

SPRING NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

As spring approaches, the children are excited to start planting seeds and learning how things grow. Spring offers so many excellent opportunities for activities and discussions around nature, growth, and the changing season. We are also thrilled that the new sand for our sandpits will arrive soon, ready for lots of fun and creative play in the garden. In addition, we are pleased to announce that the barn has had a new heating and air conditioning system installed, and we're already feeling the benefits! We hope you've noticed the improvements in the environment too.

Although the weather is warming up, please remember how unpredictable spring can be. We kindly ask that you bring clothes for all weather conditions, ensuring your child is prepared for any changes. And as always, please make sure that everything your child brings to the nursery is named to avoid any mix-ups.

We also have additional availability in our Pre-School on Fridays. If you want to add these sessions to your booking pattern, please speak to the Manager. Don't forget that you can also book additional sessions instantly via Pebble.

We are also asking parents to kindly take some time to leave a review on Day Nurseries. We would love to hear your feedback on whether you have enjoyed our open days or any particular events! Your support means so much to us, and we truly value your thoughts. You can leave your review using the link below:

<https://www.daynurseries.co.uk/review-submit/65432247635/rcsid/1012/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Jenny

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- **Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April** No Funding is available
- **Friday 18th April - Monday 21st April** Easter Bank Holiday

Other:

- **21st March** - Red Nose Day
- **22nd March** - Spring Spectacular Open Day
- **17th April** - Easter Stay and Play from 4:30pm until 5:30pm

Parents Evenings:

- We will soon be sending invites to book parents evening with your child's key worker.

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:





The Nook

In The Nest, we have explored healthy eating by engaging with various foods and textures. The children enjoyed feeling the different textures of the food with their hands and mouths, which was a great sensory experience. We also used some vegetables to create prints, allowing the children to explore the shapes and colours creatively. With the toddlers' help, we cut up a range of fruits to make a delicious fruit cocktail for our morning snack. The children tried plums, strawberries, pineapple, and watermelon, expanding their taste experiences.

We look forward to spending more time outdoors as the weather begins to warm up. We now have a new baby garden at the farm, and we will organise and set up our garden in preparation for the summer. The children will get involved in planting herbs for our mud kitchen and setting up the sandpit, ensuring we have a fun and engaging space to explore.

Continue at home

Create a mini "garden" project with your child. Try planting some easy-to-grow herbs or flowers in small pots or even in your garden. You can help them water the plants daily and observe how they grow over time.

The Atelier

This month we've had fun making yummy and healthy snacks, trying different fruits and vegetables, and practicing chopping and preparing fruit for snack times. Alongside this, we've been doing lots of fun crafts too!

We also celebrated Storytelling Week, where we revisited our favorite stories. The children enjoyed a Tiger Who Came to Tea party, made fruit kebabs inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and explored a Gruffalo tuff tray. In this activity, we discussed the different animals and where they lived. The toddlers also made their own Elmer the Patchwork Elephant using templates, glue, and other colored tissue paper. They engaged with a Tiddler-themed tuff tray filled with various "under the sea" materials to explore.

As the weather gets warmer, the toddlers will spend more time outside in the garden. We will learn about planting seeds and vegetables in our plant pots and can't wait to watch them grow throughout the summer months!

Continue at home

Why not create a small vegetable garden at home? You can help your toddler plant easy-to-grow veggies like tomatoes, peas, or herbs in pots. Let them water the plants daily and observe how they change over time.

The Studio

This month, we have been busy prepping the garden to ensure it's ready for spring. The children have been helping to create new plant beds, planting seeds, and using our indoor greenhouse to grow vegetables. Once the weather warms up, these vegetables will be moved outside to continue growing. The children have been using wheelbarrows to move soil and bark around the garden, working in teams to complete all the jobs.

Last week, we had an exciting trip to Exeter to see the Moon at Exeter Cathedral! We've been learning about space and the solar system in our morning group sessions, so the visit aligned perfectly with our group learning. We took the bus into Exeter, discussing road safety beforehand, and everyone did brilliantly. The children were fascinated by seeing the moon in person and enjoyed hearing the sounds of the rockets being played during the visit.

Looking ahead, we will learn more about spring, explore Ramadan, and participate in Science Week with some exciting experiments.

Continue at home

You could also create a simple space-themed activity by reading books about the solar system and perhaps even making your own "moon" at home with craft materials. Encourage your child to talk about what they've learned and share their excitement about the natural world!

Recipe of the Month

VEGGIE PARMIGIANA

INGREDIENTS:

- Aubergines, cut into 1cm thick rings
- 1 tbsp garlic infused olive oil (you can make your own by adding 2 cloves of garlic to olive oil)
- 3 large onions, finely chopped
- 3 large carrots, diced
- 3 peppers (any colour), diced
- 2 large courgettes, sliced
- 2 tspn dried oregano
- 2x 400g tinned chopped tomatoes (no added sugar or salt)
- 50g pasteurised Italian style cheese, finely grated
- 125g mozzarella, thinly sliced



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set the grill to high, and grill the aubergine slices until browned on each side, and set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.
3. Heat the oil in a pan and add the onions. Stir until softened.
4. Add the carrots, peppers, and courgette, and stir frequently.
5. Mix in the tinned tomatoes and oregano, and simmer for 10 minutes.
6. Layer the sauce and aubergines in an oven proof dish, finishing with the sauce.
7. Top with Italian style cheese and sliced mozzarella.
8. Bake for 35 minutes until golden.

Recent Training

Michelle has successfully completed her 2-day Paediatric First Aid training. Phoebe has also completed her first-aid training as part of her apprenticeship, further strengthening our team's ability to provide a safe and supportive environment for all the children.

Colleague Spotlight

We want to take a moment to acknowledge Elizabeth for being an excellent team member. Elizabeth consistently goes above and beyond in their role, always demonstrating dedication and a positive attitude. Their hard work and commitment have been invaluable in creating a supportive and nurturing environment for the staff and the children, particularly in incorporating Montessori learning into their everyday experiences.



EXCITING CHARITY PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

At iStep Learning, we believe in nurturing young minds while also fostering kindness, empathy, and a strong sense of community. That's why we're thrilled to introduce iStep into the Community - our new initiative dedicated to giving back to local causes.

Each of our nurseries has chosen a charity close to their hearts. At Muddy Boots at the Farm, we are committed to supporting the health and well-being of our community members. Recognising the profound impact of cancer on individuals and their families, we have chosen to support FORCE Cancer Charity, an organisation dedicated to providing free support and information to anyone affected by cancer in Exeter and surrounding areas. Their mission aligns with our compassion, support, and community care values.

Through two fundraising events - one in May and one in July - children, families, and staff will come together to make a meaningful impact. Keep an eye out for more details soon! Together, we can create a ripple effect of kindness!

We will soon be releasing our full iStep into the Community pack, which will showcase all the charities our nurseries have chosen to support.

You can find out more about the incredible work that FORCE Cancer do [here](#)

