



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a hot and busy summer it has been here at The Southwater Day Nursery and Preschool! Across the setting, we have seen many transitions, and both children and staff have handled them brilliantly. We've welcomed lots of new families into our rooms and supported children as they settled into their next stages. This term, we also said a fond farewell to Donna and Teri as they set off on exciting new adventures and celebrated the arrival of Ophelia's beautiful baby boy; she is now enjoying precious time at home with little River, as she embarks on motherhood. We are delighted to have Molly T, Amelia and Kelly join our team; they are settling into their rooms wonderfully, and we can't wait to see the ideas and energy they bring.

The hot weather has given the children plenty of opportunities for outdoor enrichment! Our Toddlers and Babies have loved playing with their new water stations, while Preschool have been busy exploring their new wooden playhouse. This summer also marked a special milestone for our school leavers. We've shared in their excitement, celebrated their achievements, and helped prepare them for their next big step. We are so proud of how ready they are for this new chapter, and we wish them every success and happiness as they begin their journey at 'big school'.

As we now turn our attention to the changing seasons, we look forward to the joys of autumn: crisp mornings, colourful leaves, and plenty of exciting activities and learning opportunities to come in the months ahead.

Sallyanne

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
- Nursery Photo Dates - Monday 13th October 9.30 onwards for The Nursery Unit and Thursday 16th October 9.30 onwards for Pre School.
- Saturday 6th December - Christmas Open Day
- Deadline for January 2026 funding will be beginning of December 2025 - please ensure you have applied with plenty of time to submit up-to-date forms and codes to us.

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 been busy exploring colour and creativity through a fun rainbow painting activity. They were given a variety of paintbrushes and bright, colourful paints to experiment with in the tuff tray. This gave them the chance to explore new textures, develop their hand-eye coordination, and express themselves freely. It was wonderful to see their curiosity shine as they discovered how each brush made different marks, and their growing confidence in using tools to create.

The Toddler Den

The Toddlers have been enjoying a splash of seaside fun with a beach-themed tuff tray, complete with sand, water, and plenty of sea creatures to explore. They worked beautifully alongside one another; sharing and chatting as they named the animals, acted out little stories, and dug and marked in the sand. This simple but exciting activity challenged their imaginations, supported their language skills, and gave them plenty of opportunities to practice co-operative play.

The Pre-School Study

Our Pre-schoolers have been busy getting their fingers and imaginations working as they made their very own rainbows! Using scissors, they carefully cut strips of colourful tape before arranging and sticking them onto paper. This was a brilliant way for them to practice their cutting skills, build the muscles in their hands, and develop the concentration they'll need for school. The best part was seeing how proud they were of their bright rainbow creations; a lovely reminder of how much they've grown in confidence and independence.

Continue at home

- Offer different tools for mark-making, such as brushes, sponges, or fingers, to explore textures and patterns.
- Encourage your baby to dip and swipe, or press and lift objects (like stamps or kitchen tools) to strengthen their coordination.
- Talk about the colours as your baby paints: "Look, red! Now blue!"
- Introduce simple sorting activities with coloured objects like blocks or balls to reinforce colour recognition.

Continue at home

- Create a mini "beach" at home using a tray with sand, water, or even rice or pasta, and add small toys or sea creatures.
- Encourage your toddler to dig, pour, and explore, talking about what they see and feel.
- Invite siblings or friends to join the play, taking turns and sharing tools and toys.
- Let your toddler draw in the sand or water with sticks, fingers, or small brushes.
- Talk about shapes, patterns, and movements to develop early writing skills.

Continue at home

- Provide safe scissors and colourful paper or tape for your child to practise cutting strips, shapes, or patterns.
- Encourage them to cut along lines or create their own designs to build hand strength and control.
- Talk about the colours as they work: "Red, orange, yellow... what comes next?" to reinforce colour recognition.
- Extend the rainbow theme into imaginative play, like making a rainbow path for toy animals or drawing rainbow weather scenes.

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.

Recent Training

Lizzie, Amelia, Kim, Lara and Molly T all completed their Paediatric First Aid training in August! We are also looking forward to some of the team undertaking their Level 1 in Makaton training.

Colleague Spotlight

Our special mention goes to Molly! From day one, Molly has thrown herself into nursery life, bringing a fantastic energy and enthusiasm that the Toddlers have responded to straight away. She has a real gift for storytelling, captivating the children with her animated voices and expressions, and it's a joy to see them so engaged and eager to listen. Molly has quickly become a valued member of the team, and we're so excited to see all the wonderful ideas she'll bring in the months ahead.

