



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a busy and exciting few months since our last update! In October, we were delighted to welcome Grandparents into the Nursery. Grandparents play a valuable role in supporting families, and this was our way of saying thank you. They joined in with activities and enjoyed a lovely cream tea with the children!

Over the past term, we've been busy with lots of engaging activities. From pumpkin carving and creating firework pictures to baking delicious treats, outdoor adventures with our trainee Forest School Lead, and fun physical exercise sessions with our sports coach, there's been something for everyone.

As the days grow colder and darker, we've been exploring the beautiful autumn colours in the trees in our garden. We've also visited the field opposite the Nursery, where we've been observing changes in the hedgerows and searching for bugs that might be starting to hibernate!

We're thrilled to announce our Christmas Open Day on 7th December, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Booking is essential for a chance to meet Father Christmas, but spaces are limited, so please secure your slot early! All funds raised on the day will be donated to Momentum Children's Charity. Momentum provides invaluable support to families navigating childhood cancer, offering assistance from hospital to home so no family has to cope alone. This cause is incredibly close to our hearts as it supports families like Tala's, who are part of our Nursery family. At just 4½ weeks old, Tala was diagnosed with retinoblastoma (a rare childhood cancer), and Momentum has been a lifeline for her family. We're proud to support this incredible charity, and we'd love to see as many of you as possible at the Open Day!

Emma

## 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! Father Christmas will be in his grotto, with his reindeer. There will also be Christmas activity tables where you can make reindeer food or a tree decoration, and a raffle with some wonderful prizes. We look forward to celebrating with you!
- Our lovely Alex is due to go on Maternity Leave on the 28.11.2024

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

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

 [@thenurseryfamily](https://www.instagram.com/thenurseryfamily)



### The Baby Snug

The youngest members of our nursery have been having a fantastic time exploring play insects through messy play. They dipped the insects in different colours and watched in awe as their footprints made marks on the paper, which sparked lots of conversations about colours and patterns. Later in the day, we had even more fun rescuing the insects, encouraging problem-solving and teamwork as the children worked together to help them.

As part of our sensory experience, we also enjoyed the classic story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which captivated the children as they watched the caterpillar transform into a beautiful butterfly. This sparked discussions about growth and change, and the children were fascinated by the life cycle of a butterfly. Additionally, the children have been learning the actions to *Incy Wincy Spider*, which they absolutely love performing, building their coordination and memory skills.

### Continue at home

Go on an outdoor adventure to find insects. Take along a magnifying glass or a bug-catching kit, and let your child examine the insects up close. Talk about their features, textures, and movements, sparking a curiosity about the natural world.

### The Toddler Den

The toddlers have been focusing on developing their independence through a range of engaging activities. Each day begins with self-registration, where they find their picture and "post" it on the registration board. This activity supports their sense of belonging, helping them recognise themselves within the group and build friendships with their peers.

They also enjoyed free-flow play, choosing whether to explore indoors or outdoors. At snack time, the children selected their snack from the trolley, practised cutting their own fruit, and decided between water or milk, even pouring their own drinks.

To promote responsibility, the children learnt where their personal belongings, are kept such as their pegs and were encouraged to put on their own coats, shoes, or wellingtons before going outside and to tidy them away afterwards. Encouraging independence fosters self-reliance and gives children a sense of control; it also builds their self-esteem.

### Continue at home

Create a daily routine where your child is responsible for putting on their own shoes, coats, or wellington boots. You can make it fun by turning it into a game: for example, "Let's see if you can put on your shoes faster than yesterday!" This helps with fine motor skills and builds their confidence in dressing themselves.

### The Pre-School Study

Recently, the focus has been on supporting digital literacy within the classroom. Whether using digital scales during cookery club or accessing the internet to extend learning, staff have aimed to show children how technology can support their curiosity and understanding. For example, staff use tablets to research topics with the children, teaching them how information can be found online while introducing discussions about internet safety.

Staff use child-friendly books and interactive stories to explore concepts such as online safety. Additionally, the children use the digital camera to photograph their activities and themselves, allowing staff to discuss images and what is appropriate to share.

The EYFS highlights the importance of introducing computing to help children develop an understanding of technology from a young age, prepare them for a digital world, and instill the fundamentals of e-safety.

### Continue at home

Use a tablet or computer to research topics your child is curious about. For example, if they're interested in dinosaurs or space, look up fun facts or videos together. This will introduce them to how information is found online and widen their knowledge of these topics.

## 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

Chanelle Schoultz has successfully completed her First Aid Training.

Billie Stoodley has started her Senco Lead Training as well as DSL training.

## Colleague Spotlight

I would like to take a moment to mention Chanelle, one of our newest team members. Chanelle joined us in August and has settled in wonderfully. She has been a great support, working across all rooms and covering for sickness, holidays, and days off. Chanelle has quickly formed strong connections with both the children and their families, and we are so happy to have her as part of our team. Her positive energy and dedication have made a real impact, and we are excited to see her continue to thrive with us.