

SPRING NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a wonderful start to spring with lots of exciting things happening. The children were thrilled to have a visit from a police officer who came in to talk with them. She explained that she wasn't scary and that her role was to help, not just to catch the "bad guys." The children enjoyed learning about the important work she does in the community. In addition, we've been discussing love and the people who are important to us. Seeing the children share their thoughts and feelings about family and friends has been heartwarming.

We are also excited to announce the opening of our new 18-months-plus room! In this space, we'll prepare the children to transition into the toddler room. It's been a joy to see the children grow and develop as they prepare for the next stage in their journey.

Outside the front door, we have a community larder stocked with food, nappies, coats, shoes, toys, and more. If you need anything, please feel free to help yourself. If there isn't something in the size you require, please pop in and see Vicki, who will be happy to help you source the items you need.

We have also revamped our lending library! Please take a book home and share it with your child. Reading from a young age significantly increases and enhances vocabulary, making it an important activity for your child's development.

I would also like to gently remind all parents about drop-off and pick-up times. If your session finishes at a specific time, please ensure you are on time to collect your child. We understand that delays can happen, but if you are running late, please notify us so we are aware. Late collection charges will be applied if parents consistently collect late, as per our policy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

We also have additional availability in the Nest on Thursdays. If you want to add these sessions to your booking pattern, please speak let me know. 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/65432247632/rcsid/1012/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Vicki

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:

- **22nd March** - Spring Spectacular Open Day
- **Thursday 20th & Friday 21st March** - Red Nose Day Bake Off! Our groups, rooms, and staff will be hosting a Bake Off competition to see who can make the best cake or bake. Who will win the title? Come into nursery wearing lots of red to show your support! At the end of the day, we will also be hosting a Bake Sale (for donations)
- **Friday 28th March** - Mothers Day Crafts and Afternoon Tea

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:





The Nest and Nook

In the Nest, we have been celebrating Valentine's Day by using our fine motor skills to explore paint and create our Valentine's artwork. We've also been enjoying the dry weather by spending time outside. Please ensure you bring warm all-in-one suits and outdoor shoes to keep everyone comfortable and warm. The children have fun using the balls and tubes and exploring the light boxes with sensory bottles and toys.

In the Nook, we've had a wonderful time exploring the new room and settling in. The children enjoyed using the soft play area and working on strengthening their leg and arm muscles. Water play has also been a big hit, with lots of emoting and refilling cups, creating plenty of splashing fun!

Continue at home

For water play at home, a simple tub of water, some cups, spoons, or small containers can provide endless fun and help with pouring, measuring, and splashing. It's a great way to reinforce their learning while encouraging imaginative play.

The Atelier

We have had some fantastic experiences over the past few weeks! The children enjoyed walks around the town, where we visited the police station. A friendly police officer even let us sit in the car and turned the siren on, which was an exciting experience for everyone!

We've also been celebrating some important festivals. We marked Chinese New Year with a variety of fun activities and enjoyed trying lots of new food. For Valentine's Day, we got creative, making heart-shaped pancakes and heart-shaped pizzas to share during snack time. This activity also sparked lovely conversations about the people we love and care for.

Continue at home

Why not try making your own "love-themed" treats together? You could bake heart-shaped cookies or cupcakes and let the children decorate them with icing and sprinkles. As you do this, talk about different people you love and what makes them unique.

The Studio

Hola! We have revamped our curriculum in the preschool room and have introduced many exciting new activities. One of the new things we are doing is learning a new Spanish word every day. The children are really enjoying this and love sharing the new words with the staff as they come through the room!

Additionally, we have introduced a science day each week. The preschoolers love experimenting with different activities, and our favourite experiment so far has been flying balloons across the room! The children worked really hard to figure out which balloon went the furthest and which was the fastest. One of our preschoolers, explained, "The bigger balloon had more air in it, so it went further." It's wonderful to see their curiosity and critical thinking in action!

Continue at home

Try experimenting with different types of balloons or other objects to see how they move. You could try using different sizes of balloons, varying the amount of air inside. You can explore questions like:

- Which object goes the furthest?
- Which one moves the fastest?
- What happens if you change the angle at which you blow or launch the balloon?

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

Vicki, Casey, Ellie, and Emma have recently updated their Paediatric First Aid certification. Well done to them for completing this important training!

Rosie and India are working really hard towards the end of their Level 2 Apprenticeship. Keep up the great work, girls – you're almost there!

Colleague Spotlight

Kayleigh has been leading the unit amazingly, going above and beyond to ensure all the children receive the support they need during their transitions. She has created a fun and engaging environment, which has been a wonderful experience for the children. Well done, Kayleigh!



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 Market, we are committed to fostering a supportive and compassionate community. Recognising the challenges faced by individuals experiencing housing difficulties, we have chosen to support Churches Housing Action Team (CHAT) Mid Devon, a charity dedicated to preventing homelessness and providing essential support services in our region. Their mission aligns with our values of empathy, community support, and proactive assistance.

Through two fundraising events - one in June and one in November - 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 CHAT do [here](#)

