



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy start to the year here at Southwater Nursery and Preschool!

We have had the pleasure of engaging in various enriching activities, encouraging both fun and learning for the children. One highlight was our 'Musical Friends' music and movement charity fundraising event, where we raised an incredible £70 for QEII School. Debbie and her lovable companion 'Monkey' delighted the children with their lively session, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Debbie for her kindness in supporting this cause with us.

As we embrace the transition into spring, our attention turns to the theme of new life and growing. We are excited to embark on a gardening journey, planting herb pots with the children. Through this hands-on experience, we aim to instil the values of care and responsibility, as they witness the wonder of growth first-hand. And what better way to celebrate our harvest than by incorporating our homegrown herbs into sensory and messy play, as well as sharing them with Chef Kim to enhance our nutritious meals!

Sallyanne

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- Half term for Term Time Only - 29th March until 12th April
- School Inset Day - 24th May
- Good Friday - 29th March (nursery closed)
- Easter Monday - 1st April (nursery closed)
- Early May Bank Holiday - 6th May (nursery closed)
- Spring Bank Holiday - 27th May (nursery closed)

Other:

- Funding application deadline for 2 and 3 year olds - 31st March

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

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

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



The Baby Snug

The Baby Snug have been enjoying lots of book exploration! Elmer has been a firm favourite and the team extended this current interest, utilising it as a learning opportunity for the children and providing them with a crafting encounter. They explored textures of tissue paper, using fingers to tear it up into small pieces, also looking at all the different colours. Then, they used PVA and gluing tools to stick their pieces of paper onto the paper, making their own colourful collage, like Elmer and his colourful body. This activity was a great opportunity for the children to challenge their fine motor skills as they immersed themselves in a sensory-rich experience, discovering the wonders of colour and texture in their own unique way.

Continue at home

Keep us up to date with your child's favourite book and songs to read and sing at home so we can extend this at nursery with further learning opportunities that will be of particular interest to them.

The Toddler Den

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Toddler Den enjoyed an exciting messy play adventure! With paint and shaving foam, the children dove into a world of texture exploration and mark-making. With paintbrushes, heart-shaped cutters, and stamps, they delved into creativity and discovery. Our intent was to develop an understanding of textures, explore cause and effect through mark-making, and enhance fine motor skills. The activity was a big success as the children remained engrossed, channelling their focus into mixing textures and making marks, using the tools provided and their hands and fingers to further their exploration.

Continue at home

Don't forget to update us with any home learning you do at home so we can discuss this at nursery. You can send pictures in of what you have been up to that we can share at circle times and use to support discussions within the group.

The Pre-School Study

Our Preschool Study have been immersed in the wonders of nature, venturing outside to explore and discover the world around them. From exhilarating bug hunts to observing the subtle shifts in the weather and environment with the changing seasons, our little explorers have been fully engaged in these hands-on learning experiences and shown lots of excitement and curiosity. The children have taken particular interest in the flowers and have been learning about how they grow and what kinds they may find through the seasons. The children particularly loved the colour of the daffodils, so staff extended this learning opportunity back in the room, where the children used various materials to create their own daffodil flowers! This was a great chance to extend the children's vocabulary and learn words associated with growing and plant life, such as 'stem' and 'leaf'.

Recipe of the Month

RECIPE NAME - CHICKEN FAJITAS

INGREDIENTS:

For the filling:

- 2 large chicken breasts thinly sliced (or a meat substitute)
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 red chilli, thinly sliced (optional)
- Handful grated cheese
- 1 heaped tbsp paprika
- 1tbsp ground coriander
- Pinch ground cumin
- 2 medium garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lime, juiced

To serve:

- 6 medium tortillas

For the salsa:

- 1 cucumber peeled and diced
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 250g tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 tbsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1 tspn lime juice
- 1 tspn olive oil
- 1/2 tspn ground cumin
- 1/2 tspn ground black pepper



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6.
2. Mix paprika, coriander, cumin, crushed garlic, olive oil, and lime juice together in a bowl.
3. Stir the sliced chicken breasts, red onion, red pepper, and optional chilli into the marinade.
4. Heat a griddle pan until smoking hot and add the marinated chicken.
5. Keep everything moving over the high heat until you get a nice charred effect. If your griddle pan is small, you can do this in two batches.
6. To check the chicken is cooked, cut into the thickest part of the chicken. If it is still red inside, then continue cooking
7. For the salsa, mix the diced tomato, onion, cucumber, then add the lime juice, minced garlic, cumin, and black pepper. Set aside.
8. Put the tortillas in the oven to heat up for a few minutes, and serve with the cooked chicken mixture, salsa, and grated cheese.

Recent Training

Tereza, Chloe, Molly, Carrie-Anne and Lynn are all attending their first aid training on Saturday 23rd March.

Chloe is also working towards their Baby Massage certification.

Colleague Spotlight

Molly Ralph

We're thrilled to shine a spotlight on Molly! Molly joined our Baby Snug team back in November as an apprentice childcare practitioner, diving into her role with enthusiasm and dedication despite having no prior experience. Her positivity is infectious, and she consistently goes above and beyond to support everyone around her. Molly has quickly become a valued member of the team, appreciated by both staff and children alike for her warmth and care. As she embarks on her apprenticeship journey with us, we're excited to see the incredible contributions she'll continue to make and the positive impact she'll undoubtedly have on our setting. Thank you Molly 😊

