

FAMILY NEWS

SHOREHAM
DAY NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL

AUTUMN 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and exciting time at nursery as we've welcomed lots of new children and families into our setting. We've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all and supporting the children as they settle into their new routines.

Over the summer, the children loved spending time outdoors, with plenty of water play and exciting learning opportunities. Our sunflower plants grew impressively tall, sparking lots of interest and conversation! We've also been thrilled with the positive response to our Home Learning Packs – thank you to everyone who has been engaging with them at home, it's been wonderful to hear your feedback.

One of the real highlights has been caring for our chicks. From the moment the eggs began to hatch, the room was filled with excitement and wonder. Watching the tiny chicks break out of their shells was truly magical, and the children were bursting with questions and curiosity. Over the weeks, they've observed the chicks grow, noticing how their fluffy feathers have started to change and how they've become braver, exploring their surroundings. This has been a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about life cycles, responsibility, and the importance of care and gentleness.

As we head into the new season, we kindly remind parents and carers to make sure children come to nursery with weather-appropriate clothing. We play outdoors in all weathers, so please ensure your child has a named puddle suit and wellies, along with spare clothes in their bag.

Finally, a gentle reminder that no food from home should be brought into the nursery. This is to ensure the safety of all children, as we have several allergies within our setting.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.
Terri

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Closed for Christmas from Thursday 25th December and return on Friday 2nd January.

Other:

- **Saturday 4th October** – Open Day, 10am–2pm
- **27th–31st October** – Spooky Week
- **3rd–7th November** – Fire Safety Week
- **Saturday 6th December** – Christmas Open Day
- **11th December** – Christmas Jumper Day
- **18th December** – Children's Christmas Party

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

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

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



The Baby Snug

Our babies have had a wonderful term full of sensory exploration and joyful discoveries. A real highlight has been their growing love of music – experimenting with shakers, drums, bells and tambourines, and lighting up as they make their own sounds. Tiny Tim has become a firm favourite, often requested with big smiles and enthusiastic actions!

They've also spent lots of time in the garden, using their senses to explore the world around them. They've loved feeling soft petals, rough leaves and cool soil, and watching how their flowers have grown and changed over time. The babies have enjoyed spotting wildlife too, from fluttering butterflies to birds visiting the feeders, all sparking plenty of excitement and conversation. These rich outdoor experiences have supported their curiosity, language, and awareness of nature.

Alongside this, simple cause-and-effect play – from rolling balls to splashing in water – has encouraged early thinking skills while giving the babies plenty of opportunities to explore in a fun, safe space.

Continue at home

For a simple activity at home, why not make a sensory music basket? Safe household items like a wooden spoon and saucepan, a bottle of rice (securely sealed) or a soft fabric to crinkle can make wonderful 'instruments'. Exploring these together while singing familiar songs is a lovely way to build anticipation, recognition and plenty of giggles.

The Toddler Den

Our toddlers have had a busy term exploring the theme of transport. They've loved learning about different types of vehicles, making vehicle sounds, building cars and buses with blocks, and using their imaginations in small-world play.

A highlight was watching the bin lorry outside – the children were fascinated as it collected the bins and asked lots of curious questions, sparking brilliant conversations about people who help us.

In messy play, the toddlers enjoyed homemade playdough, experimenting with herbs, spices, and natural colours. Lavender, mint, and cinnamon were particular favourites, encouraging lots of talk about textures and scents while supporting their creativity and fine motor skills.

It's also been lovely to see the children's growing independence shining through. They're becoming more confident in choosing resources, sharing with friends, and using language to express their likes and dislikes – a joy to watch as their confidence blossoms!

Continue at home

Take your child on a transport spotting walk around your local area. Bring along a clipboard or notebook and encourage them to tick off or draw the different vehicles they see – cars, bikes, buses, lorries, even emergency vehicles! You can discuss the sounds they make, their colours, and what they are used for.

The Pre-School Study

Our pre-schoolers have had a fantastic few weeks, bursting with creativity, curiosity, and a love of learning. One of the standout areas has been imaginative role play, with police officers and vets being particular favourites. Through this play, the children are developing important social and communication skills, as well as learning about the wider world and the people who help us. To enrich this learning, we'd love to invite visitors into the nursery to talk about their jobs. If you or someone you know works in a role that could inspire the children – from emergency services to shop workers, postal workers to mechanics – we'd be delighted to hear from you. These visits always provide a wonderful, real-world link and are a big hit with the children.

The pre-schoolers have also been busy exploring the world of science through water play, investigating floating and sinking with a variety of everyday objects. This has sparked lots of discussion and encouraged early enquiry skills, with children beginning to use scientific language such as "heavier," "lighter," and "full of air." Working in small groups, they have shared ideas, compared results, and shown great teamwork.

Continue at home

Have fun with your own sink or float experiment! Fill a bowl or sink with water and let your child choose a variety of safe household items – for example, a spoon, a sponge, a cork, a coin, or a plastic lid. Encourage them to guess whether each item will sink or float before testing it.

Recipe of the Month

VEGETABLE BIRIYANI

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp Vegetable oil
- Tin of mixed pulses, with no added salt or sugar – rinsed
- 1 small cauliflower, broken into florets
- 2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1L salt-free vegetable stock
- 3 tbsp mild curry paste
- 1 red chilli (medium heat), seeded and finely chopped
- Large pinch of saffron strands
- 2 tsp mustard seeds
- 200g basmati rice, rinsed
- 140g trimmed green beans, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 2 lemons, juiced
- Handful of fresh coriander leaves



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/gas 7/fan 200C.
2. Pour the oil into a large roasting tin or oven proof dish and put in the oven for a couple of minutes to heat through.
3. Add all of the vegetables to the tin, except the beans, stirring to coat them in the hot oil. Season with pepper and return to the oven for 15 minutes until beginning to brown.
4. While the vegetables are roasting, heat the stock until hot, then stir together with the curry paste, chilli, saffron and mustard seeds.
5. Mix the rice, pulses and green beans with the vegetables in the tin, then pour over the stock mixture. Lower the oven to 190C/gas 5/fan 190C. Cover the dish tightly with foil and bake for 30 minutes until the rice is tender and the liquid has been absorbed.
6. Stir in the lemon juice, then scatter over the coriander.

Colleague Spotlight

We're absolutely thrilled to shine the spotlight on Gill, our well-deserving Colleague of the Month!

Gill has stepped into her new role as Third in Charge with confidence, dedication, and a positive attitude that's truly inspiring. She's embraced the responsibility with professionalism and is absolutely thriving in her new position.

Most recently, Gill went above and beyond to make sure our school leavers had a memorable and heartfelt send-off as they prepare for their next chapter. Her hard work, care, and attention to detail made it a truly special occasion for the children and their families.

Thank you, Gill, for your continued commitment, your kindness, and everything you do to support the team and the children. You're a true asset, and we're lucky to have you!

