



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 21: April 2024

Yarborough Road

Issue 21 Summer 2024

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Yarborough 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 and Mother's Day. It's 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 and insights including tips to support your child's physical skills, as well as parent workshops and events this term, including our Father's Day events, read on...

Summer Term Newsletter

Staff News



Congratulations on your retirement Sherrell

After nearly 16 years as our Nursery Administrator, Sherrell is retiring. We will all miss her but know she'll have a great time gardening and enjoying spending more time with her dog, family and friends. We wish you a wonderful retirement Sherrell!



Welcome to the Admin Team Sam!

Sam is a familiar face in our under 2's room and will continue as a practitioner in the room on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday mornings she'll be putting on her 'administrator' hat to support our office team from April.



Good Luck to Marie - Nursery Practitioner

Marie has been working across both our Yarborough and Villiers nurseries and will be joining the pre-school Villiers Road team permanently after the Easter break.



Farewell to Stella

Sadly, we said goodbye to Stella at the end of March as she leaves us due to re-locating with her family. We wish her all the best of luck in her new home and in her future career.



All change for Debby!

A change for Debby as she moves from the Over 2's to join our Under 2's team continuing her role as key worker with our younger children.



Welcome back to Ben and Sadie

A couple of familiar faces have re-joined Leapfrog. Join us in extending a warm welcome back to Leapfrog to Ben and Sadie, joining as key workers in our Over 2's team. They are both excited to be back, seeing familiar faces and looking forward to getting to know you and your children.



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. 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 bears 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 10th June - see details for your child's room below. If your child doesn't attend on the day you're very welcome to bring your child in and join us for the duration of the event.

10th June 3:00-4:00pm : Baby & Toddler Father's Day

14th June 3:00-4:00pm : Rising 3's & Pre School Father's Day 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'd like to introduce 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 your account has been created, you will be guided through an online form where you will be asked for some key information about your pregnancy, if you are expecting a baby, or your 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.

Parent Visits at Leapfrog

Last term we welcomed some special visitors; Joaquim's Daddy who shared his job as a personal trainer, putting us through our paces with an exercise session. Alfie's, Anya's and Alex's Mummies also visited to share Chinese New Year activities.

Pre-schoolers threw themselves into dragon dancing and making 'pot noodles' using different cooking techniques. A big thank you to you all. We are so grateful that you could join us to share your jobs and cultures. If you would like to come into nursery, please contact the nursery so we can arrange a visit.



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

Summer Term Newsletter

Baby and Toddler Room

We started the term with some fun bear related activities as the toddlers had enjoyed 'Going on a bear hunt' and 'Teddy Bears Picnic' books so much. Later in the term they enjoyed exploring a variety of spring and Easter related sensory activities and they have also been excitedly joining in with spring time action songs such as 'Little Peter Rabbit' and 'Sleeping Bunnies'.



In the coming weeks we'll be building on the toddler's 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!

The fun continues as children are encouraged to get physical, developing their gross motor skills, coordination and body awareness. We anticipate lots of giggling and glee as they crawl through, over and around tunnels and tents and join in with catchy action songs such as 'Hop little bunny' and 'Wind the bobbin' together. As the sunshine arrives (hopefully) we will of course, be making the most of our outdoor play areas too.

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Over 2's

We had so much fun last term in our over 2's room! During Portsmouth aspiration week, children discovered more about famous people who have connections with our City. From Henry VIII's boat building where we enjoyed sinking and floating experiments, to being engineers - just like Brunel, we built our own junk models. This led to an interest in different jobs grown-ups have with the over 2's enjoying being vets, doctors and librarians in their role play.

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

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.



The term ended celebrating the Easter festival with related activities such as hopping around an egg hunt, following maps to find stickers and treats left for us by the Easter bunny! We also experienced the reversible state of chocolate whilst making tasty Easter nests. These 'budding bakers' have also been actively learning to use graters, vegetable peelers and knives, knead dough and honing their rolling and cutting skills.

We have lots of summer activities planned relating to the topic of growth and decay. We are eager to raise and feed our own caterpillars. Take a look each day and join us watching them grow and change week-by-week before we release them into the wild! Children will be sharing our new focus book '[Jasper's Beanstalk](#)' along with the traditional tale of 'Jack and the beanstalk'. With seeds to sow and to grow ready to plant out at home we will be using early mathematics to measure and see if our sunflowers can grow as tall as Jasper's beanstalk!

Dates at a glance

Parent Workshops

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

Nursery Events

10th June 3:00-4:00pm : Baby & Toddler Father's Day Event

14th June 3:00-4:00pm : Rising 3's & Pre School Father's Day Event

20th June AM : Pre-school Leavers Butterfly House Trip (details to follow)

19th July 3:15-5:00pm : Pre-school Leavers Party

Holiday and Closure Dates

6th May : Early May Bank Holiday

27th May : Spring Bank Holiday

23rd May : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

16th 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

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.

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,



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

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