



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 22: September 2024

Yarborough Road

Issue 22 Autumn 2024

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Yarborough Road



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 is 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 are 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 is 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 have learnt about first aid, sport and balls skills, music and singing and joined in with cultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year to name a few!

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

Staff News



Welcome to Paola

A very warm welcome to Paola, who has joined our pre-school team as a level 3 qualified key-worker. Originally from Italy, Paola lives in Portsmouth with her husband and joins us from a nursery just outside the city where she has worked for three years.

Aisha joins the pre-school team

Aisha, who has been working in the under 2's room, joins the pre-school team and will be job sharing with Paola. Aisha, who has completed her level 5 BTEc qualification in Education and Training, is looking forward to working with the older children, helping them as they get ready to go to school next year.



Rose joins the under 2's team

Rose, who has been Team Leader of the Over 2's room for the past 2 years, is joining the Under 2's team as Team Leader alongside Claire.

Staff Promotions!

We are delighted to announce that Becky and Chantelle have recently received promotions. For the past 2 years Becky, our Deputy Manager and SENCo, has been undertaking her Apprenticeship in Educational Leadership and Management gaining valuable office and management experience whilst Angela has been working as Team Leader in 2-3's and pre-school. Angela will continue to work in the 2-3 room as Team leader and Deputy Manager. Becky will take on the management role formally this term as she works towards completing her Apprenticeship as part of her Master's Degree.



As one of our experienced and qualified key workers, Chantelle has been promoted to Pre-school Team Leader. She is very much looking forward to working with her team and has been joining Ben who has been busy organising, preparing for transition across the road later this term.



Farewell to Debby and Thanushya

We bid farewell to Debby and to our supply student Thanushya who have recently left Leapfrog. Debbie is pursuing a new opportunity in childcare whilst Thanushya, who has recently graduated from the University of Portsmouth, has moved out of the area to embark on a new career.

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 is 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

Open to all parents, these sessions during the nursery day offer a fabulous opportunity to see your child actively learning through Halloween themed activities alongside their friends in the nursery setting. Discover how these activities link in with our nursery curriculum to support your child's development. Leave with seasonal ideas and fun activities to do together with your child at home.

Babies and Toddlers | Tuesday 22nd October 3:00-4:00pm

Over 2's | Thursday 24th October 9:30-10:30am

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](#).

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 3rd 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



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](#).

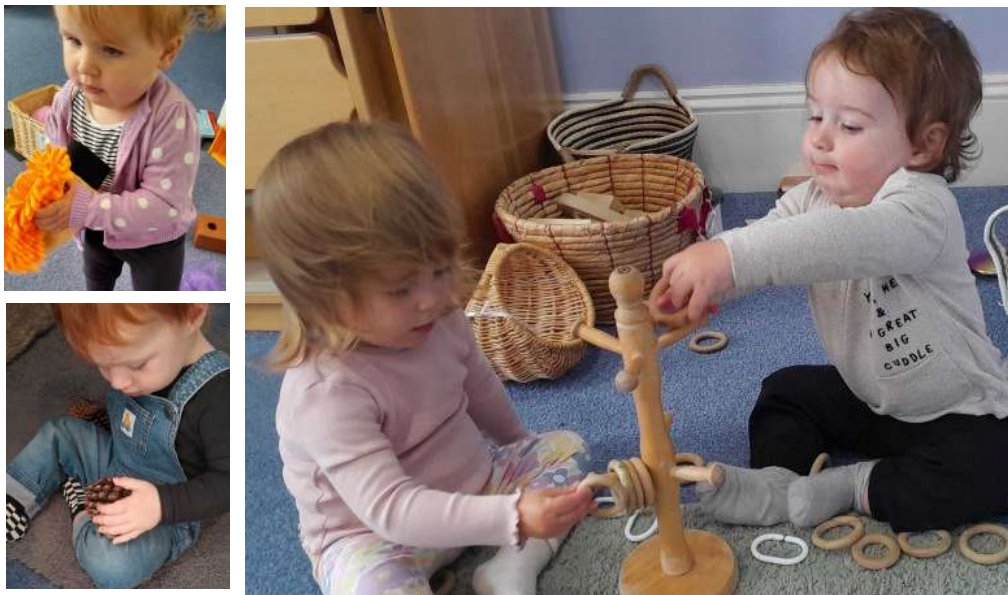
Autumn Newsletter

Babies and Toddler Room

This summer the toddlers have been actively exploring the outdoors environment including exploring nature in our garden and visiting Victoria Park. The children used their gross motor movements to splash in muddy puddles and play in the park.

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 fill, empty, stack, knock down, select and manipulate in different 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, fabrics, 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.

To discover more about Heuristic play and to see a session in action, please come and join us

Wednesday 27th November from 9:30-10:30

Autumn Newsletter

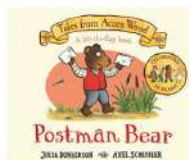
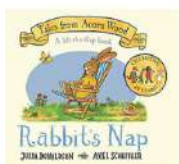
Over 2's Room

We have had a wonderfully fun summer with children in the over 2's room exploring different nurturing nature activities, including mud play, Hapa Zome (transferring natural dyes from flowers on to fabric using hammers), perfume making and flower crowns. Alongside this the children loved exploring their interest in dinosaurs, creating their own fossils, making dinosaur eggs and playing in the dinosaur museum they created.



2-3's

As we start the autumn term we wanted to share with you some of the communication activities that we have planned which also link to the mathematical concept of positional language. Using 'in, under, on and up' we will be joining in together singing songs such as '5 little monkeys jumping on the bed' and 'Dingle Dangle scarecrow'. Click [here](#) for links if you are unfamiliar with these songs and would like to sing along with your child at home.



Our focus stories this term will be the different books from 'Tales of Acorn Wood'. We will be learning about the different forest animals. We are sure your children will be eager to tell you about 'Rabbit's Nap', 'Fox and Socks' and 'Postman Bear' which we will be sharing with them through exciting linked activities.

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

Pre-school

With the end of the summer children have been talking about visiting different beaches and parks so we have started the term reading Shark in the Park, encouraging children's early literature skills through listening to the story, waiting for the prompt before the children join in with the repeated phrase.



As Autumn approaches we are continuing with the nature themed activities the children took part in over the summer and, linked to our planet protector, we will be exploring seasonal changes including how and why some animals hibernate during the winter and what we can do to help by making bird feeders.

The children have been developing their listening and attention skills linked to early phonics by exploring and tuning in to instrumental sounds. They have liked exploring different instruments and how we can play them to make long, short, quiet and loud sounds. The children will be extending their early phonics skills by linking instruments to 'The Gruffalo' story where they can represent the different characters through music.

To discover more about phonological awareness in the early years and how to support your child, please join us for our parent workshop: Phase 1 Letters and Sounds for over 3's being held on **Wednesday 13th November from 6:45-8:30pm.**

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.

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

DATES AT A GLANCE

Nursery Events

3rd October : 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

22nd October 3:00-4:00 : Babies and Toddlers

24th October 9:30-10:30 : Over 2's

13th November 18:45-20:30 : Phase One Letters and Sounds (Over 3's)

27th November 9:30-10:30 : Heuristic Play (Babies and Toddlers)

Closure Dates

14th 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.



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

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