



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 21: April 2024

Villiers Road

Issue 21 Summer 2024

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



Dear Parents and Carers

Since our last newsletter the children have had a very busy spring celebrating fun-filled days themed around World Book Day, Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, Mother's Day and World Down Syndrome Day. It has been wonderful to be able to share many of these events with our families too - we hope you enjoyed yourselves!

Survey Results are in! Thank you to parents who completed our recent parental survey helping us to evaluate our practice. We are pleased to say that overall, the results were very positive and we will be sharing responses with parents shortly.

Our dinner plates are also looking more summer like as our lunchtime menu has been updated to feature this seasons ingredients. [Click](#) to view our new menu from our specialist nursery catering supplier and rest assured special dietary requirements will continue to be catered for.

With the recent clock change we are looking forward to the warmer months and lighter nights as well as enjoying more outdoor activities. So this term's learning focus centres around engaging and fun learning activities supporting children's physical development. For further information about what we have been doing and have planned in our nursery rooms, as well as parent workshops and events this term, including our Father's Day events, read on...

Summer Term Newsletter

Staff News



Farewell to Lana

After 9 years at Leapfrog, we bid a sad farewell to Lana, our Finance Manager, who will be taking early retirement to spend more time with her family and dog as well as go travelling to visit her family and friends. We will miss her smiling face but know she will have a great time relaxing and living life to the full. Have fun Lana!



Welcome back Donna!

A warm welcome back to Donna, who will be returning from her maternity leave. Donna is a Level 2 qualified Early Years Practitioner and it's lovely to have her back as a member of our support staff working across both sites.



Introducing Lilly - Nursery Assistant

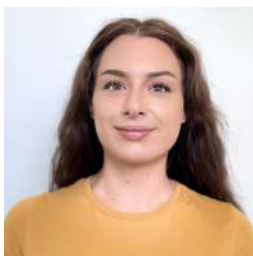
A warm welcome to Lilly who will be working across the nursery rooms.

"With previous nursery experience I'm excited to be working towards my childcare qualifications. In particular, I'm looking forward to working with children of all ages and helping them grow and develop."



Goodbye to Roseanna

Sadly, we said goodbye to Roseanna at the end of January. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role at a nursery closer to her home.



Welcome to Marie - Nursery Practitioner

Marie is a familiar face at Villiers Road as she has been working across both our Yarborough and Villiers nurseries. From April, Marie will join our pre-school team, replacing Roseanna - welcome!



Welcome to Maddie - Nursery Assistant

A warm welcome to Maddie who has joined our 2-3 room.

"With a level 2 in childcare I have always loved working with children, having worked in nurseries and more recently as a Nanny. Witnessing children's growth and personalities develop is fascinating. I am excited to get started!"

Summer Term Newsletter

Family Events

Following last years success, we were delighted to hold another World Book Day 'Stay and Play' event for our families. Staff and children looked fabulous in their costumes and it was wonderful to welcome so many parents to share time with other parents, staff and to see their children interact with their friends in the nursery setting.

Once again they proved to be very popular. If you were unable to attend this term here are some pictures of the sessions to give you a flavour of what you can expect. We hope you can join us next time!



During March all children really enjoyed making a special Mother's 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 making floral bouquets together. The 2-3 room also enjoyed playing with the flowers, pouring flavoured tea and decorating hearts and 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!

All Daddies are invited to join us at nursery for our special event to celebrate Father's Day this June. Events will be held during the week of the 10th June with different events being hosted in each room. If you child doesn't attend on the day, you are very welcome to bring your child in and join us for the duration of the event.

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

Staff Team Training

Staff enthusiastically developed their knowledge of how music can support development in communication, language, expressive arts, creativity, self-expression and early reading. Helen Mead from Portsmouth Music Hub joined our latest staff training to share a new initiative to support teaching and learning in Early Years settings, aligned with the aims of the National Plan for Music Education.



As we implement 'musicing around' in the nursery we will be sharing some new resources with the children. We have some shiny new chime bars and noisy shaky eggs as well as lycra and stretchy bungee ropes to use as we sing some new songs together.

Our second staff session covered how to support young children's behaviour in parallel with the parent workshop delivered last term. Providing useful insight into why children react the way they do, this workshop explored a variety of ideas and strategies to help support children in dealing with their emotions confidently during difficult moments.

We received fantastic feedback from both staff, parents and some parents who missed the session have requested we re-run it again. To help us gauge interest and arrange dates accordingly, please let us know if you would be interested.

Parents who fed back to us with what they would say to other parents about the workshop said:

- *'Definitely recommend - distils information rather than reading a heap of parenting books'*
- *'Do it! Makes you feel normal but better equipped!'*
- *'Very insightful as to how children approach things and how to work with them'*

School Readiness Parent Workshop

4th June 6:45-8:30pm

Our workshop this term is for pre-school leaver parents, providing useful tips and advice on all aspects involved in preparing your child for school. In addition, you'll have an opportunity to ask questions and to meet parents of children attending the same school.

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

Family Assist

As part of our collaboration with parents, we frequently share resources to assist our families. This term we are introducing a new initiative managed and delivered by the Healthy Child Programme at Solent NHS Trust.

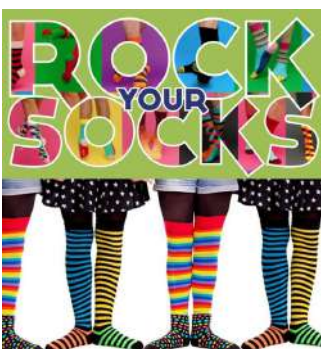


Families across Portsmouth and Southampton cities and the Isle of Wight can now benefit from this free, comprehensive, easy to access service from their local health professionals, providing information up to the age of 3, with more guidance for older children already in development.

The digital portal can be accessed at any time, from a phone, tablet or PC and will deliver key pieces of information by e-mail to registered users at the relevant stages throughout pregnancy and the different stages of a child's life.

They can also connect with local professionals to ask a question and receive an email response within two working days so families can receive timely, reliable and relevant information. Parents and carers can also invite their relatives and friends to join them so that they can receive the same information and ask questions. This is a great way to include partners who can sometimes feel like they aren't included in the parenting journey.

How to sign up to Family Assist Anyone can sign up to Family Assist by visiting the portal and [creating an account](#). Once an account has been created, users will be guided through an online form where they will be asked for some key information about their pregnancy, if they are expecting a baby, or their child if they have already been born. This information will form your 'Pathway Record' which will be used to ensure you receive the key information that your local health teams would like for you to see, at the time it is relevant and important.



On the 21st March in support of one of our nursery children, staff and children wore their craziest, funkiest socks to nursery as we joined in with the Portsmouth Down Syndrome Associate's 'Rock Your Socks' campaign to increase public awareness and end the stereotypes often linked with people who have Down's Syndrome. We were delighted to be able to join in as it was lovely to see all the odd socks and bright coloured socks that the children wore on the day!

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Toddler Room

It's been a busy few months in our Toddler room with the introduction of fresh, Spring and Easter themed activities. Children have shown lots of interest in the 'That's not my lamb' and 'That's not my bunny' books. They have particularly enjoyed exploring the different textures in the book with their fingers and suspense when turning each new page. They have been excitedly joining in with 'Old Macdonald' animal noises and matching toys with the animals in the book. Some children have also delighted in using related first words including 'E-I-E-I-O' as we sing together.



In the coming weeks we'll be building on the toddlers' recent interest in textures as they 'get messy' developing fine motor skills with sensory experiences using mashed potato and cooked spaghetti. The messy play continues as our budding bakers also use their fine motor skills to ice, pick up and place items as they decorate biscuits (and have a little nibble!). We're looking forward to seeing wonderful creations!

Anticipate lots of giggling and glee as toddlers crawl through, over and around their new tents and tunnels in the room. These amazing athletes will be getting physical, developing their gross motor skills, coordination and body awareness with activities indoors and out. In addition to our own movement we're also enjoying discovering movement of vehicles supported by nursery rhymes such as 'Row, Row, Row your boat' and 'Wheels on the bus' and the story 'Zoom, Zoom'.

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Two-Three Room

With Easter approaching, children enjoyed activities relating to our focus story 'Going on an egg hunt' book. We loved acting out the story with our friends as we found the eggs and collected them in our baskets.

Making tasty chocolate nests was also a big hit as children were able to develop their hand to eye co-ordination along with fine motor skills breaking up chocolate, stirring the ingredients together and scooping spoonfuls of mixture into cake cases.

We were delighted with our marble eggs which we created by rolling painted marbles over our eggs. This was a fun way to create a pretty effect whilst developing our shoulder and elbow pivot movements used in early mark making.



This term children have experienced more activities linked to our Budding Baker curriculum goal starting with jam tarts where children have enjoyed using different utensils to roll, press, cut and spoon jam into their tart cases. Perfect for a picnic, just like the teddy bears in our new focus book 'Teddy Bear's Picnic'.

Building on the children's recent interest in 'Going on an egg hunt' we are bringing 'Going on a bear hunt' to life this term. They will be able to discover the bear cave in our role play area and have fun acting out the story together. We will have lots of other related activities where we'll be joining in with it's well known repeated phrases supporting children's communication and introducing positional language.

As the weather warms up, we're looking forward to taking our role play outdoors with bear hunts, snack time picnics and story time in the garden. Following on from the children's interest in the 'Hungry Caterpillar' we are eager to watch our own caterpillars growing before releasing the butterflies in our wild area outside.

The 'big garden' is always an exciting place for the children with lots of space to play with friends and we are excited to be able to spend more time outside climbing, sliding, cycling, running and enjoying accessories such as hoops and balls together.

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Pre-School Room

We were thrilled to welcome parents to our World Book Day 'Stay and Play' event this term with activities inspired by the '[Little People, Big Dreams](#)' biographies. We enjoyed practicing the skills of scientists, activists, creatives and political figures including colour mixing, creating perfume, making junk model musical instruments, fabric paint designing as well as making erupting volcanos and exploding film cannisters!



Older pre-school children continued their science exploration with a 'journey through space' at The Portsmouth Academy. A huge thank you to Millie's mum for inviting us to the science show during British Science Week - we loved the solar system and rocket launches!



We ended the term celebrating the Easter festival with related activities such as experiencing the reversible state of chocolate whilst making tasty Easter nests. We also hopped around an egg hunt, following maps to find stickers and treats left for us by the Easter Bunny!

This week Shanice, our Deputy Team Leader, will be telling us about another Spring festival, Eid. We'll be dressing up in traditional clothing, doing henna art and making some delicious Samosas.

An active Summer is planned focusing on physical activity and growth learning about fascinating mini-beasts using our wormeries, related books and raising and feeding our own caterpillars. Our own physical activity will come into it's own as we focus on our Amazing Athlete curriculum goal with an Olympic theme. Inspired by the 2024 games and the book '[The Frog Olympics](#)' we will be practicing our sporting skills to develop our gross motor skills with our own rabbit-worthy Leapfrog Olympics and learn more about the health benefits physical activities can bring us all.

Dates at a glance

Parent Workshops

4th June 6:45-8:30pm : School Readiness Workshop (school leavers)

Nursery Events

11th June 4:00-5:30pm : Pre school Fathers' Day Event

12th June 4:00-5:30pm : 2-3's Fathers' Day Event

13th June 4:00-5:30pm : Toddler Fathers' Day Event

19th June AM : Pre school Leavers Butterfly House Trip (details to follow)

18th July 2:15-4:00pm : Pre school Leavers Party

Holiday and Closure Dates

6th May : Early May Bank Holiday

27th May : Spring Bank Holiday

21st May : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

17th July : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

26th August : Summer Bank Holiday

Term Dates

27th May-31st May : Half Term Holiday (funded term time only)

19th July : Last day of Summer Term (funded term time only)

30th 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

Sun cream

In warmer weather 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

Replace wooly hats for sunhat, 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

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 do not bring 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

Children can be accompanied into their room between 8:00-8:45am/1:00-1:15pm. After 8:45am/1:15pm a member of staff will collect your child from the main door.

Morning sessions start at 8:45am so please ensure you have vacated and do not enter the room after this time.

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.

Handovers on collection provide a brief summary of the child's day.

To avoid delays to parents and to ensure staff can support children still in nursery, please book a separate appointment for any in-depth discussions as required.



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

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