

FAMILY NEWS

WINTER 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

The vibrant colours of autumn have kept the children busy, and we have enjoyed a variety of activities using the beautiful leaves that have fallen around us. We also celebrated Diwali, Black History Month, and observed Remembrance Day, taking time to honour those who fought for us. The preschool children had the opportunity to read a story about Remembrance Day, helping them understand its importance. The whole nursery took part in a special meal for Black History Month, learning about the origins of some of the foods we shared.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new children and staff members who have joined our nursery, as well as a big congratulations to the parents who have recently welcomed a new baby into their families.

As the days are getting shorter, please be mindful of cars and pedestrians when driving in and out of the nursery. For our daily play, we kindly ask that you send your children in clothes you are happy for them to get messy in, as this helps encourage freedom in their play and exploration. Also, please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather, including jackets if needed.

We are committed to providing high-quality care for all our children. If there is any area you feel we can improve on, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Daniella

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- December 25th- January 1st Nursery is closed

Other:

- 7th December - Join us for our Christmas Fayre Open Day!

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

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



The Baby Snug

Over the past three months, our babies have been exploring various activities based on their interests whilst embracing Diwali's celebration in our learning experiences. The children have shown great engagement in imaginative play with baby dolls. They've fed, changed, bathed, and read to the dolls, mirroring real-life routines. Some babies have even begun to recognise facial features and body parts, painting and identifying them on the dolls, which has supported their sense of self.

Incorporating the Diwali festival into our activities, the children read the book Peppa's Diwali and then engaged in related activities inspired by the story. These included making salt dough diyas (traditional oil lamps), firework paintings, playing with glitter play dough, drawing chalk pictures, and experimenting with shaving foam fireworks, all of which helped us explore the celebration of light.

Continue at home

To continue our babies' interest in imaginative play, provide simple play kitchen items such as pots and spoons to pretend to cook together. Using pretend ingredients, you can "make" soups, cakes, or simple meals. This type of play encourages problem-solving and creativity while learning about everyday routines.

The Toddler Den

Over the last term, our toddlers have been busy exploring various themes, including Diwali, Halloween, Black History Month, Remembrance Day, and fireworks. These exciting topics have been brought to life through engaging stories, activities, and discussions that helped the children learn about different cultures, traditions, and important events.

Starting toilet training has been a critical milestone for some of our toddlers this term, and we're so proud of their progress. Watching them develop more independence and confidence in this area has been a joy.

We introduced a new focus child system, a fantastic way to support individual development and highlight each child's next steps. This approach allowed the children to explore activities tailored to their interests and learning needs.

As new children have joined our toddler room, we've seen wonderful growth in their social skills, focusing on building friendships.

Continue at home

Visit your local library and look out for diverse books. The library is a beautiful way to share stories and expose toddlers to various cultures, traditions, and experiences from around the world. Books provide a rich, engaging way for children to learn about the world.

The Pre-School Study

The preschoolers have been busy focusing on their interest in letters and numbers. They have also explored different celebrations, including Black History Month. They listened to stories highlighting equality and inclusion, and the children created portraits by looking in the mirror.

On Diwali day, the children listened to the story of the family celebrating the festival and demonstrated an understanding of their culture. They experimented with coloured flour, using Diyas to mix and pour.

For Halloween, the children engaged their senses by exploring and experimenting with creating their potion, mixing water with glitter, paint, and flowers. This was followed by a play in the dark with glow-in-the-dark resources.

During Bonfire Night, the children listened to the story Dancing Around the Fire. Afterwards, they enjoyed dancing in colourful lights, pretending to be fireworks. The children showed a good understanding of safety during Bonfire Night celebrations.

Continue at home

To extend your child's learning at home, encourage them to change into comfortable clothes after outdoor play or water activities. This will help build their confidence and self-sufficiency, reinforcing the skills they have been practising at nursery.

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

Georgia and Chloe have completed Paediatric First Aid.

Victoria and Patrisha have completed their safeguarding course.

Colleague Spotlight

We would like to nominate Georgia for our colleague spotlight!

She has worked very hard to support Magda in the preschool room, whilst waiting to appoint a new room lead. She has just started her level 3 qualification and continues to show great dedication to her work.

