Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 14: October 202I

Yarborough Road

Issue 14 Autumn 2021

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our new look on-line newsletter! Read on for all our nursery news, notices and future dates for your diary.

As always, a very warm welcome to all the new families who have joined us recently. We have really enjoyed welcoming parents, old and new, into the nursery building on a daily basis and hope you are enjoying the experience too!

Autumn term has been a very busy time for everyone at Leapfrog, with so many settles taking place to prepare the children for the move to their new rooms. The children are all ready for their transitions and we hope they all settle quickly and easily into their new environments.

We hope you will be able to join us at our forthcoming parent workshops and events we have planned. Look out for our regular event round up email for further details as these events approach.

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Staff News

Join us in welcoming several new staff to Leapfrog Nursery this term. New faces include Monika who joins our housekeeping team and Auttaya who will be supporting rooms across the nursery as she continues her Early Childhood Studies degree at Portsmouth University.

Shamen has transferred from our Villiers Road nursery bringing her experience to support our rooms whilst extending her knowledge across the age ranges.

We would also like to introduce you to Charlotte and Lauren who have recently joined our Leapfrog Nursery 2-3 team. We look forward to working with them and know that they are both looking forward getting to know all the children and families.

"Hello, my name is Charlotte. I have a level 3 qualification in child care and management and have worked in the child care field for the past 17 years. I enjoy planning exciting activities for children to engage in whilst they develop their skills."

"My name is Lauren—and I've joined the Leapfrog team after recently graduating from Portsmouth University with a degree in Early Childhood Studies with Psychology.

I love to nurture and support children in their learning and development and am looking forward to building relationships with the children and families at Leapfrog."

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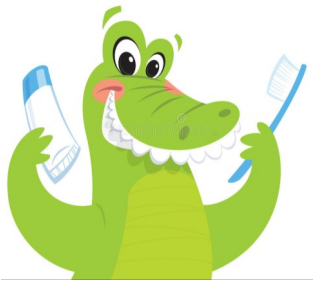
Healthy teeth, happy smiles!



In an effort to encourage good oral health habits from the earliest age, the EYFS framework includes the requirement for nurseries to promote oral health from September 2021. Tooth decay is largely preventable, but is a serious problem among young children. Nearly a quarter of 5 year olds in England have tooth decay, with 3 or 4 teeth affected on average. Tooth extraction is one of the most common procedures for children under 6 in hospital. Figures suggest that more than 105 children a day have their teeth removed in hospital due to tooth decay.

At Leapfrog, self-care, healthy eating and physical development have been included in our routines using stories linked to brushing teeth, going to the dentist and healthy eating - which we are happy to lend to you. Children will also be practising teeth cleaning using model teeth and tooth brushing kits.

In light of this new requirement we will also cover oral health in our parent telephone consultations, along with general health discussions such as eating, sleep routines and behaviour. You may also find the Public Health England: health matters, child dental health document of interest as it includes tips, links and guidance to help prevent tooth decay in the under 5's. Colgate's Bright Smiles Bright Futures website also contains a wealth of information.

The children would love a visit in the setting from any parents who are dental nurses or dentists. If you're able to spend some time sharing your knowledge with them to support this learning please contact the office - we'd love to hear from you.

New Autumn menu

Featuring seasonal ingredients, the new Autumn menu from our specialist nursery catering supplier is now being devoured daily! **Click** to view our new menu and rest assured special dietary requirements will continue to be catered for.

Charity of the term

Each term we support a charity close to our hearts. This term we are looking forward to sharing some exciting art activities during November to raise funds for 'Children In Need'. Children across all rooms will be creating their own little masterpieces which will be on display in a stunning gallery. We hope you can show your support for this worthy charity by pledging a donation for your child's artwork—further details will follow shortly.

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Changes to EYFS

You may already be aware of the recent changes made to the EYFS this September 2021. The new framework acknowledges that children develop and learn at different rates and in different ways so one of the first things you will notice is that your child's tapestry account will no longer include statements and age bands. Instead, these will be replaced by the broader bands 'Birth to Three' and 'Three and Four Year Olds'.

At Leapfrog our curriculum continues to recognise the uniqueness of each child, and is designed to help every child achieve their full potential by meeting their interests, accounting for appropriate developmental stages and to channel their individual abilities. Our curriculum meets the requirements of the educational programmes in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

As a base for our curriculum we use the Department for Education non statutory curriculum guidance 'Development Matters'. The department of Education has also produced an updated 'What to expect when' guide for parents. We think you will find this document much more useful than the previous document as it provides a comprehensive view of stages of development and how children learn as well as being packed full of great ideas to support learning at home with useful checkpoints.

We will be introducing focus weeks for our children with each child becoming the focus child once per term. During each child's focus week parents will have the opportunity to contribute and consult with us in a structured way each term. During each child's focus week they will noticeably have more observations in their journals on which quality interactions and learning experiences are recorded. We hope to have this fully in place across the nursery by January 2022.

Nursery Outings Volunteers Needed

To support our curriculum with enhanced experiences we would love to take 2-3 and pre school children out and about to explore their local environment. In order for us to do this safely we will require parent volunteers to help us.

If you are able to spare a couple of hours once a term please could you drop us an email with available days or dates so that we can start to plan for these events.

Should the date that you can offer doesn't coincide with your child's usual booking, they can of course come along with you.

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Parent Nursery Events

If you've been with us a while you'll know how much we value the importance of partnership with parents. Our regular parent events including workshops,,are a great opportunity for us to get to know each other better and to work together in supporting your child's learning. So we are delighted to be able to begin to reintroduce these this term and hope you can join us.

Christmas Parties and NEW! Stay & Play Sessions

Due to Covid we have made the decision this year to limit our Christmas parties to children only. We realise this might be disappointing for those who have experienced our parties in the past. The good news is that you won't miss out on the party activities as we are introducing a week of new stay and play sessions for each room (subject to Covid restrictions), where parents are invited to come and join in on the fun.

This is a lovely chance for you to see a snippet of what we get up to at nursery as well as engaging in some fun activities with your children. If your child does not attend on the day of these sessions you are of course, welcome to attend together.

Parents of 2-3 and pre schoolers are also invited to join their children after the party to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. Please follow the link below to register your child and we will forward allocated timeslots for the grotto nearer the time.

New! Online event booking

With the launch of our new, online newsletter we are delighted to announce that it is now possible to book your place at any of our parental workshops and events in just a couple of clicks directly from the newsletter.

For full details and to book your place on our parental workshops simply click here.

Autumn Newsletter

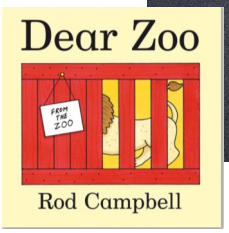
Birth-3

As part of our commitment to support children's language and vocabulary development each of our rooms will have an area set up with activities relating to their focus book, song or nursery rhyme. Details of the current focus rhyme or story can be found on your child's noticeboard in their room.

We'd love to hear if your child has a favourite book or song—please let us know so that we can share these with the children during their nursery day.

Baby and Toddler Rooms

This term we've been looking at a variety of books that support early language and vocabulary development. Babies have been exploring the world of farm animals with 'Old MacDonald' with simple first words and sounds. Toddlers have enjoyed 'Dear Zoo' which specifically supports early language readiness, entertains with surprise and recognition and encourages hand-eye control as we lift the flaps. We've delighted in finding the objects in our basket which relate to words and images on the pages as well as making related noises. This is a fantastic strategy to help us develop our word/object association as well as being great fun!



Songs are also a great way of introducing new words and supporting vocabulary and are a regular part of our nursery day. Children's current favourite is 'Old MacDonald' as well as a some other familiar nursery rhymes. You probably know the song already but if not, click on each to view a video with the words so that you can join in at home.

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Two-Three Room

As part of our commitment to support children's language and vocabulary development each of our rooms will have an area set up with activities relating to their focus book, song or nursery rhyme. Details of the current focus rhyme or story can be found on your child's noticeboard in their room.

We'd love to hear if your child has a favourite book or song—please let us know so that we can share these with the children during their nursery day.

With some new faces joining us from the Toddler room it's been a busy start to the term. All new starters have settled in well and we are looking forward to lots of fun learning adventures together.

This term our themed story/song role play area has been linked to one of our favourite nursery rhymes 'Wheels on the Bus'. We've been reading the story as well as taking turns driving and being passengers as we 'travel' to different places we choose to visit. Just like the 'mummy's on the bus' we've enjoyed chattering to each other and using related vocabulary as part of our role play experience.

Songs are also a great way of introducing new words and supporting vocabulary and are a regular part of our nursery day. Singing 'Wheels on the bus' has been such fun—especially when we join in with all the actions. You may know it already but if not, click here to view a video with the words and actions so that you can join in at home.

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Pre School Room

To develop children's love of books and to link in with our curriculum goals 'Bookworm, Amazing Author and Actor' we've been enjoying sharing a variety of books in our reading area.

Children have enjoyed making up their own stories using the key elements of 'Who, When, Where and What Happened'.

This term, we have chosen 'Going on a bear hunt' as our themed book and have enjoyed retelling the story in our own words to our friends and acting out the story together.

We've also been brave hunters heading out on our own 'bear hunt' enjoying adventures of our own as we search for bears in our lovely outdoor space. As so many of us have been asking to read 'The Gruffolo' book in our reading area we've chosen this as our next theme and can't wait to share the story and enjoy related activities together.

Stories with Stan and friends

Stan, our Leapfrog reading bear and his friends are getting their cases packed with their favourite story and toothbrushes for their stay with your children at home. Staff will let you know when you can expect a visit. We look forward to the adventures that they'll be sharing with you and your families.

2022 School Applications

A reminder that Year R applications open on the 1st November and must be made by the 15th January 2022. For admission details click **here.**

Dates at a glance

Parent Workshop / Stay & Play Sessions

W/C 29th November - Christmas Stay and Play

Nursery Events

25th October : Halloween activity week

12th-19th November : Children in Need Gallery

19th November : Children in Need Pyjama & Activities

Christmas Parties

7th & 10th December 9:15-10:15 : Babies

7th & 10th December 10:30-11:30 : Toddlers

8th December 2:00-3:00 : 2-3's

9th December 2:15-3:30 : Pre School

Closure Dates

13th December : Closed 4:00pm for staff meetings and training

Funded Term Time Only

25th –29th October : Half Term Holiday

17th December : Last day of Autumn Term

4th January : First day of Spring Term

Stretched Year Round Bookings

23rd December : Last day of Autumn Term

4th January : First day of Spring Term

For full details and to book your place at any of our events click here

* ATTENTION *

Important information—please read

Bringing items into nursery

Please could we remind parents to make sure that your children do not bring any toys in from home, other than dummies or comforters (which will be used at sleep times and then put straight back in the child's bag). Please could we also ask that comforters be washed regularly.

We cannot take responsibility for any toys that are lost or damaged.

Food

It is important that parents do not allow their children to bring food into the nursery. If they have had a snack en route to nursery please ensure they have finished it before entering the nursery building. We have numerous children with allergies and some severe, which could result in serious illness if another child was to find these items.

Spare Clothing

Could you please ensure your child has a set of clearly labelled, spare clothing each day. This is particularly important when your child is potty-training and should include underwear as well as a change of clothes.

Arrivals and Collection

Arrival time is now flexible if you want to drop your child in their room please arrive between 8:00-8:45am or 1:00-1:15pm

Please vacate the room by 8:45am/1:15pm

After 8:45am/1:15pm a member of staff will collect your child from the main door.

Collections include pick up at 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30 and anytime up to 6pm. Please continue to advise of planned pick up time on arrival.

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

CONTACT US

Villiers Road: 02392 003125

Yarborough Road: 02392 643776

www.leapfrognursery.com

admin@leapfrognursery.com