



Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery

Newsletter

Issue 27: May 2026

Villiers Road

Issue 27 Summer 2026

Leapfrog Newsletter

Leapfrog Neighbourhood Nursery - Villiers Road



Dear Parents and Carers

We're delighted to share our Summer newsletter with you as we look back on the wonderful activities and special moments from spring while also looking ahead to all the fun and learning the summer term will bring.

On the 15th April each room celebrated Leapfrog's 30th birthday making Frog crowns and flags and, of course, enjoyed a delicious birthday cake! In preschool, the celebrations continued as the children gave a warm welcome to 'Mr and Mrs Leapfrog' (the owners Neil and Teresa), who joined in with some fun, exciting games. From *Pin the Fly on the Frog* to sack races across the lily pads and a lively beanbag challenge feeding frogs 'flies' there was plenty of laughter and excitement all around. The birthday party ended with a chorus of *Happy Birthday*, followed by one of the children proudly presenting a special Leapfrog birthday cake to Teresa. Every child across the nursery also received a party bag to take home — after all, no party is complete without one!

As we celebrate this special milestone, we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, friends and staff for your kindness, encouragement and lovely messages which have made this celebration even more meaningful. Although the celebration is far from over! We are very excited to announce that we will be holding a garden party for all our Leapfrog families — invitations will follow shortly and we hope you will be able to join us!

Summer Term Newsletter

Staff News

Welcome to our staff news section, where we share updates from across our nursery team. This term we are pleased to introduce two new members of staff who have recently joined us.

Join us in welcoming Sue who has recently joined our Leapfrog office team.



'As a mum of two children, one of whom attended Leapfrog, I understand how it feels to leave your child at nursery and am passionate about supporting families through that experience. Having previously worked as a nursery assistant, I'm excited to bring my experience into my new role as Office Administrator, supporting both families and the wider team.'

Having joined us in March, Charlotte is already becoming a familiar face around the nursery as she spends time supporting children in each room. Whilst building a strong relationships across all age groups children also benefit from the comfort and reassurance of seeing a familiar face throughout the nursery.

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

School Leavers Workshop | 7th May 6:45-8:30

Designed for parents of children starting school this year this supportive and informative evening provides practical advice on helping your child feel confident and ready for this exciting next step. This workshop includes guidance on early literacy, emotional readiness and ways to support a smooth transition into school.

Stay and Play Session | 1st July 9:15-10:15

Join us this July for a special heuristic play session for our under-2s. This is a wonderful chance to see how everyday objects help support your child's creativity, concentration, problem-solving, and physical development as they explore and play with their friends. Sessions last 30 minutes during the nursery day, and if your child does not usually attend on the scheduled date, you are welcome to bring them along.

For full details and to book your place on our events simply click [here](#), sign up in your child's room or email admin@leapfrog-nursery.com.

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Families and Leapfrog Learning Together

Supporting healthy screen time habits for your under 5

Screens are now a normal part of everyday family life. From watching favourite programmes together to video calling family members, digital devices are part of the routines many young children grow up with. They can bring real benefits when used in positive and meaningful ways.

Recent research from the UK Chief Medical Officers looking at screen use of young children reminds us that while screens can offer opportunities to learn, explore and connect, children in the early years still learn best through play, movement, conversation and hands-on experiences.

The research also suggests that when screen use becomes very high, it may be linked with difficulties in areas such as sleep, attention, language development and behaviour in some young children.

In light of this, Government advice recommends that children under five have no more than one hour of screen time per day and that children under two avoid screens where possible, apart from shared moments like video calling or watching together with an adult.

Family life is busy enough. Add in work, routines, siblings and everything else and managing screen time can easily seem an impossible and unrealistic task. To support families who may be hearing different advice and trying to work out what feels right, the government has created **guidance** offering simple, practical ideas to help keep children safe and build healthy habits from the very beginning.

Small, simple changes can really help, such as choosing calm, age-appropriate programmes, watching together and chatting about what you see and keeping special moments like mealtimes or bedtime screen free when possible.

What children watch also makes a difference. Slower-paced, age-appropriate programmes give children time to take things in and understand what they are seeing. When shared with an adult, they can become a lovely opportunity to talk and learn together. Fast-paced or highly stimulating content, on the other hand, can sometimes feel overwhelming and make it harder for young children to concentrate.

Most importantly, this guidance is completely judgement free. Every family is different and there is no "one right way" to do this. The aim is simply to help you find a balance that feels right for your family and adding purpose to screen time, while making sure children still have plenty of time for play, sleep, movement and connection.



Summer Term Newsletter

Family Events

We were delighted to once again host a fantastic World Book Day 'Stay and Play' event for our families. The children and staff brought storybook magic to life, with everyone joining in a range of book-related activities in each of the rooms. It was lovely to see so many parents joining us to connect with one another, chat with staff and enjoy watching their children play and engage with friends in our nursery environment. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the event such a success.



March brought warmth and excitement as the children welcomed their Mummies into nursery to celebrate Mother's Day. Each room marked the occasion in its own unique way, with Toddlers sharing Dear Zoo related activities before making the most of the early spring sunshine with a Teddy Bears' Picnic and bear hunt in the nursery garden. In the 2-3s room, there was a flurry of activity as children immersed themselves in a range of hands-on sensory experiences, including flower-themed play, scented tea pouring and creative heart-and-flower decorating. Preschoolers enjoyed a creative experience in our new pottery studio, painting their own pottery pieces as special gifts for their Mummies, before proudly taking on the role of thoughtful hosts at the Mother's Day Café, serving a delightful cream tea to their special guests.



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

With Father's Day just around the corner, we would love to invite you to join us for a fun and relaxed celebration taking place during the week of 15th June. There will be plenty of activities to enjoy together, with something for every dad to get involved in. If your child doesn't usually attend on the day, you are still very welcome to come along and share in the fun together. We can't wait to welcome you into nursery and celebrate all the amazing things that make dads so special.

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

Summer Term Newsletter

Toddler Room

This term has been full of outdoor adventures, exciting sounds and lots of chances for us to discover the world around us together! As the warmer weather has arrived, we've continued to *Go All In* by spending more time in the garden, using all our senses to explore. We've been looking, listening, smelling and feeling as we notice birds singing, leaves rustling, aeroplanes flying overhead and the different textures of the plants, tunnels and slide. As we play, the grown-ups chat with us about what we can see and hear, helping to build our early speech and language skills.



We've also been finding fun new ways to move around the garden by 'driving' our much-loved cars, zooming off on all sorts of adventures. Our interest in transport has continued indoors too, where we've enjoyed sharing *That's Not My...* books, pointing to and talking about aeroplanes, tractors, cars and other vehicles. We've also loved joining in with the actions and sounds in favourite songs like *The Wheels on the Bus* and *Zoom Zoom* helping us learn new words through music and movement.

There has been lots of laughter as we play with the animals on our tuff tray farm picking them up, moving them around and building our fine motor skills as we explore. We especially enjoy singing *Old Macdonald Had a Farm* and the funny animal noises always make us giggle!

Over the rest of the summer term, we have lots of wonderful summery adventures planned! We will be heading into our "big" garden to explore the sandpit, where we can dig, pour, fill, and tip as we play. These hands-on experiences help us to strengthen our little muscles, build our coordination and improve our hand-eye skills as we explore what the sand can do.

We will also be making the most of our outdoor space, moving in different ways as we ride our new trikes, build our balance and gain confidence on the move. Along the way, there will be lots of chances to chat, point and share what we are doing with our friends and grown-ups.

All these playful experiences encourage babbling, listening and responding, helping us on our journey towards saying our first meaningful words.

With simple ideas and guidance on how to support conversations and interactions together with your child outdoors take a look at the National Literacy Trust's helpful leaflet [here](#).

Summer Term Newsletter

Two-Three Room

We started the term by diving into *The Tales of Acorn Wood*, stepping right into the stories as we explored the books and met the characters, joining in the fun! We helped Fox find, match and peg up his missing socks and used our early mark making skills to write letters and post them in our nursery postbox for Postman Bear to deliver. We've especially loved our themed tuff tray, using the story props to retell the tales and make up stories of our own, moving, sorting and playing as our stories grew bigger and more imaginative each time. In our role play area we've enjoyed dressing up and acting out the adventures in our own playful way.



Some of us have already been on our holidays and we've loved sharing all about where we went and the exciting things we saw! Others are still looking forward to our trips and have been chatting excitedly about where we might go. What's been the same for everyone is how much we've loved talking about how we travelled - or how we will travel - on our adventures. Inspired by this shared interest, we've introduced a new small world transport area. With trains, aeroplanes and ferries we've been creating and retelling our own journeys. We've been busy loading passengers and luggage onto the wooden vehicles, choosing our destinations and using our imaginations to act out travel stories. We've also enjoyed becoming passengers on our very own nursery bus, complete with tickets for the ride!

Our next adventure will take us 'travelling' through the much-loved story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. With its repeated phrases, we're looking forward to joining in and using our bodies to run, tiptoe, splash and crawl through the adventure, adding our own movements and ideas as the story unfolds.

We're excited to meet another character from Acorn Wood in *Cat's Cookbook* as we put our budding baker skills into action, rolling out dough and cutting shapes to make delicious biscuits. We'll also be spreading our own sandwich fillings and whisking up tasty mixtures, carefully using our hands and fingers to mix, squeeze and stir. There'll be lots of proud smiles as we take our tasty treats home to share! All of this has been helping to support our communication, language and early writing skills, while sparking imagination, storytelling and a real love of books.

Summer Term Newsletter

Preschool Room

Last term was filled with magical storytelling adventures in Preschool with visits from outside agencies bringing stories to life with song and words. We began with a special visit from Portsmouth Music Hub, where we met Melody Mermaid and her beautiful harp. She took us with her as she searched for the perfect present for the Lord Mayor's party celebrating Portsmouth 100. We had fun joining in with singing, actions and excitement as the story unfolded.



The storytelling continued with a visit to Southsea Library, where we met the Gruffalo and shared story-based activities. We finished the term with an Easter adventure, taking a trip to the New Theatre Royal for *The Tales from Acorn Wood*. Seeing familiar characters brought to life on stage and sharing in the fun and laughter of the performance was exciting and the bus ride made it even more memorable!



At the woodwork bench, school leavers have been dynamic designers, confidently using saws, screwdrivers and hand drills. Alongside exploring how to use tools safely, we are fine tuning our hand-eye coordination, focus and control. We are really proud of our creations and excited to share what we've made!

The Summer term has begun with lots of hands-on adventures and big imaginative stories all about caring for our world and nature. For Earth Day, we listened to the story of Green Bean and his friends read by author Anita Frost, which helped us talk together about all the little things we can do to help look after our planet. We have loved our garden centre role play area and have also planted our own green beans! We are taking very good care of them, checking them often and measuring how much they have grown as they start to sprout and reach up towards the light.

There are lots more storytelling and creative adventures still to come. We will be exploring bug-themed stories inspired by Simon Mole and making up our own tales about the bugs living in our garden. We will also be using sticks as props to help us retell Stanley's adventures with his stick as he flies to the moon, fishes and goes on all sorts of imaginative journeys!

For simple, enjoyable ideas to develop my curiosity, communication and understanding of the world through storytelling at home, see the National Literacy Trust's [Share Stories with Me](#) booklet.

Dates at a glance

Parent Workshops

- 7th May 6:45-8:30 pm : School Leavers Workshop
- 1st July 9:15-10:15 am : Toddler Heuristic Stay and Play

Nursery Events

- 15th June 4:00-5:30 pm : Preschool Fathers' Day Event
- 17th June 4:00-5:00 pm : Toddler Fathers' Day Event
- 18th June 4:00-5:00 pm : 2-3's Fathers' Day Event

- 20th July 9:45-11:30 pm : Preschool Leavers Party

Holiday and Closure Dates

- 4th May : Early May Bank Holiday
- 25th May : Spring Bank Holiday
- 2nd June : 4:00 pm Early closure for Staff Training
- 6th July : 4:00 pm Early closure for Staff Training
- 31st August : Summer Bank Holiday

Term Dates

- 25th May-29th May : Half Term Holiday (funded term time only)
- 17th July : Last day of Summer Term (funded term time only)
- 31st 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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