



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 19: September 2023

Villiers Road

Issue 19 Autumn 2023

Leapfrog Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers

Last term ended with a fantastic celebration shared with school leaver children and parents. It's been so lovely seeing the children blossoming ready to embark on their next exciting venture to school. We will miss them very much but we know they will have so much fun!

It's also been wonderful seeing children transition into their new rooms during the Summer as they continue their Leapfrog journey. With the help of their key workers they've been settling in as they explore and enjoy the new challenges and experiences their new environments bring.

We've loved hearing about your summer adventures enjoyed with friends and family both at home and away.

There's been so much Summer fun at Leapfrog too as we've explored science, festivals, sports and water activities and more, making the most of the garden when it was sunny as well as exciting indoor activities on wet days.

To new families we'd like to share a warm welcome and to all our families we look forward to sharing a new term. Equally packed with fun activities and events, we hope you will be able to join us for some of these.

Read on to discover what we've been up to since the beginning of term at Leapfrog along with everything we are looking forward to sharing together.

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Staff News



Baby news

Huge congratulations to Donna who gave birth on 14th May to a gorgeous daughter named Daisy-Mae. We are thrilled for Donna and can't wait for some baby cuddles soon!



Congratulations to Emma

We are delighted for Emma, who has recently completed her apprenticeship and achieved her NVQ Childcare Level 2. Having worked so hard over the last 18 months Emma is officially a Level 2 Qualified Practitioner working with our pre-school team.



Good Luck Louise

After 16 years with Leapfrog Louise has left our Leapfrog office team this month. She will be missed and after so many years it already seems very strange not seeing her but we know she'll be amazing in her new role.



Welcome to Vicky

Join us in welcoming Vicky to Leapfrog who has recently moved into the area. As a level 6 qualified practitioner, Vicky is excited to get started and getting to know the children.



Farewell to Annabel and Gail

We bid farewell to Annabel from our pre-school team and Gail from our 2-3 team who have recently left Leapfrog. Our best wishes go with them both.

Staff Promotions

Investing in the growth and development of our team ensures we remain at the forefront of childcare and the delivery of early years education. So we are delighted to announce the very deserved promotion of Lavly to Deputy Team Leader in our 2-3 room and, in our pre-school, the promotion of Shanice and Roseanna to Joint Deputy Team Leaders.



2024 School Applications

A reminder that Year R applications open on the 1st November 2023 and must be made by the 15th January 2024. For admission details click [here](#).

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Food adventures to support healthy eating

Dietary preferences and eating habits are known to be heavily influenced largely by habits formed in early life. And whilst it's not unusual for children to resist new foods, encouraging them to make healthy choices about what to eat can be challenging.

According to the Food Foundation, the number of children eating little or no vegetables has increased in the last 10 years with nearly a third of primary children eat less than one portion of vegetables a day.

At Leapfrog Nursery we recognise that if children enjoy eating healthy foods, they are more likely to eat them for life and are highly influenced by their peers. As a result, our curriculum has been designed to include plenty of opportunities to experience a variety of foods through both play and diet, together with their friends, during their nursery day.

This term, we're looking forward to more food adventure activities from TastEd's sensory food education. Based on the Sapere method used in Finland and Sweden, this hands on approach teaches children how to use all 5 senses (sight, smell, touch, sound, taste) to explore food. These fun activities help to capture children's curiosity as they discover new foods, build familiarity and develop their confidence and willingness to try different foods.

Rest assured that allergies/sensitivities will always be taken into account and that no one has to like and no one has to try. In this way children also learn important values such as mutual respect and boundaries.

For further details about the TastED initiative along with ideas for food related activities you can share with your child at home click [here](#).

Budding Baker Stay and Play Sessions

Open to all parents these sessions during the nursery day offer a fabulous opportunity to see your child actively learning through food adventures alongside their friends in the nursery setting. Discover how these activities support your child's learning and development and continue the learning with access to resources and fun activities to do together with your child at home.

2-3's and Pre-school | Monday 6th November 9:30-10:30

Toddlers | Wednesday 8th November 9:30-10:30

If your child does not attend on the day of the session, you are welcome to come along, bringing them with you. We hope you can join us! To reserve your place click [here](#).

New Autumn menu

Take a peek at our new Autumn menu from our specialist nursery catering supplier on the [nutrition page](#) of our website. Featuring seasonal ingredients, this will be served up daily from early October.



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Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

Parents evenings

Invitations to parents evenings being held later this term will be landing in the inboxes of parents of children who joined before the September term. This will give you an opportunity to speak to your child's Key Person about their development and life at the nursery. Look out for details of dates and timings of your 15 minute face to face appointment which will follow by early October.

Grandparents Day

Last year we held some events to celebrate grandparents and all they do to support and help children grow. These proved so popular we will be holding these once again this term. All rooms will be holding their event on **Thursday 5th October between 9:30-11:00am**. We have allowed time for grandparents to visit a couple of rooms so that they can join in activities with more than one grandchild if necessary. From 10:30 (weather permitting) the children will have time with their grandparents to show them and enjoy the nursery grounds together.

If your child does not attend on the day of the session, you are welcome to come along bringing them with you. Head to our online booking page to register for this event. We know the children will be excited to welcome you!

Charity of the term

We hope our annual Big Toddle has left you and your little ones with some incredible memories. Thank you so much for your support in raising an elephant-tas-tic £1,393.00 to help change the lives of vulnerable children, young people and families across the UK. What an amazing amount!



Be sure to circle this year's BBC Children in Need Day on **Friday 17th of November** when our art exhibition will be open to view and purchase your budding artists creations in support of Children in Need. They'll look amazing framed and displayed at home as a fond memory of their Leapfrog Nursery days as well as making beautiful personal Christmas gifts.

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Toddler Room

This Summer the toddlers actively explored the garden including various water play activities when they needed to cool off. Squealing with delight, the children loved splashing in the water, playing with the squirty snake and floating boats in the water tray - with some children starting to use associated first words such as 'boat' and 'duck' during play. Young children tend to gravitate towards things that roll so on wet days playing with the balls and hoops indoors were a huge hit! Through rolling and throwing and passing balls and hoops from one hand to another they had fun whilst also developing their motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination.



We've started the new term with action rhymes which are always popular, introducing learning new actions, first words and voice sounds to support children's early language development and hand movements. Toddlers have been joining in with actions together to some of their favourite rhymes including 'Old MacDonald', 'Wheels on the Bus' and 'Five Little Ducks'. We have all enjoyed settling down to listen to stories and some toddlers joining in by babbling along to narrate the pictures.

With Halloween approaching we'll be introducing a new rhyme about a spider and various body parts. 'There's a spider on the floor' It's very silly and sure to inspire lots of giggles and tickles - join in at home using this [link](#).

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Two-Three Room

With the arrival of Summer, 2-3's took full advantage and headed to our garden. The children have a huge interest in mini-beasts and loved looking at the snails they found hidden amongst the beautiful flower beds. Children loved climbing and clambering in the shade of the trees as well as cooling off with their friends with water play. They thought the squirty cactus was particularly hilarious resulting in lots of squeals and giggles!



As we start the Autumn term we wanted to share with you some of the mathematical and cooking activities we have planned. Everyone loves a teddy, so we are excited to be introducing our themed book area 'Teddy Bears Picnic'. Children will be exploring the book and the song along with related activities, including making their own jam sandwiches. Continuing the theme, children can join in with the actions of 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear'. By learning and recalling words for early positional language children are able to develop their vocabulary alongside their ability to apply it to other scenarios. We hear that children often like to share their new songs with their families at home, click [here](#) if you're unfamiliar with it and enjoy singing it together!

As we move on through the term and the weather gets colder, we will be visiting Goldilocks and the Three Bears, making our own porridge and learning about size and numbers.

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Pre School Room

What a fun and busy Summer with different themed activity weeks, including creative, science, sport and water play. From tie-dye to popping bottles and football, children learnt so many new skills! A big thank you to Millie's mum, Laura, for providing staff with science kits to share with the children. Also to Erin's dad, Stuart, for helping develop children's football skills during sports week. Learning new skills and finding out about the wider world from visitors to the nursery and in particular, parents, is something the children really enjoy and in a couple of weeks time we will be welcoming Faye's dad, Neal, as we discover more about his role as member of our local Lifeboat association crew.



Have you seen our Nursery castle which appeared at the start of term? Dressing up as Knights, Princesses, Kings and Queens, children have held wonderful banquets in the role play area as well as making shields, stained glass windows and smaller versions of their castle with junk modelling. Children may have shared with you the adventures of the little dragon in 'There's a dragon in my book' we've been exploring together. As the term progresses we will be following on with more of Tom Fletcher's books and can't wait to share some of the related activities during Grandparents Day in October.

DATES AT A GLANCE

Nursery Events

5th October : Grandparents Day

23rd October : Halloween Activity Week

17th November 3:45-5:15pm : Children in Need

Christmas Parties : Details to follow

Parent Workshop / Stay & Play Sessions

6th November 9:30-10:30 : 2-3's and Pre-school

8th November 9:30-10:30 : Toddlers

Closure Dates

9th November : Closed 4:00pm for staff training

15th December : Closed 4:00pm for staff training

Stretched / All Year Round

22nd December : Last day of Autumn term

2nd January : First day of Spring term

Funded Term Time Only

20th October : Last day of first half term

30th October : First day of second half term

15th December : Last day of Autumn term

8th January : First day of Spring 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

Weather appropriate clothing

So that your child can enjoy the garden in comfort during the cooler and wetter months, please ensure your child brings a pair of wellington boots and suitable for outdoor wear including coats, hats, scarves and gloves when appropriate.

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.

Water bottles

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

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

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