

# SUMMER NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had such a lovely few months filled with exciting learning, laughter, and plenty of sunshine. As we move into our summer term, the warmer weather has arrived right on cue, giving us the chance to spend more well-deserved time enjoying our wonderful gardens and outdoor spaces.

This is a particularly special term, as it marks the final stretch for our Preschool children before they take their next big step into school. For some families, this moment may have once felt far off—and now here we are! Please keep an eye out for important information about transitions, graduation parties, and school-leaver photographs.

We'll also be hosting lots of stay and play sessions over the coming months, and we would love to see as many parents, grandparents, aunties, and uncles joining us as possible. It's a great chance to spend time in the nursery, meet our team, and get involved in the fun and learning your children enjoy every day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we're looking forward to making more lovely memories together this term.

Warm regards,

Danni

## Dates for your diary

### Holidays and Closures:

- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July** - Last Day for children in receipt of 15/30 hours funding
- **W/C Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August** - Half of funding entitlement available
- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September** - All children return
- **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August** - Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)

### Other:

- **21<sup>st</sup> June** - Summer Fete Nursery Open Day
- **9<sup>th</sup> July** - Graduation 3pm until 5pm
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August** - School Leavers last day

### Parents Evening:

- **W/C 23<sup>rd</sup> June** - Studio
- **W/C 14<sup>th</sup> July** - Atelier
- **W/C 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Nest

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 [/getyourbootsmuddy](https://www.facebook.com/getyourbootsmuddy)



### The Nest

One of our recent favourite activities in The Nest has been exploring and playing with large cardboard boxes—and what a hit it's been! The children had a wonderful time decorating the boxes using paint and a variety of tools, including brushes, rollers, sponges, and, of course, their hands. This messy play gave them the chance to explore different textures and get creative with their mark-making.

The fun continued once the paint had dried as the children used their gross motor skills to crawl through, climb in, and stack the boxes. It was a brilliant way to encourage movement and coordination, all while having lots of fun.

We also used this activity to model rich language by playing games like peek-a-boo and counting how many boxes we could build into a tower, supporting both social interaction and early numeracy in a playful, engaging way.

### Continue at home

Save a few cardboard boxes from deliveries and let your little one explore! Painting, decorating, or simply crawling through them can be just as exciting at home. Try playing simple games like peek-a-boo or hiding toys inside to find.

### The Atelier

We've had a wonderful few weeks filled with creativity, learning, and lots of fun!

To celebrate World Pet Day, the children created their very own pets using a variety of materials. They practised their fine motor skills by cutting, painting, and drawing to make colourful animal masks. We also encouraged the children to bring in photos of their real-life pets, which sparked some fantastic conversations during circle time—everyone loved sharing stories about their furry (and not-so-furry!) friends.

Our gardening adventures have continued as we planted sunflower seeds and carefully nurtured them. The children have really enjoyed watching their plants grow and flourish.

One of the most exciting moments recently has been the arrival of our special guests! We welcomed eggs into the room and watched with great excitement as they hatched into fluffy little chicks. The children have absolutely loved observing the changes and learning about the life cycle of a chicken in real time.

### Continue at home

Chat with your child about how we care for pets and plants, encouraging them to help water plants or feed a pet if you have one. Create animal masks together or draw pictures of their favourite animals to keep conversations going. If you're out on a walk, talk about the animals or plants you see and ask your child what they remember about how things grow and change!

### The Studio

We've been busy exploring *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, diving into what happens in the story, what the caterpillar eats, and how many items he munches through! This has been a fantastic opportunity to link the story to our early maths skills, counting the food and talking about numbers in a fun and meaningful way.

The children also got creative using long cardboard tubes and materials to thread and build their very own caterpillars. This activity supported their fine motor development, especially using the tripod grip—a key pre-writing skill.

We've been talking all about the life cycle of a caterpillar, learning how it transforms into a beautiful butterfly. Alongside this, we had a very exciting arrival—our chicks! The children were captivated by watching them hatch from eggs and grow into fluffy little birds. To extend this learning, the children created their own chicks using tissue paper, glue, and googly eyes, and loved comparing their creations to the real ones.

We've also been practising our counting skills during line-up time, and focusing on phonics by listening for the special sound at the beginning of our names.

### Continue at home

You can continue this learning at home by reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* together and counting along with the story. Try looking at pictures or videos of life cycles, and encourage your child to notice and talk about changes in nature.

## Recipe of the Month

### CHICKEN FAJITAS

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 large chicken breasts thinly sliced (or a meat substitute)
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 red chilli, thinly sliced (optional)
- Handful grated cheddar cheese
- 1 heaped tbsp paprika
- 1 tbsp ground coriander
- Pinch of ground cumin
- 2 medium garlic cloves, crushed 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lime, juiced

#### For Salsa:

- 1 cucumber, peeled and diced
- ½ red onion, diced
- 250g tomatoes, seeded and diced 1 tspn crushed fresh garlic
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1 tspn olive oil
- ½ tspn ground cumin
- ½ tspn ground black pepper

#### Instructions

1. Heat oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6.
2. Mix paprika, coriander, cumin, crushed garlic, olive oil, and lime juice together in a bowl.
3. Stir the sliced chicken breasts, red onion, red pepper, and optional chilli into the marinade.
4. Heat a griddle pan until smoking hot and add the marinated chicken.
5. Keep everything moving over the high heat until you get a nice charred effect. If your griddle pan is small, you can do this in two batches.

6. To check the chicken is cooked, cut into the thickest part of the chicken. If it is still red inside, then continue cooking.
7. For the salsa, mix the diced tomato, onion, cucumber, then add the lime juice, minced garlic, cumin, and black pepper. Set aside.
8. Put the tortillas in the oven to heat up for a few minutes, and serve with the cooked chicken mixture, salsa, and grated cheese.



## Recent Training

We're proud to share some fantastic recent training achievements from our team, who are always working hard to grow their knowledge and provide the best care and learning experiences for your children.

- Chloe has completed Exemplary Practice for 3–4-Year-Olds
- Jen has completed Exemplary Practice for 2–3-Year-Olds and also achieved her Level 3 Safeguarding qualification.
- Emily has completed Exemplary Practice for Babies.
- Ilana has taken part in An Introduction to SENDCO training.
- Beth has also successfully completed her Level 3 Safeguarding training.

## Colleague Spotlight

Chloe may have only been with us a short time, but she's already made a big impact! Her dedication and calm, positive approach have brought such a lovely energy to our Studio room. Chloe puts her all into everything she does, thoughtfully planning a wide range of activities that support the children's development, curiosity, and understanding of the world around them. We're so pleased to have her as part of the team!

