

FAMILY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Nursery is now well into the Winter term, and what a busy and joyful few months it has been!

With the garden covered in leaves and our tomato plants coming to an end, the children have been hard at work tidying and getting everything ready for spring. September also welcomed our new babies, who have settled beautifully, and each group has been enjoying plenty of fun, creative activities.

We celebrated Halloween with a lovely visit to our neighbours, and in November we were delighted to welcome Leanne back to Shires and Charlotte back to Ponies after their maternity leave. It has been wonderful having them return to the team.

This term has also been filled with fantastic fundraising events for our chosen charity, Charlie's Promise. From our Christmas Fayre to Children in Need and Christmas Jumper Day, the children have helped raise money and awareness for a range of important causes. The nursery has been full of excitement as everyone prepared for Christmas – some children more excited than others!

We've also continued to enjoy visits from Sabrina with Sing O Lingo, including 'Rise and Shine' on Mondays, Spanish sessions, and 'Crazy Cooking' on Wednesdays, which the children always look forward to.

What's Coming Up...

As we move into the Spring term, we'll begin preparing the gardens for planting. Our gardener will be supporting the children to choose and grow new vegetables.

We're also looking forward to a visit from ZooLab in February, who will be bringing along a selection of fascinating bugs for the children to explore. And yes—plans are already underway to have ducklings again this year!

And of course... there will be plenty more exciting experiences to come.

This year, we've proudly raised money for Charlie's Promise, a brilliant charity raising awareness of the effects of knife crime. In 2026, we will be selecting another local charity to support, helping raise both awareness and funds for an important cause.

We'll soon be saying goodbye to Georgia, who will be moving closer to her family. Georgia has been an integral part of our nursery team, bringing kindness and dedication. We wish her every happiness and success in this next chapter and know she will continue to shine wherever she goes.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support. We look forward to sharing even more fun, learning, and memories with you in the months ahead.

Kindest regards,
Amanda
Nursery Manager

Dates for your diary

January

- **Thursday 1st** – New Year's Day (Nursery Closed)
- **Friday 2nd** – Nursery re-open
- **Thursday 15th** – Funding Deadline
- **Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th** – RSPB Big Bird Watch
- **Thursday 29th** – RNLI Day

February

- **Monday 1st – Friday 6th** – National Storytelling Week
- **Monday 9th** – Friendship Week
- **Tuesday 17th** – Random Act of Kindness Day
- **Tuesday 17th** – Pancake Day
- **Tuesday 17th – Tuesday 3rd March** – Chinese New Year celebrations

March

- **Tuesday 3rd** – Holi
- **Thursday 5th** – World Book Day
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th** – British Science Week
- **Friday 13th** – Mothers Day Breakfast
- **Sunday 15th** – Mother's Day
- **Friday 20th** – Spring Equinox
- **Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th** – Red Nose Day
- **W/C Monday 30th** – Easter Bonnet Parade
- **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



Foals

This term in Foals, we've been exploring lots of wonderful sensory play. The children have enjoyed a range of Halloween-themed messy trays, including shredded paper with pumpkins, jelly with spiders, and potion-making using sparkly water and flowers. They've also loved discovering our new treasure baskets, filled with exciting textures such as hairbrushes, silicone toys, wooden spoons, bobbins, and soft sponges. Next term, we'll be welcoming some new friends into the room, so our focus will be on building relationships, helping everyone feel secure, and settling into our daily routines.

Continue at home

Create a simple treasure basket using safe household items such as wooden spoons, soft fabric squares, silicone kitchen tools or sponges. Let your little one feel, shake and explore each item at their own pace—it's a lovely way to support their sensory development.



Ponies

The children have really enjoyed looking through their family books and proudly pointing out the special people in their lives. This has been a lovely way to support their communication and confidence. We've also been exploring lots of Christmas and winter-themed activities, talking about the cold air and frosty mornings while getting stuck into plenty of messy fun, including painting, sticking and exciting tuff-tray play.

Outdoors, the children have loved crunching through the leaves, throwing 'helicopters' into the air, and zooming around on the cars and trikes. In Ponies, we've also been working on encouraging more independence. Some of the children are still a little reluctant to use their cutlery at mealtimes, so practising this at home too would really help build their confidence and skills.

If you haven't already, please do send in family photos — the children absolutely love sharing them with us.

Continue at home

Encourage your child to use their cutlery during mealtimes, even if it's just for a few bites. You could also go on a little "winter nature walk" together, collecting leaves, sticks or 'helicopters' to explore just like we do at nursery.



Shetlands

This term, we have been using our senses to explore the messy and interest areas. The children have enjoyed a range of creative activities, including painting, sticking and drawing, which support communication skills and give them lots of opportunities to explore and learn in different ways. Reading time continues to be a firm favourite, with much-loved stories such as Ten Green Bottoms and Oh Dear, Look What I Got!

Each week, the children have also explored new ingredients through baking, making delicious treats like cheese straws, pitta pizzas, scones, rock cakes and plenty more.

We have been focusing on turn taking in both activities and everyday routines, as well as introducing simple manners such as saying “yes please”, “no thank you” and “help please.” These small steps help build confidence, communication and positive interactions. Alongside this, we’ve been practising independence by encouraging the children to wipe their own faces after mealtimes, wash their hands by themselves and have a go at taking off their shoes.

Over the coming months, we will continue to develop independence, build good manners and strengthen hand-eye coordination through baking and more opportunities to create tasty recipes together.

Continue at home

Have a go at some simple kitchen fun together – let your child help sprinkle toppings on a mini pizza, mix ingredients in a bowl or pour flour into a jug. These small actions help build coordination, confidence and language skills, and children love being involved in making something they can enjoy afterwards!



Shires

In Shires, we have been learning all about the changing seasons. The children have enjoyed talking about the different forces we can feel, such as wind and rain, and they’ve shown a brilliant interest in nocturnal animals. We’ve spent time learning how to care for wildlife and have discovered some fascinating facts about hedgehogs.

In the coming months, we will be exploring the theme of ‘ourselves’ and talking about the things that are important to the children, helping them build confidence in sharing their own experiences.

Continue at home

Take a moment to spot signs of wildlife together in the garden or on a walk – maybe look for safe places hedgehogs might hide, or talk about which animals are awake at night. You could also chat about what’s important to your child, such as their favourite toys, foods, or people, encouraging them to share and express themselves.

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.

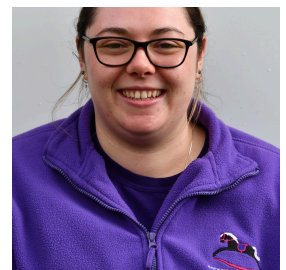


Recent Training

Candy and Emmie have enrolled on their Level 2 courses, while Gray, Evie, and Somi have signed up for Level 3. Georgia has taken the next step in her professional development by enrolling on her Level 5 course.

Colleague Spotlight

Georgia has done a fantastic job welcoming and settling new babies in her room, ensuring parents feel reassured with detailed settling-in sessions. She has also shown great dedication by reflecting on her practice and enhancing the room's resources to support the children's development.



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