

WINTER NEWS



Muddy Boots at The Bungalow

WINTER 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to share our first termly newsletter, designed to inform you about the exciting events planned throughout each term. These updates will give you a glimpse into everything happening across the academic period, and we will continue to share any upcoming events via our social media pages and email.

Although I have only been here for a short amount of time, I am incredibly grateful for our fantastic staff and warm support from our wonderful parents. You have all made me feel so welcome. The children have adapted beautifully to recent changes and are thriving every day. I see this in their cheerful arrivals each morning, the positive feedback from parents, and the thoughtful comments from our staff.

We are thrilled about the future and the difference we can make through our positive, child-led approach to learning. One exciting event coming soon is our Christmas Party, which will take place on 18th December at 3 p.m. If this is not a day your child usually attends, please feel free to email me so we can arrange for you to join us! (Please note: If you're coming along just for the party, we kindly ask that you stay during the event.)

This past term has been truly special, filled with wonderful activities and the creation of fantastic memories. We look forward to building on these experiences and can't wait to see what the new year brings!

Warm regards,

Danni

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- December 24th- January 1st Nursery is closed
- Term time only Children return on the 6th January 2025.

Other:

- Thursday 12th December - Pony Visit
- Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Party 3pm-4pm
- Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve 3pm Closure
- Every Friday we will be wearing our Christmas Jumpers to raise money for a very special family!

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:



[/getyourbootsmuddy](#)



The Nook

In The Nook, we have been focusing on shapes, colours, and numbers over the last few weeks, with a particular emphasis on activities supporting fine motor development. For example, we have been practising shape matching, where the children have been using different coloured shapes to help spark conversations about colours, sizes, and patterns. This activity encourages shape recognition and promotes discussion and language development. To further support this learning, we have set up various engaging activities around the room, such as sorting and matching games, which allow the children to explore shapes in a hands-on, interactive way. These activities provide an enjoyable way to improve cognitive and motor skills, all while having fun!

Continue at home

To extend this learning at home, you can create your own shape-matching activities using everyday objects. For example, you can cut shapes out of coloured paper or use toys like blocks, buttons, or lids, and have your child match them by colour and shape. You can also talk about the different shapes and colours as you go, encouraging your child to describe what they see.

The Atelier

Over the past month, we have focused on colours, shapes, and numbers in the Atelier room. We used the children's knowledge and interests to create engaging games. Our tuff trays have featured different numbers, shapes, and colours, and we've encouraged the children to explore concepts fun and interactively. For example, they've been challenged with tasks like building a tower of 3 red blocks, finding the number 3, or identifying shapes around the room, such as the clock or table. We've also discussed other shapes they can spot, like circles and squares. Counting has been a regular part of circle time, and we've even turned it into a game by talking about what colour we're wearing that day. Art activities have allowed us to experiment with mixing primary colours to create new ones, helping the children understand colour combinations.

Continue at home

Go on a scavenger hunt around the house and see how many different shapes you can find. Ask your child to identify circles, squares, triangles, etc., and encourage them to describe where they see them. To continue our tower challenge use blocks and ask your child to follow instructions like "Can you build a tower with 3 red blocks?" or "Can you make a tower using only triangles?"

The Studio

In the Studio, we have been exploring feelings through the book *The Colour Monster*. The children have enjoyed learning about emotions and how to express them. We have also been practising our days of the week and discussing the weather each day, which has sparked some lovely conversations. The sand play has been a favourite activity, with the children enjoying digging and creating in the sand. In our phonics sessions, we have focused on the sounds 's' and 'a', thinking of things that start with these letters. The children have also been practising their counting skills and recognising 2D shapes, which they have done wonderfully. One of the highlights this month has been learning the 'Beans' game, which has been a great way to keep the children active and engaged. To celebrate the season, the children used chalk and paint to create beautiful fireworks pictures, full of bright colours and imagination.

Continue at home

Each morning, discuss the weather. Look outside, identify the conditions (sunny, rainy, windy) and talk about what to wear. You could even create a simple weather chart at home. Encourage your child to create the different weathers using pens, paints and chalks!

Recipe of the Month

SPICED APPLE CAKE

INGREDIENTS:

- Oil
- 750g Bramley cooking apples, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 250g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 2 large eggs
- 50g demerara sugar
- 200ml semi-skimmed milk
- 100ml sunflower oil



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/Fan 170°C/Gas 5, then line a 23cm spring clip cake tin with baking parchment. Mist the base and sides with oil.
2. Put the apple slices in a bowl and toss with the lemon juice and zest.
3. Mix the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and spice in a large mixing bowl.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs with the 50g of sugar, the milk and sunflower oil.
5. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, stirring lightly until combined – use the whisk to break up any stubborn lumps.
6. Toss the lemony apples through the cake batter until evenly mixed and pour the mixture into the prepared tin.
7. Bake the cake in the centre of the oven for 1 hour until it is well risen and golden on top. Test the cake by inserting a skewer into the centre – it should slide easily through the apples in the middle and come out clean.
8. Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes before removing it from the tin and carefully peeling off the baking parchment.

Recent Training

Beth passed her Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Childcare, Congratulations Beth!

Colleague Spotlight

Courtenay has truly shone this month, going above and beyond with a positive attitude and a warm, welcoming smile. Her great initiative and perseverance have been evident in everything she does. Courtenay, your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed –keep up the fantastic work!

