



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 23: January 2025

Yarborough Road

Issue 23 Spring 2025

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Yarborough 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 year and have lots to look forward to this term including activities to celebrate Chinese New Year, World Book Day, Mother's Day, 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
- * Special events to help raise funds for our chosen charities
- * Inspiration and insight into families and Leapfrog supporting children's learning together
- * 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



Welcome to Piya, Cheyenne and Felicity

A very warm welcome to Piya, who has joined our baby and toddler team. Originally from India, Piya lives in Portsmouth with her husband and daughter. Piya has just completed her Masters studies in educational leadership and management and as a continuation of her course is on placement at Leapfrog.



Since joining us recently, Cheyenne has been supporting our Babies and toddler room team. As she gains experience across all the age ranges, Cheyenne will be rotating between all of our nursery rooms.



Felicity is another new face you may have seen already. With a wealth of experience, Felicity will be joining Monika supporting our Preschool room as housekeeper and lunchtime assistant.



Our Pre School Team

Following the re-opening of our Preschool room at the beginning of the term we'd like to introduce Chantelle as our Team Leader and Key Worker working alongside our other room Key Worker, Ben.



Farewell to Helen, Georgie and Maddie

Sadly, we have said goodbye to Helen, Georgie and Maddie. We wish them all the best for the future in their new roles in local schools.

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 Thursday 13th 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.*

GP Visit

During aspirations week we welcomed our first visitor of 2025 when Aria's mum visited our pre school room to tell us all about her role as a GP. She showed the children different equipment that she uses on a daily basis and even let us have a go! We had a great time and are so grateful to Aria's mum for visiting us. We are looking forwards to welcoming some other parents and grandparents this term as we Mothers day, World Book Day and Children's Mental Heath Week.

Lunar New Year



This week we have more visitors as we welcome **Anya, Alex and Alfie's mummies** to our pre-school room. We can't wait to hear about how their family celebrate Lunar New Year with cultural traditions. Children will also be learning about Lunar New Year with related activities throughout the week.

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

Spring Term Newsletter

Charity of the term

Children in Need

Children loved sharing their artwork in our November art gallery. 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 a tasty party tea. We loved sharing this with you and hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!



Recognising the inquisitive nature of 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 so it certainly was an experience!

They've also enjoyed exploring our different 'Feely Bags' feeling and smelling a variety of textures and scents including fresh herbs and spices including cinnamon sticks, star anise and dried orange slices.



Messiest of all was the foam! Using paint brushes to mix the foam and crazy soap delighting in manipulating and exploring the mixture as they practiced their gross motor skills too.

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](#).

Spring Term Newsletter

Two-Three Room

The children started the new year exploring the colder weather and linking the weather to the adventures of Squirrel from the Tales from Acorn woods. The children listened to the story Squirrels Snowman using the book to support language development around seasonal items of clothing that the children are wearing. In the themed area the children have been practicing dressing themselves for the colder weather. Focusing on physical developing the children have been using their gross motor movements and coordination skills to put on hats, gloves, wrap scarfs around themselves and have begun to put their own coats and shoes/boots on.

Also, this term we will be helping children develop their language skills by extending their vocabulary beyond the objects by adding one related descriptive, so far children have been using words such as 'warm, cold, big, small, soft, heavy'.



This term we are continuing the theme of keeping ourselves warm in cold weather as we develop our budding baker skills making our own porridge. 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 mixing pancake mix, we are looking forward to some very tasty treats as they expand their budding baker skills!

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 hard object and a soft object and show your child a big 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. Children have enjoyed transiting over to the new environment and have settled well in to the room. With the opening of our new space, children have been particularly enjoying the larger garden where they can play and challenge themselves in a variety of different, from climbing, balancing, digging and taking on and managing their own risks. The new home area is also proving to be very popular as children develop their knowledge of 'Me and my wider world' through role play with their friends.

Our focus this term relates to children's interests in order to support their learning around early numeracy, particularly subitising and number recognition from 1-5. 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 : Babies & Toddler World Book Day Stay & Play

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

6th March 3:00- 4:00pm : 2-3's World Book Day Stay & Play

Parent Workshop

13th March 6:45-8:30pm - Chat, Play, Read

Nursery Events

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

25th March 9:15-10:15am : 2-3's Mothers' Day Event

25th March 3:00-4:00pm : Babies & Toddler Mothers' Day Event

27th March 3:00-4:00pm : Pre-School Mothers' Day Event

Holiday and Closure Dates

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

2nd 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 longer to dress your child ready for collection due to the additional layers. 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.

Help us reduce the risk of infection in 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.

Outdoor clothing

Please ensure your child brings a pair of wellington boots and suitable outdoor wear, including a coat, hat and gloves to keep them warm during outdoor play.



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

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