuss what happens when colours combine, sparking curiosity and early problem-solving.

Fizzy Fun

- Place baking soda on a tray or in small cups, and provide vinegar in a squeeze bottle or pipette. Add food colouring to the vinegar for a colourful, fizzy reaction. Let your child explore pouring and observing the "explosions," supporting their understanding of cause and effect.

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

Rob has recently completed his Designated Safeguarding Lead training and Leadership training to support him in his new role.

Zoe and Mia have completed Safeguarding Training as part of their Induction process .

Claire is currently taking a Signing course to support her role as SENDCO.

Colleague Spotlight

Thank you to Sarah for always keeping the nursery tidy and organised! Without her, we'd never find the last jigsaw piece or those elusive wooden pizza slices from the home corner!

