

SUMMER NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

We're excited to share all the wonderful things happening here at the nursery as we enter the summer term! Our gardens are bursting with growth, and the children have been thoroughly enjoying learning about the life cycle of plants, especially seeing their own planted seeds come to life. Watching their curiosity bloom alongside the flowers has been a joy!

With warmer weather arriving, we are making the most of our outdoor spaces. From snack time and painting to bug hunting, sports, and enjoying our new sand pits, the children are fully embracing the fresh air and freedom that outdoor play provides. You may notice they are often still outside at the end of the day—please check the gardens at pick-up time, as that's likely where you'll find us!

As the sun shines brighter, please remember to apply sun cream to your child before coming to nursery. Our team will top it up throughout the day. Also, ensure your child has a named drink bottle, sun hat, cool clothing, and suitable footwear. If you're unsure about the forecast, we recommend packing for all weathers just in case!

We're also delighted to welcome two new team members! Lily has joined us as an apprentice in the baby room, and Erin, a qualified teacher, will be working with our preschool children on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them around.

Some exciting changes have been happening inside, too. Our baby room has expanded, creating more space for exploration and play. The toddler group is now enjoying one of the smaller classrooms and the large main space, which they absolutely love! We've also refreshed many of the barn walls with a fresh coat of paint, giving the space a lovely new look.

Lastly, we now have a new gate at the tent entrance. For everyone's safety, please ring the bell and wait to be let in by a staff member. We kindly ask that you avoid letting other parents through the gate so we can monitor who is on the premises at all times.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're looking forward to a joyful and sunny term ahead!

Jenny

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

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

Other:

- **14th June** - Summer Fete Nursery Open Day
- **26th June** - Graduation

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our Social Media:

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



The Nest

This term, we've been diving into all things Spring in the Nest! The children have loved exploring the season through sensory play and creativity. One of our favourite activities was discovering flowers frozen in ice—we used little hammers to carefully free the petals, which sparked lots of excitement and curiosity!

We then used the petals to create our flower collages, encouraging fine motor skills and artistic expression. For Mother's Day, the children planted sweet peas and made beautiful handmade cards using their handprints—a lovely keepsake for our amazing Mummies!

With the sunshine making more frequent appearances, we've spent plenty of time outside, exploring the garden, observing nature, and enjoying the fresh air.

Continue at home

You can support your child's spring learning at home by exploring nature together—go on a walk to spot flowers, insects, and other signs of the season. Try simple activities like planting seeds in a pot, collecting petals for a collage, or freezing flowers in ice for some fun sensory play. Talking about what they see, hear, and feel outdoors helps build language and curiosity too!

The Atelier

Our toddlers have been making the most of the sunshine and spending lots of time outdoors! They've loved the water play trays, exploring the sand with new toys in our sand pit, and getting their hands dirty planting flowers and vegetables in our new veg patch.

We've also welcomed new faces into the toddler room—new starters and lovely children moving up from the baby room. It's been a busy time of settling in, building friendships, and creating a welcoming, nurturing environment for everyone.

Over the past few months, we've focused on developing fine motor skills through mark-making with a variety of tools and materials. We've also been learning about different habitats and enjoying sensory activities. A highlight was our fun trip to the park and a visit to the milkshake shed—it was such a treat!

We're excited to celebrate Father's Day, dive into summer-themed fun, learn about different occupations, and explore our five senses through hands-on experiences.

Continue at home

You can support your toddler's learning by encouraging mark-making at home with crayons, chalk, or even water and paintbrushes outside. Talk about different jobs people do when you're out and about, and try simple sensory games, like guessing smells or textures, to explore their five senses. Little everyday moments go a long way in building their curiosity and confidence!

The Studio

Our Pre-Schoolers have been busy in the garden, continuing their hard work and looking forward to seeing the final results of their planting and outdoor projects. They also had a fantastic time during Science Week, exploring experiments around floating and sinking, melting objects, and discovering what is magnetic. It's been a fun and engaging way to build curiosity and early scientific thinking!

As always, our focus in Pre-School is school readiness. The children have been practising independence and developing important skills they'll need as they transition to school.

We're also setting up a new school role-play area and would appreciate any donations of old school uniform items to help bring it to life.

Continue at home

Encourage independence by involving your child in everyday tasks like dressing themselves, packing their bag, or tidying up toys. Simple science activities at home, like exploring what floats in the bath or using a magnet on household items, can also help build curiosity. And don't forget to chat about starting school to help them feel excited and confident!

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 that Rachel has recently completed her Baby Room Lead training! Her dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and we're excited to see her continue to thrive in her role. Congratulations, Rachel!

Colleague Spotlight

Lily has settled in wonderfully at the nursery and in the baby room. She's quickly finding her feet, learning the ropes, and has fitted in seamlessly with the team.

