



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 16: April 2022
Villiers Road

ACTIVE LEARNING THROUGH PURPOSEFUL PLAY

Issue 16 Summer 2022

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our April newsletter. The children have had a very busy term with a lot to celebrate and fun-filled days themed around Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, World Book Day and more.

With the arrival of beautiful spring flowers and sunshine over Easter we are enjoying spending more time in our Nursery gardens. Children have used their bodies, minds and senses as they've discovered the experiences provided by our refreshed allotment, new slide and bike track. From learning to balance on logs or using little fingers to dig and explore, children's fine and gross motor skills are constantly being developed as they play.

We've been thrilled to be able to welcome parents back fully and hope you've been able to join in with our workshops and 'stay and plays', re-introduced based on parent feedback. We have lots to look forward to this Summer including our annual Barnardo's Toddle, this term's Father's Day Stay and Plays and other activities and events. We hope you can join us.

Grandparents or great-grandparents are also welcome to join us at these events as well during the nursery day to participate in different activities with your grandchild and to see the nursery. Please contact the nursery if you would be interested.

Summer Newsletter

Staff News



Toddlers

Congratulations to Louisa who successfully passed the interview process and has been promoted to the position of Team Leader in the toddlers room. Louisa is a highly skilled, dedicated and positive member of staff and we are very excited for her and this step-up in her career.



Pre School

We would like to congratulate Melissa who has been promoted to Assistant Deputy Manager who will be working as part of the management team alongside her role in the pre school room.

Having been with us at Leapfrog for 5 years Melissa is a real asset to the nursery team and we know she will be amazing in her new role!



A familiar face has re-joined our pre-school team! A warm welcome back to **Shanice**. We have all missed her cheery smile and sense of humour and it's so lovely to see her back at Leapfrog.



Baby News

Two new arrivals this Spring!

Welcome to Koa who arrived at the end of March, a son to Danielle from our 2-3 room and a lovely little brother for Ty and Aisha.



Rob who works behind the scenes as a member of our maintenance team and Helen who is based at our Yarborough Road setting became a family of three with the birth of their son Arthur.

Much love and congratulations to both families and we look forward to meeting your gorgeous boys soon!

Summer Newsletter

Exploring Language

Vocabulary building is critical in developing good language and communication skills, underpinning every area of a child's learning and development.

Our curriculum encompasses a wide range of activities supporting children's communication and language skills which are the single most important factor in their reading age at 11, predicting their educational success.

We've recently introduced two new vocabulary based initiatives which children will experience during their nursery day.

Each week we'll be including 5 specific words as we play and talk together to support vocabulary development. Join in with this initiative by sharing the same words (in context) at home. Weekly words will be displayed on vocabulary flowers on your parent notice boards in your child's room.

Look out for children's weekly 'Talk to me about' stickers. Designed to encourage children to talk about things they do both at home and nursery they'll give insight into things they've found interesting whilst at nursery to talk about together. Add details of significant home-based events or activities to blank stickers we'll provide, so that we can encourage dialogue about these with their keyworker and friends.

Developing Young Children's Language Workshop

Monday 18th July 6:45-8:15pm

Join us for an insightful workshop, discovering more about your child's language and how it develops, providing talk techniques and fun activities designed to support talking, understanding and listening skills.

New Summer menu

Click to view our new Summer menu from our specialist nursery caterer supplier. Featuring seasonal ingredients, it is now being devoured daily! Rest assured special dietary requirements will continue to be catered for.



Charity of the term

Thank you for your generous donations and for taking part in our 'Unleash the laughter' raffle; we were able to raise £150.20. Congratulations to our raffle winner Hazel - enjoy your Comedy Club evening at the Wedgewood Rooms.

This term we're looking forward to having fun on our safari themed Barnardo's Toddle. This short, sponsored walk is a chance for children to have buffa-loads of fun with family and friends joining us in the Nursery garden, raising money to help vulnerable children. Please help us plan for numbers by signing up here - sponsorship forms will follow nearer the time.

Summer Newsletter

World Book Day Fun



Children loved coming to nursery as characters from their favourite books for World Book Day. They especially enjoyed welcoming parents who were able to share their child's favourite stories which they brought in from home, looking through all the pictures and illustrations together. We were even treated to a puppet show which was a fantastic surprise!

To celebrate at nursery we joined in with some fun activities relating to our stories. Toddlers particularly loved splashing and giggling as they played with their sensory duck pond, supporting development of their first words and sounds.



Healthy teeth, happy smiles!

We were delighted to be visited by a student dental nurse from Portsmouth University Dental Academy last term. She brought her friend, Ali the Alligator to talk about oral hygiene with the pre-school children.

Ali asked us all to count our teeth before showing us how to clean our teeth for a full 2 minutes to ensure they are really clean. This term Ali returns to talk about sugary snacks and the effect these can have on our teeth.

During National Smile month from 16 May to 16 June, Ali will also be dropping in to see the children in our toddler and 2-3 rooms.

Throughout the month, the Oral Health Foundation will be raising awareness of important oral health issues with activities to join in with at home. For more information and details click [here](#).



Summer Newsletter

Toddler Room

Toddlers had a very fun term, joining in with lots of Spring time activities. Messy play, printing with paint and plastic eggs before moving onto full body painting which they really enjoyed! They made some wonderful printed patterns in the process whilst developing both their fine and gross motor skills. These were further supported as they delighted in hiding and finding eggs in the sand, using scoopers, eggs and their hands.

As the children love animals we shared 'That's not my lamb' and 'That's not my piglet' books. The bright pictures and touchy feely patches proved to be really engaging, helping to develop their sensory and language awareness. We've also been stretching and moving our bodies as we join in together with 'Peter Rabbit' and 'Sleeping Bunnies' action songs.



This term we are looking forward to spending more time in our garden. Children relish exploring the different surfaces, clambering and balancing, and moving in different ways. Children will be learning how to change their movements as they crawl under, around and through objects and obstacles. From squatting to bending and balancing when transitioning between positions with this term's action songs '[Dingle dangle scarecrow](#)' and '[If you're happy and you know it](#)'.

For further information about children's physical development and practical ideas for supporting your child's physical development at home click [here](#).

Summer Newsletter

Two-Three Room

In the last few weeks the children have enjoyed some egg-citing activities. They've been developing their fine motor skills using tweezers in the egg sensory tray, squeezing with their hands to open eggs and creating beautiful marbled patterns on eggs as they rolled them around in paint trays. Children have also enjoyed finding the eggs hidden on the farm on each page of our 'Going on an egg hunt' story. We've also explored early maths as we've matched different sized eggs in egg cartons - which was also a big hit!



With the arrival of the warmer weather we've been busy planting and watering the allotment. As the children particularly enjoyed using watering cans we've introduced the rhyme 'Mary Mary Quite Contrary' singing the story using fun props. Alongside pouring and stopping activities, we'll continue our watery extravaganza this term. With shells to explore and count, our focus rhyme '1,2,3,4,5' and our delightful focus book 'Hooray for Fish' by Lucy Cousins, children can look forward to some creative and engaging activities introducing the language of pattern, size and number.

Visit the parent board to see our vocabulary flower with our current focus words and click [here](#) to share the story and continue the learning at home.

Summer Newsletter

Pre School Room

In the last few weeks Pre school children have been doing a great job preparing the allotment and sowing seeds ready to plant. They've enjoyed learning what plants need to grow as well as observing and measuring the growth rate of different plants. We are excited to be helping our fruit and vegetables grow and look forward to harvesting them when they're ready!

With Caterpillar season in full swing we will be learning about the life cycle of butterflies first hand as we raise our own caterpillars, watching them grow and transform into beautiful butterflies before releasing them into the wild. We think they'll love our garden as much as we do! To support our learning we will also be visiting the Butterfly House at Cumberland Natural History Museum. In order for the trip to take place on the morning of the 7th June, we need your help. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to assist with the event. (If your child doesn't attend nursery on a Monday, they are welcome to join us, provided they are accompanied by an adult and we are informed no later than the 11th May).



A recent topic of conversation between children and staff has been about pets. Following on from this interest over the next few weeks we will be using the book 'Dear Zoo' to prompt discussion about different animal habitats with the children and why only some animals are suitable for pets.

Katua has even arranged to bring their pet snake to nursery for us all to see. We'd love to hear from you if you have a docile, unusual pet who would like to visit us. Please let the office or the pre-school know so that we can arrange this.

The children will have a themed vets area where they can extend their vocabulary, complete tally charts to compare types of pets and have fun using their early writing skills as they role play together.

Dates at a glance

Parent Workshop / Stay & Play Sessions

9th May 6:45-8:30pm - School Readiness Workshop

18th July 6:45-8:30pm - Developing Young Children's Vocabulary

Nursery Events

14th June : Pre school Father's and Grandad's Day

15th June : Toddlers Father's and Grandad's Day

21st June : 2-3's Father's and Grandad's Day

7th July 4:00-5:30pm : Barnardo's Big Toddle

21st July 2:15-4:00pm : Pre-school Leaver's Party

Closure Dates

2nd May : Early May Bank Holiday

2nd-3rd June : Bank Holiday

13th July : Closed 4:00pm for staff training

29th August : Summer Bank Holiday

Funded Term Time Only

30th May-3rd June : Half Term Holiday

22nd July : Last day of Summer Term

5th September : First day of Autumn Term

For full details and to book your place at any of our events click [here](#)

Look out for our regular event round up email for further details as events approach

*** ATTENTION ***

Important information - please read

Sun cream

With warmer months ahead, please also ensure that 24 hour sun cream is applied before attending nursery. **Due to a known nut allergy issue please avoid Nivea Sun protection range for kids

Summer clothing

Please also ensure your child has a hat for outdoor play along with spare clothes (including welly boots) for wet play, all clearly labelled.

Water bottles

Children in our 2-3 and pre-school rooms should be provided with a clearly labelled water bottle.

Labelling

To avoid items being lost, please can you ensure that all of your child's clothing and accessories (including hats, wellies and shoes) are clearly labelled and please check lost property frequently.

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).

Arrivals and Collection

To accompany your child into their room please arrive between 8:00-8:45am or 1:00-1:15pm and 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 6:00pm. 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