



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 24: April 2025

Villiers Road

Issue 24 Summer 2025

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome to a new term at Leapfrog. We hope you all had a fantastic Easter break filled with family, fun and (hopefully) some sunshine!

We had a very busy Spring term, full of creativity, celebration and learning. The children have enjoyed World Book Day, Valentine's Day, Pancake Day, Mother's Day, World Down Syndrome Day and Eid Al-Fitr.

This term we are focusing on activities which support children's physical development, looking forward to some outdoor fun! Whether it's exploring the garden, enjoying stories and snacks in the sunshine or welcoming families to our much requested Summer Garden Party.

We are also joining in with celebrating the first birthday of the '50 Things to Do Before You're 5' initiative in Portsmouth and in the following pages sharing how the children have been engaging with these activities along with a sneak peek at what's coming up next and tips to continue the learning at home.

Looking ahead, we've got some exciting events for parents too including Father's Day, our School Leavers workshop for parents of children due to transition to school this year and celebrating our preschool leavers as they prepare for their next big step in learning.

We can't wait to welcome you into nursery for these special moments!

Summer Term Newsletter

Staff News

We're so proud of our dedicated nursery team and love keeping you updated on all that they're doing! In this section you'll find news about new faces joining us, special achievements, and those who are moving on. Keep reading below for all the latest updates from our team.



Welcome Monika

We're really happy to welcome Monika to our nursery team this term. Monika has lots of experience from working at our Yarborough Nursery, as housekeeper, and where she supported the children in the rooms. She will be working with us every day from 8:45am to 2:15pm as a Nursery Assistant. We're so excited to have her as a great addition to our team.

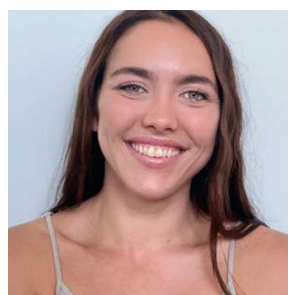


Introducing Bryony and Shelby

A warm welcome to Bryony and Shelby who have recently joined our Leapfrog team as Apprentice Practitioners! During their apprenticeships, they'll have the chance to work across all of our rooms, with Bryony starting in the 2-3 room and Shelby supporting both the Preschool and Toddler rooms.



They've already been working closely with the children and are enjoying getting to know everyone. We're excited to support them as they work towards their Level 2 NVQ in childcare and are thrilled to see how quickly they have settled into their new roles!



Wishing Melissa all the best!

We have some lovely news to share - our Preschool Room Team Leader, Melissa, is heading off on maternity leave at the end of May. We are so excited for her and will be sure to keep you updated on staffing arrangements to ensure a smooth transition for the children. Join us in wishing her all the best during this special time!

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Family Events

We were thrilled to host another fantastic World Book Day 'Stay and Play' event for our families. The children and staff brought storybook magic to life with their brilliant costumes and it was a joy to see so many parents joining us to connect with one another, chat with staff and play and watch their children engaging with friends in our nursery environment. These sessions are always a big hit and it's easy to see why! If you couldn't make it this time, don't worry, we've included some snapshots to give you a little glimpse of the fun and hope you can join us next time!



March was filled with love, laughter and unforgettable moments as the children welcomed their Mummies into nursery. Each room celebrated Mother's Day in its own special way and it was lovely to welcome so many mums joining in the fun! Our Preschoolers were little hosts at the Mother's Day Café with a cream tea and some lovely activities with their Mummies. Over in the 2-3's room there was a flurry of activity with flower play, scented tea pouring and heart-and-flower decorating. Meanwhile, the Toddlers had a wonderful time hosting a teddy bear's picnic, going on an exciting bear hunt and giggling their way through a flurry of bubbles! The children absolutely loved sharing this special time with you and we hope you enjoyed it just as much. Thank you for making it so memorable.



And next up—a special celebration for our Daddies too!

Following the lovely moments we shared during our Mother's Day celebrations, we are now getting ready to celebrate all the fantastic Daddies.

We'd love to invite dads to join us for a fun and relaxed Father's Day event taking place during the week of 2nd June. Whether it's building, creating, playing or simply spending time together, there'll be something for every dad to enjoy. And don't worry if your child doesn't usually attend on the day - you're more than welcome to come along and join in the fun with them!

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

50 Things To Do Before You're 5

We are excited to be celebrating the first birthday of the fantastic '50 Things to Do Before You're 5' initiative in Portsmouth! This amazing local project is full of fun, free and low-cost activities that help support your child's learning and development through real-life experiences.

To learn more check out the Leapfrog & Families Learning Together board in the foyer where we've listed the activities we're currently enjoying at nursery. There are also printed flyers with all 50 activities listed and you can get even more details by downloading the app or visiting the [website](#).

With summer just around the corner why not kick off the season by exploring #27: 'Little People, Park Keeper' and enjoy connecting with nature, exploring local park and the outdoors. It's a fantastic way to spark curiosity, build independence and learn through play!

To help inspire your next family adventure here are a few of our team's favourite outdoor locations we love visiting with our own families:

- [Staunton Park and Farm](#) – perfect for exploring and making farmyard friends
- [Alice Holt Forest](#) – Discover Gruffalo sculptures on the trail through the deep dark wood
- [Forest of Bere](#) – Woodland adventures for all ages featuring a play area and playhouses

Let us know about the fun outings you and your little ones love to visit by uploading photos to your child's Tapestry account along with where you've been. We'll then share your adventures on our board and celebrate all the learning happening beyond nursery!

Charity of the Term



Join us on **Wednesday 9th July 4–6pm** (with a back-up date of **Wednesday 16th July**) for a festival themed garden party. There'll be something for everyone to enjoy, including crafts, games, stalls, and plenty of fun in the garden. It's a great chance to spend time at nursery with your child, meet other families whilst soaking up the summer vibes.

We're proud to share that this event will support our Charity of the Term - Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association, a brilliant organisation supporting children and families including one of our very own Leapfrog families. Thanks to your generosity our recent cake sale has already raised **£195.55** and we are excited to keep the momentum going.

We're currently in the planning stages and would love your help! If you have any ideas or items you'd like to donate - raffle prizes, toys for the bric-a-brac stall or decorations - please speak to the office. Your support makes these events even more special.

Summer Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

Early Language Development Workshop

We were delighted to see so many of you at our Parent Workshop recently. The feedback has been fantastic and it was lovely to spend the evening sharing ideas, answering questions and exploring ways to support children's communication skills from an early age. Parents took away a variety of fun, practical strategies to use at home - perfect for turning everyday moments into rich opportunities for talking, listening and learning together.

'Really useful and informative'

'Definitely recommend attending no matter what stage your child is at'

'I liked that the workshop was interactive and easy to understand'

If you were unable to attend but would like to know more, feel free to speak to a member of the team. And don't forget to check out our *Chat, Play, Read* board in the foyer. It's full of handy tips and simple ideas you can try at home to support your child's learning and development.

School Leavers Workshop

Developed for children of parents due to start school this year to get tips on preparing your child for school, including early reading, with an opportunity to connect with other Leapfrog families heading to the same school.

We'd love you to join us as we also dive into a really exciting part of early literacy - phonological awareness. This is all about your child learning to hear and recognise the sounds in words such as spotting rhymes, clapping out syllables and noticing the first sounds in words.

It might sound small but these skills play a big role in helping children get ready to read with confidence.

At the workshop we'll chat about what phonological awareness looks like in action, why it's such an important foundation and how you can support it at home through playful, everyday moments. We will also share how we build on these skills in nursery to help your child develop strong communication skills setting them up for a confident transition into school and support their learning for years to come.

For full details and to book your place on the workshop simply [click here](#), sign up in your child's room or email admin@leapfrognurseries.com.

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

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Toddler Room

It's been a joyful term full of sunshine, creativity and discovery with more time being spent outside exploring and playing in the fresh air. One of the outdoor favourites has been washing baby dolls - simple, sweet and full of learning! Taken out onto the balcony, this bubbly water play saw the children happily scrubbing, rinsing and caring for their dolls. As well as being great fun, it helped nurture empathy and support their growing personal and social skills.

Easter was celebrated in true toddler style with creativity and wide-eyed curiosity. The children decorated their own bunny ear hats using paint stampers, showing off their growing artistic confidence while strengthening both fine and gross motor skills. They looked especially proud (and undeniably adorable) wearing their handmade Easter hats as they left nursery.



There was plenty of sensory magic too with egg hunts set up in trays filled with pastel shredded paper and fluffy feathers. The toddlers were fascinated by the textures, tickling themselves with feathers, watching them float through the air and excitedly placing their eggs into baskets.

This term we're extending the water play as we enjoy popping bubbles, splashing about and exploring water in all sorts of playful ways! Whether paddling, pouring or making a joyful mess, water play is always a favourite. We'll be bringing well-loved rhymes such as *Five Little Ducks*, *Tiny Turtle* and *Five Little Speckled Frogs* to life through these water activities with rhythm and movements to support your child's motor and boost early language skills, whilst they enjoy the splashy fun.



For more ideas and playful activities to enjoy together at home, check out the [50 Things](#) checklist! You'll find suggestions including #6 Rhyme Time, #8 Bubbles, #36 Splish, Splash, Splish and lots of seasonal inspiration to explore with your child.

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Two-Three Room

In the lead-up to Easter, the children enjoyed a variety of seasonal activities including marble egg painting. Using marbles and paint they explored shaking, bouncing and rolling them over their 'eggs' to create beautiful, marbled patterns. It was a wonderfully engaging way to enjoy the artistic process while also helping to develop those all-important shoulder and elbow pivot movements that support early mark making skills. The end results were delightful and they were so proud of their colourful creations!

With so many new siblings arriving this spring - and more still on the way - the children have enjoyed our focus book Peppa and the New Baby and have been especially interested in role playing with the baby dolls. They've been busy feeding, dressing and caring for them, showing such kindness and curiosity. This type of imaginative play is a wonderful way for children to make sense of the world around them, developing empathy, communication and social skills, while also encouraging independence and nurturing behavior. It's been lovely to see their caring sides shine through during these moments of play.



Inspired by the children's artistic enthusiasm at Easter, we are starting the term with *50 Things to Do Before You're 5*, **#20: Mini Artists**, where children can explore large-scale mark making using water, chalks and paints in the garden. These playful, open-ended activities not only spark imagination but also help to develop the gross motor skills that support early writing and artistic expression. Whether they're sweeping brushes across big canvases or drawing on the ground with chunky chalks, the children will be building the strength and control they need to become confident writers and makers of art - we can't wait to enjoy some messy, creative fun!

Featuring **#24: Hop, Skip, Jump!** We will also be providing lots of opportunities for children to move their bodies and build physical confidence in our playful, supportive outdoor environment. Fun and energetic activities such as obstacle courses, action rhymes, pom-poms and streamers designed to support development of your child's gross motor skill, balance, and coordination, whilst encouraging teamwork and physical confidence. And if we do get a little summer rain the fun doesn't have to stop, we'll simply bring the adventure indoors.

Summer Term Newsletter

Preschool Room

Highlights from last term included some more exciting activities **#28: The Wheels on the Bus** took us on several adventures around Portsmouth. The school leavers were especially lucky, heading off to the Science Show, which we absolutely loved – a big thank you to Millie's mum for inviting us again! Then, during half term, we crossed off another one **#23: See It Live!**, with a trip to see *Pirates Love Underpants* at the New Theatre Royal – and the fun didn't stop there, as we got to top it all off with a ride on the top of a double-decker bus!



We ended the term celebrating the Easter festival with related activities such as experiencing the reversible state of chocolate whilst making tasty Easter nests. We also hopped around an egg hunt following maps to find stickers and treats left for us by the Easter Bunny!



This term is off to an exciting start with two fun activities from the *50 Things to Do Before You're 5* checklist **#43: High Five!** and **#19: Growing Little People, Plants, and Things:**

As we explore how plants, animals and we ourselves grow and change, children have been putting their green fingers to work as they plant and care for the nursery vegetable patch with our gardener, Kate. We're looking forward to Caterpillar larvae arriving soon and we'll be watching as they transform into butterflies, tracking their growth week by week. School leavers can also experience our annual trip to the Butterfly house in Southsea. To see how we've grown, we'll look back at how we've changed since we were babies and measure how tall we've become. These activities help us become 'Planet Protectors' learning to care for living things and support our curriculum goals as Master Mathematicians and explorers of Me and My Wider World. We were also really excited for our Emergency Services Day where children welcomed visitors from the police, fire service and ambulance. Seeing their uniforms, equipment and vehicles up close also supports our '*Me and My Wider World*' curriculum goal - sparking conversations, imaginative play and a growing understanding of the different job roles people do in our community. It's going to be a very busy term!

Dates at a glance

Parent Workshops

19th May 6:45-8:30 pm : School Leavers Workshop

Nursery Events

3rd June 4:00-5:30 pm : Preschool Fathers' Day Event

5th June 4:00-5:30 pm : Toddler Fathers' Day Event

11th June 4:00-5:30 pm : 2-3's Fathers' Day Event

9th July 4:00-6:00 pm : Garden Party 4-6pm

18th July 2:15-4:00 pm : Pre school Leavers Party

25th June : Pre school Leavers Butterfly House Trip (details to follow)

Holiday and Closure Dates

5th May : Early May Bank Holiday

26th May : Spring Bank Holiday

4th June : 4:00 pm Early closure for Staff Training

15th July : 4:00 pm Early closure for Staff Training

25th August : Summer Bank Holiday

Term Dates

26th May-30th May : Half Term Holiday (funded term time only)

18th July : Last day of Summer Term (funded term time only)

29th 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

In warmer weather 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

Replace woolly hats for sunhats, along with spare clothes (including welly boots) for wet play.

Water bottles

Children in our 2-3 room and preschool rooms should be provided with a clearly labelled water bottle.

Labelling

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 do not bring 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

Children can be accompanied into their room between 8:00-8:45am/1:00-1:15pm. After 8:45am/1:15pm a member of staff will collect your child from the main door.

Morning sessions start at 8:45am so please ensure you have vacated and do not enter the room after this time.

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, please book a separate appointment for any in-depth discussions as required.



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

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