



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

# Newsletter

Issue 19: April 2023

Villiers Road

Issue 19 Summer 2023

# Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



## Dear Parents and Carers

Since our last newsletter the children have had a very busy month with a lot to celebrate and many fun-filled days themed around World Book day, Valentine's Day, Pancake Day and Mother's Day to name a few. Anna and Kristoff (Gabriel's and Delphine's parents) also surprised us with a visit and stayed to read a story during World Book Day!

With the recent clock change we are looking forward to the warmer months and lighter nights, as well as enjoying more outdoor activities. The children have already started to plant various flowers and vegetables, and are excited to watch them grow.

We have also reverted to our Summer collection points with effect from Monday 17th April. Your child will be ready for pick up at 4:00/4:30/5:00 and 5:30 from the following designated collection points: Toddlers - Buggy park gate / 2-3's - Main door / Pre-school - Clarence Road side gate. From 5:30 onwards please come to the main door.

Our lunchtime menu has been updated to feature seasonal ingredients and is now being devoured daily! [Click](#) to view our new Summer menu from our specialist nursery catering supplier and rest assured special dietary requirements will continue to be catered for.

For further information and insights including tips to support your child's speech, communication and language as well as parent workshops and events this term, including our annual Barnardo's toddle, read on....

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Staff News



### **Wishing Donna all the best for her maternity leave**

Donna left us to start her maternity leave last Thursday 6th April. We can't wait to hear Donna's news and just know she'll be fabulous in her new role as a mummy!



### **Emma joins our pre-school team**

Since joining in 2021, Emma has gained experience across both the Toddler and 2-3 rooms. Recently she has joined the pre-school team to increase her early years knowledge of this older age range as she works towards the completion of her Level 2 apprenticeship in childcare this spring.



### **Introducing Shamen - nursery practitioner**

A warm welcome to Shamen who, having gained experience across different age ranges at our Yarborough Road nursery, has recently joined our Toddler team.



### **Welcome to Gail - nursery practitioner**

We would like to welcome Gail to our nursery team. Gail has recently moved into the area and brings with her 4 years experience working with children in nurseries.

## Charity of the term

Looking forward to the summer, we'll be holding our annual toddle and garden party on the 6th July. Children can come dressed as their favourite animal to this fun themed sponsored walk to raise money for our charity of the term, Barnardo's. This year our jungle theme walk and activities have been inspired by stories and rhymes.

We'd love you and your families to join us - please help us plan numbers by signing up [here](#). Sponsorship forms and further details will follow nearer the time.

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Family Events

We were delighted to welcome so many parents to our first World Book day stay and play sessions . These are designed to provide families with the opportunity to meet other parents, share time with the staff and see their children interact with their friends in the nursery setting. They are proving to be very popular and often oversubscribed. So if you were unable to attend this term here's some pictures of the sessions to give you a flavour of what you can expect. We hope you can join us next time!

On World Book Day, staff and children dressed up and joined parents in lots of fun activities relating to books they've been exploring with their nursery friends.



In March all children really enjoyed making a special Mothers Day gift for their mummies and spending time with them in their rooms. Pre school children served up a tasty cream tea from the Mother's day café and planted up some pretty flowers together. In the 2-3 room there was a lovely aroma of flowers as mums shared time snipping flowers. Whilst the toddler room hosted a teddy bear's picnic, a bear hunt and played with bubbles. The children had such a lovely time and we hope you all did too.



## Calling all Dads!

The children would love you to join them in the nursery for an event to celebrate Father's Day this June. Events will be held during the week of the 12th June with different events being hosted in each room. If your child doesn't attend on the day you're very welcome to bring your child in and to join us for the duration of the event.

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

### Top Tips for Talking

The most fundamental life skill is the ability to communicate. So the development of early speech, language and communication (SLC) skills is essential for your child to thrive, laying crucial foundations for later life.

Throughout the nursery day our practitioners use their knowledge to ensure that every opportunity is used to encourage your child's communication skills in fun and engaging ways. As part of their ongoing development and to build on their expertise all staff have also recently undertaken 'Best Start in Speech, Language and Communication' training provided by the Solent NHS Trust.

In conjunction with this, we will be sharing a new 'Top Tip for Talking' poster from the trust which will be displayed on the parent board in each room. Using the QR code you'll be able to access a short video with top tips to support your child's communication skills using every day activities.

See the first poster above with a link highlighting how commenting, in the form of chatting to your child whilst they are getting ready for the day, encourages them to form longer and more descriptive sentences.

These will be updated monthly with new tips which we hope you will find useful in shaping your child's language development.

### School Readiness Parent Workshop

**22nd May 6:45-8:30pm**

For pre-school leaver parents this workshop provides you with useful tips and advice on all aspects involved in preparing your child for school. With an opportunity for questions and to meet parents of children attending the same school.

### Developing Young Children's Vocabulary Parent Workshop

**27th July 6:45-8:30pm**

Designed for parents of children under 3, this interactive workshop provides an opportunity to discover more about your child's language and how it develops. We'll also provide talk techniques and fun activities designed to support talking, understanding and listening skills.



For full details and to book your place on our parental workshops simply click [here](#).

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Toddler Room

Spring is in the air and toddlers have been having fun with Easter themed activities. We have chosen songs and books related to spring to kick off the term. Children have particularly enjoyed story time where they've been exploring all the different textures of the touchy feely 'That's not my lamb' and 'That's not my bunny' books together.

Children have been developing their creative and fine motor skills stamping and painting their own pair of bunny ears. They've also been little bunnies themselves, hopping around actively having fun to the '[Sleeping bunnies](#)' rhyme.

Another favourite rhyme is '[Peter Rabbit has a fly upon his nose](#)' with lots of actions to join in with. Our favourite is when we all get to 'swoosh' the fly away! Click the links above to these two rhymes so that you can enjoy them with your child at home.



As we continue into the term children will be exploring the 'Dinosaur stomp' and 'Dinosaur roar' books to encourage more actions of movement. With the sunny weather approaching we will visit the larger garden to explore the flowers and run on the grass. We'll also be celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with related activities culminating in a parade and afternoon picnic for the children who are in on Friday 5th May.

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Two-Three Room

Last term children showed lots of interest and enjoyed the 'Going on a bear hunt' story so much that, with Easter in mind, we decided to introduce children to the '[Going on an egg hunt](#)' story. Children have had great fun enjoying a few activities inspired by the book including using props to act out the story and using their artistic talents to create their own marble eggs.



This term we would like to share some of the activities your children will be doing linked to our Budding Baker curriculum goal. We have started the term by making tasty Easter nests. Children have been developing their hand to eye co-ordination along with fine motor skills squeezing and scrunching shredded wheat, breaking it up to make 'twigs' before stirring them into melted chocolate. They've also been scooping using spoons to place their nests into cake cases finishing them off by carefully placing marshmallow 'eggs' into the middle.



The cooking fun continues throughout the term with more recipes for the children to enjoy including: Biscuits, where the children will learn how to roll, press and cut and the opportunity to develop their creativity as they select and assemble toppings for their own pizzas.

When selecting recipes we always ensure these are inline with the allergy requirements of the children and that they are healthy and nutritious. To support this further, as the weather warms up, children will be learning about where their food comes from by helping our plants in the allotment grow before harvesting the fruit and vegetables when they're ready to eat!

And of course this term we'll be joining in celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with related activities culminating in a parade and afternoon picnic for the children who are in on Friday 5th May.

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Pre-School Room

Children had such fun potting up plants with mummies for mother's day that we introduced a fabulous garden center in their role play area which they are really enjoying. They've been practicing their fine motor skills arranging flowers into bouquets, wrapping and tying ribbon around them and writing message cards.



Inspired by our new focus book '[Jasper's Beanstalk](#)', children have been busy sowing seeds and are keen to watch them grow before planting them out in our allotment. Using early mathematics they'll also be measuring their sunflowers as they grow—maybe as tall as Jack's bean!

There's been huge excitement with the arrival of our new puppet theatre and puppets in our drama and music area. Children have delighted in sharing the new theatre with parents at drop off and entertaining each other with puppet shows during their nursery day.



Both the theatre and the use of themed story boxes have been igniting children's imaginations, encouraging them to tell their own stories. Items from the box provide them with prompts helping them build the key components of their story: A '**who**', a '**when**' (early in the morning, a dark stormy night), a '**where**' (at the beach, in the woods, at home), a '**what happened**', then a '**what happened next**' followed by further '**what happened next**'.

Story telling broadens children's vocabulary with the introduction of more descriptive words laying the foundations for when they are ready to go on to write their own stories later on.

You might like to continue the learning at home by making up your own story boxes to encourage your child to make up their own stories. As an example, items for a seaside themed story box could include people, sea creatures, birds, boats, buckets, spades, sand, blue cloth or a tub of water. Have fun deciding what could go into a story box and what items you can use to represent and correspond with your chosen theme.

We are also looking forward to celebrating the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with lots of fun activities, culminating in a parade and afternoon picnic for the children who are in on Friday 5th May.



## Dates at a glance

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### Parent Workshops

- 22nd May 6:45-8:30pm : School Readiness Workshop (school leavers)
- 27th July 6:45-8:30pm : Developing Young Children's Vocabulary (under 2's)

### Nursery Events

- 4th May : Pre school Twirly Woos Theatre Trip
- 13th June 4:00-5:30pm : Pre school Fathers' Day Event
- 14th June 4:00-5:30pm : 2-3's Fathers' Day Event
- 15th June 4:00-5:30pm : Toddler Fathers' Day Event
- 21st June AM : Pre school Leavers Butterfly House Trip (details to follow)
- 6th July 3:45-5:30pm : Banardo's Big Toddle
- 20th July 2:15-4:00pm : Pre school Leavers Party

### Holiday and Closure Dates

- 7th April : Good Friday
- 10th April : Easter Monday
- 1st May : May Bank Holiday
- 8th May : Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
- 29th May : Bank Holiday
- 16th May : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training
- 12th July : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training
- 28th August : Late Summer Bank Holiday

### Term Dates

- 29th May-2nd June : Half Term Holiday (funded term time only)
- 21st July : Last day of Summer Term (funded term time only)
- 31st August : Last day of Summer Term (year round)

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**

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#### **Sun cream**

With warmer months ahead, please 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 provide your child with a hat for outdoor play along with spare clothes (including welly boots) for wet play

#### **Water bottles**

Children in our 2-3 room 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

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