



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 22: September 2024

Villiers Road

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Leapfrog Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Autumn term newsletter, and as always, a very warm welcome to all the new families who have recently joined us. We hope you enjoy and find our newsletters useful. If you have any suggestions for improvement we are always eager to hear! In the meantime, here's an introduction/reminder of what you can expect inside each edition:

- * Dates and details of family events each term, with easy online booking, holidays and closures and at a glance page so that you don't miss a thing
- * Staffing updates to ensure you're familiar with different faces in the nursery
- * Special events to help raise funds for our chosen charities
- * Inspiration and insight into how families and Leapfrog can support children's learning together
- * Dedicated room pages with insights into what your child has been experiencing recently and what's coming up next

Children and staff are also very excited when parents or grandparents visit us to share an occupation, skill or knowledge. In previous terms we've heard about family Olympic history, the RNLI, learnt ball skills, joined in with cultural celebrations such as Diwali and Chinese New Year to name a few!

If this is something you'd like to be involved with, please let the office or room leaders know so that we can arrange this.

Staff News



Welcome to Sofia

A warm welcome to Sofia, who has joined our 2-3 Room as level 3 qualified key worker. Sofia joins us from a London nursery where she has worked for 2 years before moving to Portsmouth this Summer.

Introducing Holly and Nina

We'll be seeing more of the familiar faces that are Holly and Nina as they join the Leapfrog team. As they continue with their university studies, they'll also be providing regular supply cover across the nursery over the coming months.



Amy and Donna Job Share

Following maternity leave two of our very experienced and qualified staff, Amy and Donna returned as supply members of staff. We are delighted to announce that, as of September, they will be sharing a key worker job role in our 2-3 room.

Congratulations!

We are all so very proud and delighted for Caitlin who has completed her university degree. Whilst studying Caitlin was a supply member of staff and we are thrilled that she has chosen to join our toddler team as a key worker on a permanent basis.



Huge congratulations to Melissa and Ella who tied the knot at their gorgeous Summer wedding. Having met whilst working at Leapfrog we are excited to be part of their story and wish them both a lifetime of happiness together.



Farewell to Lilly, Fran, Ray and Zoe

We bid farewell to Lilly from our pre-school team, Fran and Ray from our 2-3 team and Zoe from our toddler team, who have recently left Leapfrog. We are missing them already and send out best wishes to them all with their future careers with two of the staff going on to be early years teachers.

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together



It is well known that connecting with nature boost children's physical, social and mental development. And it's lots of fun too. Feeling a snail's smooth shell, digging and mixing mud and splashing water: it's moments like these that help children grow and connect with nature and the natural world.

Throughout the nursery day our practitioners use their knowledge to ensure that every opportunity is used to encourage your child's connection with nature in fun and engaging ways to support their development within the nursery curriculum. Taking inspiration from the '[National Trust's 50 things to do before you're 11¾](#)', staff planned seasonal experiences for children to explore and enjoy nature in our outdoor spaces. Helping children become planet protectors, they build an awareness of different environments, habitats and living things and through this, are learning how to look after nature.

As revealed in a study commissioned by the National Trust, nature language is being overtaken by uses referring to digital technology, especially among younger generations. Words such as: tweet, web, stream, cloud being related to messaging, data and online media rather than birds, spiders, rivers and skies. To combat this as children become skillful communicators, activities have been carefully designed to encourage children's use of language for the natural world.

Take a look through the links above for activities to do together at home and our room pages to see what the children got up to over the summer and to learn how these activities will continue into the Autumn term. We hope that by engaging children in nature during this early age of fascination and wonder, they will continue to discover and explore it far beyond their early years.

Halloween Stay and Play Sessions

These sessions held during the nursery day offer parents a fabulous opportunity to see your child learning through Halloween themed activities alongside their friends in the nursery setting. Discover how these activities support your child's development and leave with seasonal ideas and fun activities to continue the learning together with your child at home.

2-3's | Wednesday 23rd October 9:30-11:00

Toddlers | Wednesday 23rd October 2:45-4:00

Pre school | Friday 25th October 9:30-11:00

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](#).

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

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 **Wednesday 2nd 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, Grandparents are welcome to come along bringing them with them. 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



Be sure to circle this year's BBC Children in Need Day, week commencing **11th 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.

2024 School Applications

A reminder that Year R applications open on the 4th November 2025 and must be made by the 15th January 2025. For admission details click [here](#).

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

Toddler Room

As babies grow, they move beyond being content to simply feel and ponder objects, wanting to find out what can be done with them with an appetite to handle things: to gather, fill, dump, stack, knock down, select and manipulate in other ways. To satisfy their growing curiosity and development Toddlers have been engrossed in exploring a range of everyday objects for themselves. Without intervention they have wandered, touched and explored items such as shells, tins, dolly pegs, shiny materials, pots, beads, wooden rings and tubes.

This form of learning is referred to as 'Heuristic' play and is rooted in young children's natural curiosity. It's a fabulous way of supporting children's concentration, creativity, problem solving alongside developing gross motor skills.

For example, during play things may not go to plan— children may try to post something that is too big into a box, they might try to roll something that simply can't roll. They will learn about physical properties of objects and also learn how to formulate solutions through trial and error.



Come along and discover more by watching your child during a 30 minute heuristic play session at one of our Stay and Play sessions on **Thursday 7th November from 9:30-10:30.**

And for information about Heuristic play and details of what objects and how to undertake a heuristic play session at home we hope you find this [link](#) useful.

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

Two-Three Room

With the arrival of Summer, 2-3's took full advantage and headed to our garden exploring mud play, splashing in water, snail hunting and enjoying the wonderful sunshine when it arrived.



Learning about families is really important in helping children's understanding of the world and their place in it. As some of our children are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a sibling, we have a particular focus on this theme this term. Starting with the story 'Owl Babies' where older children are encouraged to join in with the repeated phrases from the story and all children are enjoying exploring the props and puppets in our themed book area. We'll be visiting the garden to make collections of leaves, twigs and feathers and will introduce mathematical language as we talk about the collections we've made in terms of size and quantity. Later in the term our focus book will be 'Tales from Acorn Wood' where we'll be sharing different stories about more forest animals. We're sure your children be excited to tell you all about Postman Bear, Fox and Socks and Rabbits Nap which we'll be sharing with them through more fun activities.

REMINDER: At Leapfrog we support exploring this theme by encouraging children to share pictures from their 'Me and My World' sheet. If you need to complete, update a sheet or need any help uploading images please speak to your child's key worker.

Pre School Room

What a fun and busy Summer with different nurturing nature themed activity weeks, including mud glorious mud, flower power and water play. We were lucky enough to enjoy a visit from Erin's dad where we practiced our ball skills too. Those 6 weeks whizzed by!



We are embracing Autumn continuing with the nature theme, exploring nature's seasonal changes including how and why some animals hibernate during the Winter.

Children have started to explore 'The Gruffalo' with related activities designed to support their development. Our dedicated Gruffalo area has already sparked their interest and excitement as they learn about the characters in the story, joining in with the repeated phrases. Children have also enjoyed selecting and using musical instruments to represent each character as they develop their listening and attention skills. An aspect of early phonics, first letters and sounds.



We can't wait to unveil our 'Gruffalo café' where children will have the opportunity to develop their skills with one handed tools as they prepare 'Scrambled Snake' 'Owl ice-cream' and 'Roasted Fox'. The highlight, no doubt, will be the classic 'Gruffalo crumble' when children will make their own apple crumble, where they can put the skills they've developed to good (and tasty!) use.

One of children's favorite activities at the start of the term has been using our new light sabers to develop strength co-ordination and control in their arms as part of the early stages of getting ready to write.

To discover more about phonological awareness in the early years and how to support your child join us for our parent workshop: Phase 1 Letters and Sounds for over 3's being held on

Tuesday 12th November from 6:45-8:30 pm.

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

DATES AT A GLANCE

Nursery Events

2nd October 9:30-11:00am : Grandparents Day

21st October : Halloween Activity Week

w/c **11th November 3:45-5:15pm** : Children in Need

Christmas Parties : Details to follow

Parent Workshop / Stay & Play Sessions

23rd October 9:30-11:00am : 2-3's **2:45-4:00pm** : Toddlers

25th October 9:30-11:00am : Pre school

7th November 9:30-10:30am : Toddler Heuristic Stay and Play

12th November 6:45-8:30pm : Parent Workshop Phase 1 Letters & Sounds
(Over 3's)

Closure Dates

10th October : Closed 4:00pm for staff training

13th December : Closed 4:00pm for staff training

Stretched / All Year Round

20th December : Last day of Autumn term

2nd January : First day of Spring term

Funded Term Time Only

25th October : Last day of first half term

4th November : First day of second half term

13th December : Last day of Autumn term

6th 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.



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