

# FAMILY NEWS

LittleExplorers  
**Royal George Road**

DAY NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL

WINTER 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a busy few months here at Royal George Road, filled with exciting new activities and experiences! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the introduction of Forest School, Gardening Club, and Cooking Club, joining in with Rhyme Time at the library, and going on local outings.

The Baby Room has undergone a refurbishment, with a significant investment in new toys and equipment that the babies have loved exploring. Our focus will now shift to enhancing the Toddler Room to provide even more engaging opportunities for our toddlers.

We're also delighted to share some staff updates. Congratulations to Leahanne on her well-deserved promotion from Room Leader to Third in Charge! Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Amy, our new Nursery Practitioner, to the Toddler Room team.

This is a gentle reminder about gate safety: Please do not allow others to enter behind you when arriving. Everyone must close the gate behind them, and anyone arriving afterwards should ring the bell. This helps us maintain the safety and security of all children and ensures we are aware of who is entering the building.

Finally, we're excited to announce that the Baby Room staff will soon embark on baby massage training. This will introduce a fantastic new activity to support babies' movement, relaxation, and overall well-being.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more updates in the new year!

Elise

## 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!
- 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- 18th December - Christmas Party 3pm until 430pm, all children are welcome to attend.
- 19th December - Parents Evening, please look out for our time slots that will be available soon.

## Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

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



### The Baby Snug

In the Baby Room, the little ones have been engaged in a variety of activities designed to support their prime areas of development. The babies have enjoyed local park outings and joined the Toddlers for weekly Rhyme Time sessions. Mark-making has been a highlight recently, with the babies exploring different tools like sticks, paintbrushes, bubble wrap, and tin foil. A particular favourite was the autumn ice mould painting, where the babies held and felt the icy textures while making marks. They also practised naming shapes such as "leaf" and "pumpkin". Our sensory bags have also been a hit! The different materials inside intrigued the babies, such as slime, crunchy cornflakes, soft wool, and gritty sand, sparking curiosity and sensory engagement. Natural resources have been a key focus, with treasure baskets and heuristic play providing excellent opportunities for exploration. The babies loved investigating the materials and finding their own unique ways to use them—like stacking bamboo rings or using soft brushes to "brush" each other's hair.

### Continue at home

Create a Treasure Basket: Gather safe household items like wooden spoons, soft brushes, sponges, or fabric scraps. Let your baby explore the different textures, shapes, and sounds.  
 Create a Nature Basket: During a walk, collect natural objects like pinecones, leaves, and stones for your baby to investigate at home.

### The Toddler Den

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the world around them in the Toddler Room. They visited the local field to collect natural items for their discovery tray. They examined the different shapes and colours of leaves, compared the textures of spiky and smooth conkers, and gathered sticks of varying lengths. Back at nursery, they used magnifying glasses to examine their findings closely. This activity was extended as the children used the natural items for paint stamping and playdough printing. The toddlers have also been regularly visiting the local library for rhyme time. They enthusiastically join in with various songs and actions, often using props and puppets. Cooking has also been a highlight for the toddlers. They have made a variety of foods, including focaccia, cakes, and their very own pumpkin soup for Halloween. The children took turns using the different equipment, combining ingredients, and following the steps in the recipe.

### Continue at home

Involve your toddler in making simple recipes, such as sandwiches, fruit salad, or baking cookies. Encourage them to mix, pour, and talk about the ingredients. Cbeebies have some simple, easy recipes for you to try!

### The Pre-School Study

Forest School has been a favourite activity in preschool. Children build dens using logs, branches, and tarpaulin while learning about safety. They've also enjoyed exploring the giant sandpit, digging, pouring, and filling containers. For Black History Month, the children loved listening to Pretty Salma, an African tale similar to Little Red Riding Hood. They drew pictures of the story's characters and buildings and made masks inspired by the villagers to scare away the dog. The children planted herbs like basil and coriander in the Gardening Club, smelling and tasting them before planting. They also grew sunflowers, measuring their heights with rulers and tape measures to see which was tallest. Oral health has been a key focus, with a visit from a dental hygienist teaching the children proper brushing techniques. Toothbrushing has now been added to our daily routine, with each child practising after lunch.

### Continue at home

After reading a book together, draw the characters or create masks like the preschoolers did for Pretty Salma. Use simple materials like paper plates, crayons, and elastic bands. You could make characters and re-enact your favourite parts of the story!

## 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

Laura, Trade, and Amy recently completed their Paediatric First Aid training, which means the whole staff team is now paediatric first aid trained.

Elise, Sophie, and Leahanne have all recently attended Designated Safeguarding Lead training. This ensures that safeguarding knowledge and practice are robust to ensure the safety of all who attend the nursery.

## Colleague Spotlight

We want to praise Trade, who has worked above and beyond to support across the nursery. They have formed many great relationships with the children and we enjoy Trade's company. Trade has excellent passion and initiative when working with the children. They join in with children's play and experiences and encourage them to express themselves.

