



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

# Newsletter

Issue 24: April 2025

Yarborough Road

Issue 24 Summer 2025

# Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Yarborough Road



## Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome to a new term at Leapfrog. We hope you all had a fantastic Easter weekend 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 taking part in our sponsored 'Big Toddler'.

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 Concha - Housekeeper**

A warm welcome to our new housekeeper, Concha, who has joined us this term. Concha will also be supporting the babies and toddler rooms at lunch time.



### **Welcome back Debby...**

A warm welcome back to two familiar faces rejoining us! Debby is returning in the role of Nursery Assistant, where she will be supporting teams across all rooms while also working alongside Concha as part of our housekeeping team. She's enjoying getting to know the children and settling into her new role.



### **...and also to Nina!**

We're also excited to welcome Nina who returns to Leapfrog after moving back to the area. Nina has joined our office team as an administrative assistant working alongside Amy and Sam. It's been wonderful to see how quickly both Debby and Nina have settled into their roles, and we are thrilled to have them back with us!



### **Good luck to Monika**

Monika will be leaving our team here at Yarborough but not going far as she'll be joining the team at our Villiers Road Nursery. Whilst we will miss seeing her at the nursery we'll be able to catch up at staff events. We wish her all the best in her new role as Nursery Assistant.

# Summer Term Newsletter

## Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

We are delighted to share that Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery at No. 13 Yarborough Road has received a 'Good' rating following our recent Ofsted inspection. This is a wonderful recognition of the care, commitment and quality that defines our nursery.

We spoke with Nursery Manager, Becky, about what this achievement means for the team, the children, and our families.

### **How did you feel when you received the 'Good' Ofsted rating?**

"It was such a proud moment. It's a reflection of the hard work and passion our team brings every single day. We care deeply about what we do and it was incredibly rewarding to have that recognised."

### **What do you believe contributed most to receiving this positive rating?**

"We focus on building strong, meaningful relationships with our families and getting to know every child as an individual. Each member of our team brings their own strengths and interests, with the shared goal ... to make a positive difference in the lives of the children in our care".

### **Can you share a few highlighted strengths noted in the OFSTED report?**

Of course! Here's a few:

#### **1. Strong Staff-Child Relationships:**

Inspectors observed that staff know the children well and develop secure and nurturing relationships with them. Staff recognise each child's unique personality and the additional support some children need, such as comfort and cuddles to help them settle, helping children's emotional development.

#### **2. Nurturing Independence in Every Child:**

The report commended the nursery leaders planning of a clear curriculum designed to teach children a range of skills. In addition, staff plan many opportunities to help promote children's independence and self-help skills.

#### **3. Stimulating Learning Environment:**

Children are supported to learn about their own and other's cultures and beliefs by celebrating festivals and inviting families in to take part in activities linked to other cultures. This supports children to have a sense of belonging and learn about the wider world.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated team, supportive parents and, most importantly, our wonderful children who make Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery a vibrant and nurturing place to learn and grow.

For more details, you can read the full Ofsted report [here](#).



# Summer Term Newsletter

## 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 continue to be 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.



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 such a joy to see 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 Mums. 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're 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 9th 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're 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 local spots 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

### The Big Toddle for Barnardo's – Let's Get Moving for a Great Cause!

This term we'll be supporting Barnardo's, our chosen charity, with a fun-filled fundraising event: *The Big Toddle*! Taking place throughout the week of 16th–20th June, children can join in with a short sponsored walk around the nursery garden and setting each day as part of our "Toddle Together" week. It's a wonderful opportunity for the children to get active, have fun and help others whilst enjoying time with their friends.

Although space means this event is for children only, families can still get involved by visiting our week-long cake stall! We'd love your support through any nut-free cake donations and of course by picking up a treat or two yourself. All proceeds will go directly to Barnardo's, so don't forget to bring some cash and enjoy a sweet way to make a big difference! More details to follow.



# 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.

*'Well worth the time -useful and informative'*

*'So engaging and informative -highly recommend!'*

*'Encourage other parents to attend, even if just to refresh the knowledge they may already have'*

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](mailto:admin@leapfrognurseries.com).

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## Babies and Toddler Room

It's been a joyful term full of sunshine, creativity and discovery - with plenty of time spent outdoors exploring, playing and enjoying the fresh air.

Easter was celebrated in true toddler style - with wide-eyed wonder, giggles and lots of hands-on fun. The children delighted in a vibrant Easter sensory tray, eagerly hunting for hidden rabbits, fluffy chicks and colourful eggs nestled in straw. Inspired by the story *Five Little Bunnies*, they hopped along to 'Hop Little Bunnies', filling the room with laughter as they bounced and danced with excitement.

The festive fun continued in the kitchen, where our *budding bakers* got wonderfully messy making Easter chocolate Rice Krispie nests. With spoons in hand and sleeves rolled up, they stirred and scooped with growing confidence - building key motor skills through every chocolatey moment. It was a joyful celebration of creativity, movement and Easter magic!



Water play is always a big hit with the children and this term promises plenty of splashy fun! From popping bubbles to playful splashing and experimenting with water in creative ways, we'll be diving into all sorts of hands-on learning. We will even be painting with water as we explore different mark-making techniques.

Beloved rhymes like *Five Little Ducks*, *Tiny Turtle* and *Five Little Speckled Frogs* will come to life through movement, rhythm and water-based activities - helping to build motor skills and boost early language development, all while having lots of watery 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, #4 Make Your Mark 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 eggs and paint, they explored shaking, bouncing, and rolling them over their Easter themed shapes creating 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!

Our focus book *Hello Fish* made a big splash in the 2-3's room sparking curiosity and excitement! Through our 'Under the Sea' theme, the children explored new vocabulary, from big fish and little fish to noticing shapes, sizes and patterns - spotty fish, stripy fish, long tails and funny fins.

The adventure continued with an ocean-themed sensory tray filled with shimmering water, sea creatures and seashells. As they splashed and explored, the children learned new words like *stingray*, *hammerhead* and *angelfish*. This rich, hands-on play deepened their understanding and expanded vocabulary, all while supporting our *Brilliant Bookworm* and *Master Mathematician* curriculum goals and keeping the children engaged and inspired.



With the warmer weather arriving, the children have been loving the chance to take their water play outdoors with *#36: Splish, Splash, Splosh!* From pouring and scooping to splashing and swirling, these playful activities offer brilliant opportunities for sensory learning, imaginative play and rich language development.

And, inspired by the creative buzz from our Easter activities, we're starting the term with *50 Things to Do Before You're 5, #20: Mini Artists* as children explore large-scale mark making with water, chinks and paints in the garden. These open-ended activities not only spark imagination but also help develop the gross motor skills needed for early writing and artistic expression. Whether they're sweeping paintbrushes across big canvases or drawing on the ground with chunky chinks, the children will be building the strength and control to become confident, expressive little artists. We can't wait to dive into some messy, creative fun!

# 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. Some of the school leavers were especially lucky, heading off to the Science Show, which we absolutely loved. 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 a 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: #9 *Mini Beasts and Bug Hunting!* and #19 *Growing Little People, Plants, and Things*. As we explore how plants, animals and we ourselves grow and change, the children have been putting their green fingers to work, planting and caring for the nursery vegetable patch with our gardener, Kate. We're looking forward to the arrival of caterpillar larvae, which we'll watch transform into butterflies, tracking their growth week by week.

Our school leavers will also enjoy 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 are helping us become '*Planet Protectors*', learning to care for living things while supporting our curriculum goals as *Master Mathematicians* and explorers of *Me and My Wider World*.

The children can't wait to share some of these exciting activities with their Daddies at the Father's Day event this June. We hope you'll be able to join us for a fun-filled afternoon celebrating bugs, growth and all the wonderful things we've been learning together!

## Dates at a glance

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### Parent Workshops

20th May 6:45-8:30pm : School Leavers Workshop

### Nursery Events

9th June 3:00-4:00pm : 2-3's Fathers' Day Event

11th June 3:00-4:00pm : Toddler Fathers' Day Event

13th June 4:00-5:00pm : Pre school Fathers' Day Event

16th-20th June : Big Toddle—Toddle Week

26th June PM : Pre school Leavers Butterfly House Trip (details to follow)

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

### Holiday and Closure Dates

5th May : Early May Bank Holiday

26th May : Spring Bank Holiday

2nd June : 4:00pm Early closure for Staff Training

15th July : 4:00pm 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**

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#### **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 sunhat, along with spare clothes (including welly boots) for wet play.

#### **Water bottles**

Children in our 2-3 room and pre-school 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

## CONTACT US

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