



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 20: January 2024

Villiers Road

Issue 20 Spring 2024

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you have all had the most magical Christmas and we would like to wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. On behalf of all the staff, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the lovely cards, gifts and kind words that we received before the Christmas holidays, we were all very touched by the generosity of our children and families.

We were delighted to welcome so many of our nursery parents at our Christmas parties this year. We hope you had a fun time closing out the year by celebrating with staff and your children as well as with family and friends over the festive period.

As always, we extend a very warm welcome to our new families joining us throughout January and invite everyone to catch up on our latest news, photographs of our parties and insights into what activities we have coming up at Leapfrog for children and parents this term.

Follow the links to register as we'd love to see you there! And look out for further details on our posters and screen-show as the dates approach.

We hope you enjoy and find our newsletters useful. If you have any suggestions for improvement simply drop us an email or pop into our office.

Your views really matter to us, so as part of our evaluation practice to continually deliver an outstanding level of service we will be emailing a brief parent survey for completion by the end of January. Please take this opportunity to feedback to us as we are always eager to hear from you!

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Staff News



Moving to pastures new

We wish Vicky all the best as she leaves Leapfrog. Vicky joined us after studying at Portsmouth University and is heading back to her home town. We'll be sorry to see her go but wish her all the best wherever her career takes her.



Welcome to Courtney

Courtney has recently joined our team as our Nursery Administrator. She has very quickly settled into the nursery and is already a familiar face with our children and their families.

Staff Team Training

We were delighted to welcome Louise Saunders, a Hampshire County Council Early Years Advisory Teacher to our staff team training session. Louise delivered training relating to 'The theory of loose parts' and shared how this supports children's learning through the different stages of play at our staff training meeting.

Loose parts play is essentially the activity of manipulating and using open-ended materials in play. Not only does it encourage creativity and exploration, it's a fabulous and fun tool supporting cognitive and critical skills development for early STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical) education.



Staff also benefited from some mindful learning at the end of a busy nursery day as they created their own transient art masterpieces using a variety of loose part items.

Learnings have already been shared with the pre-school children who made some wonderful Christmas cards using their own transient art creations (which you may have been lucky enough to receive or to experience during our Christmas party). To learn more about this technique, including suggestions for introducing this at home, pick up a leaflet from our updated 'Families and Leapfrog learning together' board in the nursery foyer.

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Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

World Book Day Stay and Play Sessions

We can't wait for World Book Day when children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and their rooms will be themed with story related activities throughout the week of the 4th March. See first hand how fun activities, inspired by stories, further support your child's language and communication development. To book your place, please follow the link at the bottom of the page.

Mother's Day Events

To celebrate Mother's Day the children would like to invite their Mummy's (or 1 Grandmother if Mum is unable to attend) to a fun event at the Nursery. Events will be held from the 11-14th March with different events being hosted in each room including a toddler's teddy bear's picnic, 2-3's sensory play and a pre-school mother's day café.

Understanding Young Children's Behaviour Parent Workshop

Parenting is an incredibly rewarding and challenging experience although at times it can feel like a real roller coaster of emotions – particularly if your child is behaving in ways that feel difficult to manage or understand. This evening workshop provides useful insight into why children react the way they do. We'll also explore lots of ideas and strategies to help you support your child in dealing with their emotions confidently during these difficult moments.

Community Board

The eagle eyed amongst you may have seen our community board has been relocated in our main foyer area. Find details of health and community related notices with details of support, activities and events that may be of interest to our families.

Research shows that by the age of 3, 54% of children have their own online device and 72% of 3-4 year olds choose YouTube kids for entertainment over other destinations. Recognising this, we have also updated the board to include guidance and tips to help keep your child safe online . You are also welcome to help yourself to safety flyers to take and refer to at home.

Children in Need Update

We hope you are enjoying your budding artist's work which featured in our November 'Children in Need' art gallery. Thank you to those who donated tasty cakes for our cake sale as well as purchasing your child's artwork - together we raised a total of £678 for a great cause.

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

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Toddler Room

December has been full of festive fun in our toddler room. The children were busy making their Christmas stars for you at home and have loved exploring different materials like paint and glitter. We finished off the year with our Christmas Party packed with more Christmas themed activities and fun - we hope parents enjoyed themselves as much as we did!



With the last of the decorations down our toddler room has been updated with fresh resources and objects for the children to help your child's first word development.

We are looking forward to lots of fun this term as we explore our new focus book 'First words' together. Children will be exploring sensory trays with one word objects and enjoy playing with new activities such as with cars on ramps and in paint. Hearing an objects name whilst seeing and playing with it through these engaging activities is a really effective way of introducing and helping children remember first words.

Repetition is also really important. Children need to hear new words lots of times before they remember them and are able to say them properly, so we'll keep saying the words we are introducing through a variety of activities and throughout the nursery day. Repeating experiences in this way will enable children to have plenty of chances to try out things they are learning and the related words.

Naming two objects together and asking children to choose one is another way to encourage use of their new words. For example 'Would you like an apple or a banana?'

All of these strategies can be used to support your child's learning at home and if you'd like more ideas, we're happy to help.



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Two-Three Room

We had a fantastic December filled with so many exciting Christmas activities, including our Christmas party which included a visit from Father Christmas and his Elf. We loved sharing it with parents this year and hope you enjoyed it too. Children returned at the beginning of term to find it full of animals! They've enjoyed playing with a variety of activities and sharing our new focus books 'Old MacDonal had a Farm' and 'Dear Zoo'. Through their play children have started to categorise animals into groups based on where they belong and their type.



Children are enjoying lively animal based discussions and in particular are enjoying the role playing in our farm shop as they learn new vocabulary related to the topic. We're also helping children develop their language skills by extending their vocabulary beyond the objects by adding one related descriptive word such as 'big, small, fierce, soft'.



Continue the learning at home by talking about your own pets and as your child plays with their toys. We know many parents enjoy walks in the countryside and spotting the different animals and visits to Staunton Farm, Marwell Zoo and Skypark Farm are also a great opportunity to discuss the animals you may see.

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Pre-School Room

December was filled with lots of fun, activities, and celebrations. Children had so much fun decorating the Christmas tree in their home area with tinsel and decorations. We also enjoyed taking part in lots of Christmas-themed activities, including our Christmas party where we enjoyed a visit from Father Christmas and his Elf helper.



As we embrace the coldest season, we are looking forward to another term of learning together starting with some fun and interactive activities as we explore the topical theme of Winter.

Children are enjoying sharing books about arctic animals such as polar bears and foxes and their incredible survival skills in freezing climates. Pre-school children leavers are also enjoying 'The Gruffalo's Child' in preparation for their trip to see the production at the New Theatre Royal.



As the mercury plummets we're also anticipating the arrival of snow and ice in our pre-school room. From painting and building with ice, freeing animals from the ice and making frozen bubbles children will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of experiments. We're sure you'll get lots of tales on how they've experienced changes of state and Arctic conditions first hand!

During this exploration we'll be making observations about our environment to understand how these changes impact on us and our wider world, comparing how we and animals prepare and survive the colder months.

Dates at a glance

World Book Day Stay & Play Sessions

7th March 3:00-4:00pm : Toddler World Book Day Stay & Play

7th March 9:15-10:15am : 2-3's World Book Day Stay & Play

7th March 9:15-10:15am : Pre School World Book Day Stay & Play

Parent Workshop

22nd February 6:45-8:30pm

Understanding Young Children's Behaviour

Nursery Events

4th-8th March : World Book Day

15th March 10:30-11:30am/2:15-3:15pm : Pre-School Mothers' Day Event

12th March 3:00-4:00pm : Toddler Mothers' Day Event

13th March 9:15-10:15am : 2-3's Mothers' Day Event

Holiday and Closure Dates

7th February : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

28th March: 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

29th March : Good Friday

1st April : Easter Monday

6th May : Early May Bank Holiday

27th May : Late May Bank Holiday

Funded Term Time Only

12th –16th February : Half Term Holiday

28th March : Last day of Spring Term

15th April : First day of Summer Term

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

*** ATTENTION ***

Important information - please read

Outdoor clothing

Please ensure your child brings a pair of wellington boots and suitable outdoor wear, including a hat and gloves to keep them warm during outdoor play.

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