



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter and a warm welcome to all the new families who have recently joined us. We've enjoyed the warm start to the term and are looking forward to the changing seasons, from watching the leaves change colour to wrapping up in our cosy coats and exploring our ever-changing nursery environment.

We're also excited to share our new-look newsletter. We've made it shorter and easier to explore, while still bringing you the latest news and dates from the nursery. In line with recent government guidance around online safety in early years, photographs of the children will no longer feature in the newsletter. Tapestry has also changed in respect of the guidance and images will now show your child only. However, you'll still be able to see plenty of photos of children playing together on our nursery boards, displays and the slideshow in the foyer.

There's so much to look forward to as we move through the term of learning, exploring and fun together!! Read on to see what's happening in the rooms, meet our newest team members and important dates for your diary.

Workshops and Events

Grandparents' Day

Children are looking forward to welcoming grandparents to spend some special time together at nursery. Join them to meet their friends and staff and get a glimpse of what they get up to at nursery. Grandparents with more than one grandchild are welcome to move between rooms and, weather permitting, enjoy some time together in our nursery grounds. If it's not their grandchild's usual day, they're still very welcome to come along.

'Moving to Write' Parent Workshop

At Leapfrog, we believe children learn best through active, purposeful play. Our popular parent workshops give families a chance to discover more about the learning behind the experiences children enjoy at nursery and share ideas that can be easily continued at home.

During this workshop we'll explore how movements children make with their whole bodies help to build the strength, coordination and control they'll later need for mark making and writing. You'll discover how activities linked to our curriculum goals support this development as well as leaving with practical, enjoyable ideas to try together, both at home and when out and about.

Dates at a glance

October

- 6th #10 Toddlers & Preschool
Grandparents Day 9:30-10:30
- 7th #13 Toddlers & Preschool
Grandparents Day 9:30-10:30
- 23rd Last day of term (term time)
- 27th Halloween Activity Week

November

- 2nd First day of new half term (term time)
- 3rd Early closure - Staff Training 4:00
- 12th Children in Need Bear Fayre 3:45-5:15
- 18th 'Moving to Write' Parent Workshop
6:45-8:30
- w/c 30th Christmas parties (dates to be released)

December

- 10th Early closure - Staff Training 4:00
- 18th Last day of Autumn term (term time)
- 23rd Last day of Autumn term (year round)

January

- 4th First day of Spring term

Coming up this term...

This term, our curriculum will give children plenty of opportunities to explore, create and develop new skills through a range of hands-on experiences. In the first half of the term, our focus will be on our Budding Baker curriculum goal, with TastEd activities providing opportunities for children across all rooms to explore food using their senses.



TastEd is a sensory food education approach based on the Sapere method used in Finland and Sweden. Children are encouraged to use all five senses – sight, smell, touch, sound and taste – to explore different foods, discover what they notice and become more familiar and confident with new experiences. There is no expectation that every child will like or try everything; allergies and sensitivities will always be taken into account and children can take part at their own pace.

Each room will explore TastEd in its own way, from making strawberry milkshakes and discovering foods from different cultures, to closing our eyes and listening to the different sounds foods make when we eat them. These experiences give children opportunities to talk, share their preferences and explore food together with their friends.

Moving & Getting Ready to Write

Our curriculum focus will continue throughout the term with activities in the rooms, our Grandparents' Stay and Plays and a parent workshop all helping to bring the themes to life. As the term progresses, our focus will move on to Talented Tool User/Dynamic Designer and Amazing Athlete with a particular focus on physical development and the skills that support early writing.

Across the nursery, we are looking forward to some exciting age-appropriate activities to help develop the strength, balance, coordination, control and positional awareness needed for later writing. Depending on their age and stage of development this might include climbing, balancing, crawling, throwing and catching, reaching, using tools, threading, manipulating objects and making marks. These everyday opportunities help children build the foundations for the smaller more precise movements involved in mark-making and writing.

Parent Workshop - Moving to Write 17th November 6:45-8:30pm

We'll be exploring this theme further at our Moving to Write parent workshop in November, where parents and carers will be invited to find out more about how physical development supports early writing and discover practical ideas to try at home.

See the learning in action

Keep an eye on our foyer slideshow and Families Learning at Leapfrog board for photographs of the children as they join in with this terms activities. We'll also share simple ideas and useful tips throughout the term with suggestions for things you can try together at home.

Reminders

Ready for the Great Outdoors

We embrace our garden whatever the weather, so please make sure your child is ready to get muddy and wet! Waterproof Forest School-style clothing, such as an all-in-one or suit (available to purchase) is ideal along with wellington boots. As with all personal items please ensure these are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please Leave Toys at Home

To help us keep children safe, we're unable to ensure that toys brought into nursery are suitable for everyone. It also helps avoid the disappointment of favourite toys being lost or damaged during the day. Toys brought into nursery will be passed to the office for collection at the end of the day. Thank you for helping us keep nursery a safe and happy place for everyone.

Staff News

A warm welcome to our new team members who joined the Leapfrog family during the second half of the summer term, some of whom you may already have seen around the nursery.



We are delighted to offer a **warm welcome to Beatriz, Emilia, Layla and Phoebe**, our new Apprentice Practitioners, who have recently joined the Leapfrog team and begun studying towards their Early Years qualifications.

Beatriz, Emilia and Layla are working towards their Level 3 and Phoebe for her Level 2 Early Years qualification.

Beatriz has started in our Preschool, Emilia and Layla are based in the Toddler Room at No. 13 and Phoebe has joined our 2-3s Room. As part of their apprenticeships, all four team members will have the opportunity to gain experience across the different rooms within the nursery, helping them develop a broad range of skills and knowledge. We are very excited to support them throughout their apprenticeship journeys and look forward to seeing them grow and develop in their roles.



We are delighted to offer a **warm welcome to Jodie** to the Leapfrog team following her recent move to Portsmouth. Jodie joins us with six years of experience bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in early years education and care.

She has joined our Toddler Team, where she will be supporting Claire and Eva as we prepare for and transition to the reopening of our Toddler Room at No. 10.

Jodie's already settled in well and we are excited to have her as part of our Leapfrog family.

Exciting News

We delighted to be **reopening our dedicated Toddler Room at No. 10**, providing an exciting new environment for our growing toddler community. As some of our Toddlers prepare to take the next step in their nursery journey, our team has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that everything is ready to support them. Together, we have created a welcoming and nurturing environment where children can feel happy, confident and secure as they take this next step in their nursery journey.

During October, some of our Toddler children will begin their transition visits helping them to become familiar with their new environment, routines and key adults ahead of the room re-opening at the beginning of November.

We are delighted that **Claire, Eva and Jodie** will be supporting the children throughout this exciting stage. They will work closely with each child to help them build confidence, develop new relationships and feel happy and secure in their new surroundings.

We are looking forward to watching the children grow in independence and enjoy all the new opportunities and experiences this next step will bring.

Congratulations to Mia and Eva who have successfully completed their **Level 2 Early Years Educator qualifications**.

Both have worked incredibly hard throughout their studies, demonstrating dedication, commitment and a passion for providing high-quality care and learning experiences for the children. During this time, they have also become valued and well-established members of the team, making a positive contribution to both colleagues and children in their care.

This achievement is thoroughly deserved and we are very proud of everything they have accomplished.

Congratulations Mia and Eva on your fantastic achievement!

Congratulations also to **Sadie** on her **promotion to Acting Team Leader** of the Toddler Room at No. 13, supporting the room during Rose's maternity leave. Alongside stepping into her new leadership role, Sadie is also training, currently undertaking her Level 3 SENCo qualification.

This is an exciting opportunity for Sadie and we are looking forward to supporting her as she develops her leadership skills and specialist knowledge to help ensure the very best outcomes for our children and families.

Congratulations Sadie on a well-deserved achievement!