



Dear Parents and Carers

The children have been very excited over the Festive season. The trees are up and pre school have been busy practising their sing-a-long songs!

Thankyou to everyone who sent us good wishes and spoke to the Ofsted Inspector. The team were amazing and I look forward to sharing the report with you.....

Our new team members are settling in well and are looking forward to taking on their new key groups in the new year. Some of the team joined Kate and myself at the recent NMT Awards night at The Excel in London, to celebrate Kate's nomination as a finalist for Lead Practitioner. Unfortunately, Kate was not successful, however, I think you will agree to get to the finals of a nationwide competition was an amazing achievement!

I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year!

We will be hosting a Communication and Positive Behaviour parent workshop in the new year - please let me know if you would like to attend.

Helen

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Christmas Day - Closed
- Boxing Day - Closed
- New Years Day - Closed


Family Events:

- Parents Evening 6th Feb
- Open Day - 2nd March
- Celebration of Mothers and other Primary Care Givers tea party- 8th March

Other:

- Start of new term - 2nd Jan
- Winnie The Pooh week (Baby Snug) - w/c 15th Jan
- Big Bird Watch - w/c 29th Jan
- Chinese New Year - 5th Feb
- Half term (for TTO children) - 12th - 16th Feb
- World Book Day 7th 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 are enjoying their regular sessions of Baby Mozart, Baby Boogie, Baby Picasso and Baby Yoga. The children really enjoy yoga and some of them are really good at it! Yoga develops core strength, balance and co ordination which all support physical development. Every morning the children enjoy the Song Bag – short rhymes and songs that they are familiar with that offer lots of repetition and rhyming, which form the basis of literacy development.

The team have prepared lots of sensory experiences using lots of different resources to stimulate touch, smell, sound and even taste! The shredded paper was very popular and the children particularly enjoyed playing 'Peek a Boo' with it. Small world animals were added to different sensory resources and the children loved making the sounds of the different animals – early language skills form a huge part of babies communication development.

Continue at home

Put in your ear plugs and let your children loose with pots, pans and spoons! A great activity to support hand eye co ordination and listening skills!

The Toddler Den and Pre-School Study

The team have been very busy providing a lovely mix of activities to develop all seven areas of learning. Den building in the garden was very popular and promoted the childrens problem solving skills and physical development. In the mud kitchen the children have been weighing, pouring water into different size jugs and adding freshly cut herbs to their 'delicious' mud cookery!! This all supports mathematic development.

Inside, we have made patterns and pictures with loose parts, fish gravel, flower petals and shells which develops creativity and pattern and sequencing.

In the art studio potions are always popular and the children have also been creating their own structures with paper cups, lolly sticks and glue as well as making playdough and self selecting their own craft resources to produce their individual work.

Continue at home

We have an extensive range of activities to take home in our Lending Library. There are stories to share that may be different from the ones on your bookshelves, 'Five Minute Fun' activities that literally are that and Kirsty has made some great activities to take a little longer. Please ask at pick up..

Recipe of the Month

VEGETARIAN SAVOURY CRUMBLE

INGREDIENTS:

For the filling:

- 360g mixed vegetables, such as Carrot, Parsnip, Squash, Potato, Sweet Potato, Mushroom, Leek, Peppers, Kale, Peas, Sweetcorn
- 400g tin of your favourite beans or pulses (No added sugar or salt), drained and rinsed

For the topping:

- 125g plain flour
- 60g unsalted butter, softened

- 40g grated cheese
- Handful porridge oats
- A pinch of freshly ground black pepper

For the sauce:

- 2tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 400ml milk or no salt vegetable stock
- Handful grated cheese (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6.
2. Chop or slice all of the vegetables into roughly equally sized pieces and set aside.
3. For the crumble, put the flour into a mixing bowl. Chop the butter into little lumps and add it to the flour. Using your fingers rub the flour and butter together. Keep going until it looks like breadcrumbs (a few lumps are ok!). Stir in the oats, cheese and pepper. Set aside.
4. Heat a large saucepan and melt the butter until it bubbles slightly. Add the garlic and stir for a minute. Add the flour and stir well for another minute. The butter and flour will thicken and change colour slightly.
5. Gradually add the stock or milk a little at a time, stirring as you pour. The sauce should thicken up and not be lumpy. If it is you will need to mix it really fast to get rid of any lumps. When smooth, add the cheese.
6. Add the chopped fresh vegetables (but not any frozen ones) to the sauce and cook gently for five minutes, stirring often. Then add any frozen vegetables and tinned beans and stir through.
7. Pour the saucy vegetables into a 20cm/8in square baking dish and let it cool slightly.
8. Sprinkle the crumble all over the top of the vegetables. You should cover all of them up and have a nice thick crumble topping.
9. Bake in the oven for 30-40 minutes or until the crumble is golden brown all over.

Recent Training

All staff have refreshed their GDPR training.

Colleague Spotlight

A special well done to Ella Philipson. Ella has recently joined us and will be continuing her childcare qualification in the new year. Ella is very popular with all the children, has taken on a new key child who she has formed a lovely bond with. Ella shows initiative, works well in the team, plans great activities and carries out her role really well.

