



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! The children are full of excitement, and we are really enjoying this festive time of year.

The Baby Snug had lots of fun celebrating Thanksgiving, while our Pre-schoolers have been learning all about The Christmas Story and Hanukkah. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Fair and Sing-A-Long – we hope you had a wonderful time!

As we approach the end of term, Term time only children will finish on Friday 19th December, and the nursery will close at 6pm on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December. Our nursery will reopen on Friday 2nd January, with Term time only children returning on Monday 5th January. Please let us know if your child will not be attending on these days or if you plan to collect them early.

Lastly, Please ensure all funding information has been submitted to Funding Loop before 31st December, as any codes not verified or re-confirmed on time will result in your funding for the Spring Term being rejected.

We wish all of our families a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm wishes,
Helen

Dates for your diary

January

- **Thursday 1st** – New Year's Day (Nursery Closed)
- **Friday 2nd** – Nursery Re open
- **Thursday 15th** – School Application Deadline
- **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

- **Monday 2nd March** – Parents Evening Week
- **Tuesday 3rd** – Holi
- **Thursday 5th** – World Book Day
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th** – British Science Week
- **Sunday 15th** – Mother's Day
- **Monday 16th – Friday 20th** – TTO Half Term
- **Friday 20th** – Spring Equinox
- **Friday 20th** – Red Nose Day
- **Friday 27th** – Term Time Only – Finish
- **31st March** – Funding deadline for the Summer Term

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

The Baby Snug have had a busy and exciting term. In November, they celebrated Nursery Rhyme Week with a mix of familiar and new songs and rhymes, and children brought in books from home to share, helping to build strong links with families. They also made and sold calendars to support the Children in Need event, learning about helping the wider community.

Their Book of the Month was *The Gruffalo*, which inspired sensory trays such as Owl Ice Cream and Gruffalo Crumble, combining active learning with a familiar story to support speech and language development. The Baby Snug also enjoyed a very happy Thanksgiving celebration, complete with adorable turkey hats!

Continue at home

Why not explore a favourite story together by creating your own simple sensory tray? You could fill a small container with items linked to the book—such as leaves, spoons, cotton wool or soft toys—and let your little one explore as you read. This helps bring stories to life while supporting language, curiosity, and early imagination



Toddler Den

The children have absolutely loved creating a wonderful Elsa castle with Annie, which has sparked so much excitement and conversation about ice, snow and frost. Following the children's interests has really encouraged rich discussion and imaginative play.

They also had great fun making Vicki's Hedgehog Bread – the smell alone was amazing! Cookery offers so many wonderful learning opportunities, from early maths and sensory exploration to understanding cause and effect, supporting literacy, and inspiring creativity.

Continue at home

Have a go at making simple salt dough together! Children can roll, shape and decorate their creations, exploring textures and practising their fine-motor skills and it's a lovely way to spend a cosy afternoon indoors.



Pre-School

Our Preschoolers have begun their School Readiness Programme in the classroom, and our Preschool Committee recently took a vote on what role-play theme they would like. They chose a Vet's, so the children have been busy caring for poorly animals, wrapping bandages and engaging in lots of brilliant imaginative play. Linking play to real-life experiences helps build understanding and encourages creativity.

The recent flurry of snow also brought plenty of excitement, with lots of chilly weather activities and a few children even managed a happy little dash around in the snow!

Continue at home

You could set up a little "pet hospital" using soft toys, plasters, tissues or bandages. Children love taking on caring roles, and this kind of play helps develop communication, empathy and problem-solving skills – all while having great fun!

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've had lots of fantastic professional development across the team recently. Claire has completed several SEN courses to further support her role, strengthening her knowledge and practice. Kirstie, Chloe, Grace and Hayden have all taken part in Baby Training enrichment sessions, exploring nurturing beginnings, heuristic play, treasure baskets and creating enabling environments. Most of the team also joined a Positive Behaviour webinar, focusing on supportive strategies. And a big celebration for Kirstie, who has now completed her Infant and Child Certified Sleep Consultant course – meaning she is officially a fully qualified Sleep Consultant! Congratulations!



Colleague Spotlight

Annie is a real asset to our nursery, building warm and trusting relationships with her key families. She consistently provides creative activities that inspire learning and engagement. Annie's progress has been thorough and steady, and she continually demonstrates dedication and hard work in her role.



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