

FAMILY NEWS

WINTER 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

At Shoreham Day Nursery and Preschool, we've embraced autumn by collecting seasonal treasures such as leaves, pinecones, and conkers during garden explorations and community walks. These finds have inspired art, sensory play, and storytelling, sparking the children's curiosity and creativity as they explore nature's textures, colours, and shapes.

Our beach school programme has also thrived. Children investigate shells, seaweed, and tidal patterns, deepening their connection with the environment and learning about ecosystems.

The children have also been benefiting from weekly sessions with a visiting football coach, who has been instrumental in supporting their physical development and a range of other essential skills. The children improve their coordination, balance, and motor skills through fun and engaging football drills, building their physical strength and confidence. The sessions are also great for them to practice counting and measuring distance, subtly incorporating math into their play. Through these sessions, the children learn to support each other, celebrate each other's achievements, and enjoy the spirit of cooperation, strengthening their friendships and sense of community.

Terri

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- December 25th- January 1st Nursery is closed

Other:

- 7th December - Join us for our Christmas Fayre Open Day!
- 16th December - 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

The babies had a delightful autumn nature walk in the garden, exploring the vibrant colours and textures of fallen leaves and sticks. They were fascinated by the crunchy leaves and smooth sticks, which they later used in a sensory activity to enhance their curiosity and fine motor skills.

Alongside their nature exploration, the babies also enjoyed water play, practising tipping and pouring and discovering the flow and weight of water with giggles and splashes. This helped develop their hand-eye coordination and understanding of cause and effect. Their play extended to the busy board, where they explored locks, buttons, and zippers, building problem-solving skills and satisfying their curiosity about how things work.

Continue at home

Set up a water play station at home with containers, cups, and funnels. Encourage your child to practice tipping, pouring, and experimenting with the flow of water, which helps develop coordination and an understanding of cause and effect. You could even do this during bath time!

The Toddler Den

The toddlers have been captivated by the Pumpkin Soup book during group time, sparking their excitement to make their pumpkin soup. To bring this idea to life, they went on an exciting trip to the local supermarket to gather all the needed ingredients. Back at the nursery, they followed step-by-step instructions and used safe cutting tools to help chop and prepare the ingredients. The toddlers were actively involved in making the soup, which helped develop their independence and confidence as they cooked for the whole nursery. This month, they also took home learning bags, encouraging them to explore their local community with their families. Together, they collected natural treasures such as leaves, sticks, pinecones, and conkers, which they brought back to create a delightful sensory experience for everyone. These activities sparked rich conversations about the changing seasons as the toddlers observed the colours and textures that marked the arrival of autumn.

Continue at home

Make your own soup, After reading Pumpkin Soup, try making your own version at home! Involve your toddler in choosing ingredients, washing, chopping (with safe tools), and mixing. This will help them practise following instructions and develop their fine motor skills..

The Pre-School Study

A group of preschoolers has been visiting Carvell Care Home, where they have planned various activities and experiences to share with the residents. These intergenerational interactions are invaluable for the children, helping them to build empathy, social skills, and a sense of connection to the broader community.

Additionally, the preschoolers have been exploring the importance of safety, particularly around fireworks. This has led to meaningful discussions on assessing risks and keeping each other safe, nurturing their understanding of responsibility and care for others.

Using natural resources from the garden, the children also created beautiful artwork with paint, glue, and scissors, turning leaves, sticks, and other found materials into imaginative pieces. These activities stimulate creativity and deepen their appreciation for nature and their role in maintaining a safe, respectful environment.

Continue at home

Go for a nature walk in your local area and collect natural materials like leaves, twigs, or acorns. At home, use these to create more artwork, whether it's collages, prints, or sculptures. Encourage your child to explore different textures and colours in the materials.

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

Terri, Billie and Izzy have all completed training in Makaton.

Gill and Amy have completed their Paediatric First Aid.

Colleague Spotlight

Kerrie has become an invaluable member of the Baby Snug team, bringing warmth, enthusiasm, and dedication to her role. She takes great pride in designing new and engaging activities tailored to encourage each baby's next steps in development. From sensory play that fosters curiosity to interactive games that promote fine motor skills, Kerrie thoughtfully plans experiences that inspire and support the babies' growth. Her commitment and creativity have made a positive impact, and her presence brings comfort and joy to the children and her fellow team members. Kerrie's contributions have enriched the Baby Snug environment, making it a nurturing and stimulating space for everyone.

