



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 23: January 2025

Villiers Road

Issue 23 Spring 2025

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you have all had the most magical Christmas and 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, we were all very touched by the generosity of our children and families. As always, we extend a very warm welcome to our new families joining us throughout January - we look forward to getting to know you all better as you and your child settle in at Leapfrog.

Children and staff have had a busy start to the New Year with lots more planned for this term, including activities to celebrate Chinese New Year, World Book Day, Mother's Day and World Down Syndrome Day, details of which can be found within this newsletter.

We do hope you enjoy and find our newsletters useful. If you have any suggestions for improvement we're always eager to hear! In the meantime, here's a reminder of what you can expect inside each edition:

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

So grab a cuppa while you catch up with the fun times the children and staff are having and click to book on any events you'd like to come along to as we'd love to see you there!

Spring Term Newsletter

Staff News



Goodbye Sophie

Congratulations to Sophie who recently bought her first house. Sadly this means that after 7 years working at both our Yarborough and Villiers Road nurseries, Sophie will be leaving us at the end of January moving to a work location closer to her new home. She will be missed and we wish her all the best for 2025 as she settles in to both a new job and new home.



Farewell to Holly

We said goodbye to Holly this December as she left us to spend some time travelling before she pursues her career in marine biology. We've loved working with her at Leapfrog and wish her all the best with her inter-railing adventures and in her future career.



Congratulations to Tia

Christmas came early for Tia with the arrival of her beautiful baby boy, Seven. We were thrilled to hear that Tia and Seven are both doing well and that Star is thoroughly enjoying being the best big sister!



Welcome to Aybeza - Housekeeper and Lunchtime Supervisor

Aybeza joins our fantastic housekeeping team ensuring a clean and hygienic learning environment for the children and staff. Aybeza will be covering Tia during her maternity leave supporting our toddler and 2-3's room.



Welcome to Stacy

A warm welcome to Stacy, who has joined the Leapfrog team as a nursery assistant. You may see her upstairs in the 2-3 room where she's starting her training.



See you soon Nina

As part of her QTS Qualified Teacher studies will be leaving us to undertake a student placement in a school February to June but will return to work with us before she completes her final year of studies.

Spring Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

Chat, Play, Read

We'd like to introduce the 'Chat, Play, Read' scheme. Rolled out by the National Literacy Trust to promote and provide guidance and tips on how to support your child's early language development at home.

Chatting together about everyday activities, playing and cosying up with a book are fun. These are also excellent ways to enable development of these early language skills which will form the building blocks for their future learning.

A booklet designed for parents to use at home is available to view online [here](#) with details of age related activities linked to chat, play, read. There is also the option of signing up to the 'Words for Life' family newsletter. Hardcopies of the booklet are also available in our foyer.

To provide more insight into this initiative we'll be running evening Communication and Language workshops for parents. The first will be held on Tuesday 11th March from 18:45-20:30 for parents of children under 3. Our second workshop for over 3's will follow early in the Summer term.

Portsmouth City Council Early Years team are rolling out their own version of the scheme which we will be sharing with you. Look out for our updated 'Leapfrog and Families Learning Together' board for further details and tips to support your child as they practice their literacy skills at home and bolster what they are learning in nursery.

Some of the things to look forward to are:

- Chat - Top tips for talking will be shared each month along with links to access online
 - Play - See how children are learning through play at nursery along with fun, affordable ideas for local play and learning inspiration for your 0-4 year olds in Portsmouth
- [50 Things to do Before You're 5](#)**
- Read - See the 15 recommended books compiled by Early Years and Portsmouth Library service with insights into how we are sharing stories and rhymes at nursery as well as sharing simple, tips and activities for you to continue the learning at home



To book your place on our Stay & Plays and Workshops simply click [here](#).

Spring Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

World Book Day

We are looking forward to this years 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 3rd March.

On Thursday 6th March we are hosting our popular Book Day Stay and Play sessions where you are invited to come into the nursery and 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. 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!

Mother's Day Events

To celebrate Mother's Day the children would like to invite their Mummy's to a fun event at the nursery. Events will be held from the 25-27th March with different events being hosted in each room including a toddler's teddy bear's picnic, 2-3's creative sensory and a pre-school mother's day café. *Please note that there is a maximum of 1 adult per family and due to limited space we are unable to accommodate siblings for this event.*

Royal Navy Visitor



Last week Edith's daddy, James was our first nursery visitor of 2025. The preschool children heard all about the Royal Navy ship James has worked on and the people he works with. He also showed us on a map which countries ships travel from to bring goods to us including haribo and bananas. We also spotted Australia where Bluey is from. Key worker Marie was transformed into an Admiral and we had great fun marching in line and saluting her as we passed! We had a great time and are so grateful to James for visiting us.

Lunar New Year

This week we have another visitor as we welcome Elliot's mum to our pre-school room. We can't wait to hear about the story of the Zodiac and about how their family celebrate Lunar New Year with cultural traditions. Children will be learning all about Lunar New Year with activities throughout the week of the 27th January.

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

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Charity of the term

Children in Need

Children loved sharing their artwork in our November art gallery. Local artist, My Dog Sighs gave a big thumbs up of our pre-school children's version of his 'Hug' artwork. Thank you to everyone who donated tasty cakes for our cake sale as well as purchasing your child's artwork - together we raised a total of £557.00 for a great cause.



Rock Your Socks!

Leo meets HRS The Duke of Edinburgh



We were excited to hear that in November 2024 Leo, one of our Nursery children, met His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on his visit to officially open the Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association Centre. The Duke enjoyed a tour of the facility, learning about the vast range of services and initiatives aimed at building skills, confidence and ambition. Leo demonstrated how the early development groups run, with an animal theme which the Duke very enthusiastically participated in!

We have chosen to support Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association as our charity of the term. Please join us by participating in the 'Rock Your Socks' campaign on **Friday 21st March**. Children (and staff!) are invited to come to Nursery in their craziest, funkiest socks. Any donations are very welcome!

Why socks in March? Individuals with Down syndrome have an extra copy of chromosome 21, so three instead of the usual two. This is why World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated each year on 21st of the third month (March). The shape of a pair of socks mirrors the shape of the chromosomes, hence why we rock our socks!

Spring Term Newsletter

Toddler Room

December was a very exciting month as we celebrated Christmas together, including our party when parents joined us for some festive activities and tasty party snacks. We loved sharing this with you and hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!



Recognising that toddlers simply can't resist messy play we are introducing a variety of play activities to engage your child's senses this term - providing them with a developmental opportunity using smell, taste, touch, sound and sight to further their understanding of the world and how they can interact within it.

Toddlers showed how much they love a water activity as they excitedly splashed, scooped and poured citrus water in and out of different containers and discovered the lemon and lime slices, touching and squeezing the fruit and exploring it with their mouths. Safe to say they found the taste sour and for those who have never tasted lemon or lime before it certainly was an experience!

They've also enjoyed feeling the different textures as they've searched for the animals hidden amongst the cooked spaghetti and painting using different materials and tools.



Messiest of all was the foam! Using paint brushes to mix the foam and crazy soap before 'painting' designs and delighting in manipulating and exploring the mixture with their hands.

Play dough is another fabulous sensory activity which you may enjoy making and playing with together at home. Knowing that toddlers tend to explore with their mouths, we wanted to share the advice that we follow to reduce health risks of consuming raw flour which you may not be aware of. Full details are available from the Food Standards Agency [here](#).

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Two-Three Room

This term children have been enjoying our new focus book 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm' joining in with the rhyme as they learn about different farm animals and sounds. We have introduced a Farm Shop role play area where children will have the opportunity to shop for fruit and vegetables which they can then 'cook' in their new kitchen. Since it was installed, children have been excitedly chatting with their friends as they engage and develop their language, communication and social skills as they explore the new appliances and role play together.



These activities have been a fun way of introducing words relating to animals, fruit, vegetables and cooking. As the term progresses we'll be helping children develop their language skills by extending their vocabulary beyond the objects by adding one related descriptive word such as 'big, small, soft, heavy'.

With Chinese New Year, Valentines Day and Shrove Tuesday coming up this term we thought this was the perfect time to provide children with some seasonal cooking experiences. Rolling out and cutting biscuit dough, decorating cakes and making pretend pancakes using flour and water we are looking forward to some very tasty treats!

For World Book Day week activities will continue to support language development around the theme of cooking and foods related to the Very Hungry Caterpillar which is always popular with the children.

Continue the learning at home by adding a descriptive word to object vocabulary. Using real objects and actions helps your child visualise the meaning of the description. For example, allow your child to hold a heavy object and a light object and show your child a large and a small object together using words to describe each in turn.

Spring Term Newsletter

Pre-School Room

We had a fabulously festive December which we were delighted to share with both the children and families. This term is equally packed with more engaging activities relating to children's interests supporting their learning around early numeracy and in particular, number recognition from 1-5.

It's been a noisy but fun start to the term as children have been enjoying the rhythm and rhyme of the story "Tanka Tanka Skunk!" beating their drums as they practice counting the syllables of the different characters names of Tanka and his friends.

Children have been excitedly following the adventures of Evil Pea and the hero 'Supertato' in our focus book and visiting our pre-school 'Supertato Supermarket' in our role play area. Children have been busy little shoppers and shopkeepers matching the quantity of products to the number of items on our list, as well as using early mark making to tick off the items as we go.

During the term children will be able to develop their woodwork skills. Referring to the numbered steps in their 'Pre-school Woodwork Manual' they are learning number sequencing as they tick off their progress as they master each stage as well as matching the number of nails to quantity as they learn to hammer. We can't wait to see all their skills come together as they build their own constructions.



Continue the learning at home, helping your child associate their knowledge of numbers with counting objects during your day-to-day activities such as: asking them to collect a number of objects to add to the trolley; at dinner time ask them to lay out a number of utensils on the table; when cooking ask them to count and match the number of items to the number of ingredients in the recipe before adding them.

Dates at a glance

World Book Day Stay & Play Sessions

6th March 3:00-4:00pm : Toddler World Book Day Stay & Play

6th March 9:15-10:15am : 2-3's World Book Day Stay & Play

6th March 9:15-10:30am : Pre School World Book Day Stay & Play

Parent Workshop

11th March **18:45-20:30** : Play, Chat, Read Workshop (Under 3's)

Nursery Events

3rd-7th March : World Book Day Activity Week

21st March : Rock Your Socks (Charity of the Term)

26th March 9:30-10:30am : Toddler Mothers' Day Event

27th March 9:30-10:30am : 2-3's Mothers' Day Event

28th March 10:30-11:30am : Pre-School Mothers' Day Event

Holiday and Closure Dates

3rd February : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

3rd April : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

18th April : Good Friday

21st April : Easter Monday

5th May : May Bank Holiday

Funded Term Time Only

17th –21st February : Half Term Holiday

4th April : Last day of Spring Term

22nd April : First day of Summer 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 Health and Safety Information

Collections

During the Winter months it takes a little longer to dress your child ready for collection due to the additional layers. Please help us have your child ready for a swift collection by advising when you will be collecting your child and contacting the nursery as soon as possible should timings change.

A reminder that collection times are as follows:
4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30 and anytime up to 6:00pm

Temperature Policy

Recently children have been attending nursery following the administration of Calpol to reduce temperatures. Masking symptoms in this way leads to transfer of infection to other children and staff, with children also feeling unwell when the medication wears off.

Please help us reduce the risk of infection in the nursery by keeping children at home if they have a temperature above 37.8c, even where Calpol has been administered.

Unsafe items in Nursery bag

Recently we have become aware that children's bags have contained unsafe items from home that could pose a risk to other children in the nursery.

It is really important that your child's bag has been checked prior to each visit. Especially when it has been used for other occasions between nursery days.

Mobile and Food Policy

Just a reminder that mobile phone usage is not permitted in the Nursery.

To help us manage children's allergies we request that children finish any foodstuffs prior to entering the building and do not bring food into their rooms.



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

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