



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the crisp, chilly days of autumn and winter settle in, the nursery has been full of excitement and discovery. The children have loved watching the seasons change around them—spotting the brightly coloured leaves falling, chatting about the windy weather, and even enjoying the brief flurry of snow we had! With the festive period fast approaching, pumpkins, autumn treasures and the magic of Christmas have all been big talking points across the rooms.

It has also been a pleasure welcoming new children and families into our community. Everyone has settled beautifully, and with numbers rising across the nursery, we're incredibly proud of how confidently the children and staff have adapted to the busy start to the season.

We've had some lovely staffing updates too. Chloe has stepped into the role of Toddler Room Lead, which is a fantastic achievement and very well deserved. We're also delighted to welcome Aoife to the Toddler team and Emily to our Bank team. They've both settled in wonderfully and already feel right at home.

As we look ahead to the festive weeks to come, we'd like to wish all our families a warm and joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support—we truly value your partnership and look forward to all the exciting moments the next year will bring.

Warm wishes,
Sallyanne

Dates for your diary

January

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

Parents Evenings will be held on the following dates:

- **W/C 5th January** – Lower Preschool
- **W/C 12th January** – Baby Snug
- **W/C 19th January** – Toddler Den
- **W/C 26th January** – Upper Preschool

Availability to book a slot with your child's Key Person will become available throughout December, via the teams.

February

- **Monday 1st – Friday 6th** – National Storytelling 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
- **Sunday 15th** – Mother's Day
- **Friday 20th** – Spring Equinox
- **Friday 20th** – Red Nose Day

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



Baby Snug

In the Baby Snug, the children have loved taking part in a vibrant, sensory firework painting activity to celebrate Firework Night. Using frayed cardboard tubes dipped into bright paint and pressed onto black card, they created their own colourful "firework bursts".

This simple activity encouraged early mark making, colour exploration, and sensory engagement. The babies were fascinated as they tapped, pressed, and lifted their tubes, watching the different marks appear.

This hands-on experience helped build fine motor skills, strengthen hand-eye coordination, and introduced them to expressing themselves creatively using new tools and textures.

Continue at home

You can recreate this easily by dipping a cut-up toilet roll tube into paint and letting your little one explore the marks it makes. Using yoghurt mixed with a tiny bit of food colouring is a great edible alternative for younger babies. Pop on some music, talk about the colours, and enjoy a cosy creative moment together!



Toddler Den

The Toddlers have continued to show a real fascination with messy play, and their recent foamy table activity was a big hit!

This experience offered the children a chance to explore textures, practise early mark making, and build confidence using different materials. They squished the foam between their fingers, mixed it around with their hands, drew patterns, and even used paintbrushes to make marks.

Through all this fun, they were developing their fine motor skills and discovering how their movements can create shapes, lines, and patterns. It was lovely to hear them chatting with staff and each other about what they could see and feel, showing just how much creativity and curiosity this open-ended activity inspired.

Continue at home

Pop a small amount of foam or bubble bath onto a tray and let your child explore. You can hide shapes or letters underneath for them to uncover or encourage them to draw simple patterns with their fingers. It's a brilliant, low-prep sensory activity—and it smells great too!



Pre-School

In Preschool, the children were thrilled to take part in a skeleton-making activity using wooden sticks, paint, and crayons. This hands-on project helped them learn about the human body and how our bones keep us strong and healthy. The children carefully built their own skeletons on card, naming different body parts and talking about how they help us move.

It was a fantastic way to explore early science concepts and encouraging wonderful conversations about health and self-care. Everyone was so proud of their creations and loved sharing what they had learned with their friends!

Continue at home

Use pasta, straws, or sticks to create your own skeleton at home. You can talk about the different bones, how they connect, and ways to keep them healthy, like stretching, dancing, and eating nutritious foods. It's a fun, hands-on way to explore the body together!

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

Our fantastic chef, Kim, once again impressed during the Environmental Health inspection, maintaining our outstanding 5-star rating! Her dedication to hygiene, food safety, and high-quality meals continues to make a real difference for the children and the nursery as a whole.



Colleague Spotlight

We're delighted to highlight Kelly, who joined our Preschool team in September. With her extensive childminding experience, she has settled in brilliantly, quickly building strong bonds with the children. Kelly has led some fantastic activities, sparking creativity and supporting their learning and development. We sincerely thank her for her hard work, dedication, and the positive energy she brings to the room every day—it is truly appreciated!



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