

FAMILY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Your Spring Newsletter!

We've had a lovely few months, despite the cold and wet weather. Nevertheless, the staff and children have been enjoying playing and interacting every day with new and exciting activities. When we've managed to get outside, we've wrapped up warm, splashed in puddles, made mud pies and tried to count the leaves and sticks that have blown off the trees. We cannot wait until everything turns green again!

We also welcomed parents for Parents' Evening, a lovely opportunity to spend time together and celebrate your children's successes.

Several events are planned throughout the year, some listed below. The rest can be found on the Parents' Notice Board. We would love for any of you who want to share something special and traditional from your family to let us know. This would greatly help us enhance the children's experiences and support inclusion.

We are excited to welcome the lovely Emma B. as the Toddler Room Lead. She has met all the parents and children and is already stuck in her new role.

Extra Important Date for Your Diary: 14th May 2025 – We will have Wallflowers at the Nursery to take photos of the children. A sign-up sheet will be available for those who want these portraits taken.

Best Wishes,
Emma and The Lower Beeding Team

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- **Friday 18th April** – Good Friday (Nursery Closed)
- **Monday 21st April** – Easter Monday (Nursery Closed)
- **Monday 5th May** – Early May Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)
- **Monday 26th May** – Late May Bank Holiday (Nursery Closed)

Other:

- **Friday 21st March** – Red Nose Day
- **Saturday 22nd March** – Spring Spectacular Open Day
- **Monday 24th, Wednesday 26th, Friday 28th March** – Mothers Day Stay and Plays
- **Wednesday 23rd April** – St Georges day

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:





The Baby Snug

Baby Snug has recently welcomed many new little ones. As a team, we have been working hard to form strong attachments and establish parent partnerships to help settle them into Nursery life. The existing children have continued to enjoy accessing various resources, including sensory trays, water play, and sand play.

The older children in this room have been learning to use the bathroom, wash their hands, drink from open cups, and follow simple instructions such as "get your shoes and coat ready to go into the garden." These skills are all in preparation for their transition into the Toddler Den.

The children have also enjoyed exploring different ways to make marks, which has helped to build their fine motor skills and strengthen their muscles. Practitioners have provided materials and mark-making tools for children to experience different textures and enhance their creativity.

Continue at home

Set up a mark-making station at home using different materials, such as crayons, chalk, and paint brushes with water. Encourage them to make shapes, patterns, or even simple drawings to build their fine motor skills and creativity!

The Toddler Den

The Toddlers have been focusing on independence and self-care. This has been explored through role play, where they've been making their own teas and drinks in the home corner, practising tipping and pouring to develop their hand-eye coordination.

Some of our Toddlers are welcoming new siblings into their families, so to support them with this transition, we've been using baby dolls to practise caring for others. The children have been giving the dolls drinks, dressing them, and washing them with sponges to make them clean. This helps them gain confidence and learn how to take care of themselves and others.

Continue at home

Create a "care for baby" station using a doll or soft toy at home. Encourage your child to practise activities such as giving the doll a drink, dressing it, and bathing it with a sponge or cloth.

The Pre-School Study

The Preschool children have been learning about the world around them. With warmer weather approaching, during a Preschool committee meeting, the children discussed what they would like to add to our growing area. They had a lively debate, deciding which fruits and vegetables they would like to grow.

Next, they discussed how to protect their plants from birds and decided that a scarecrow would be a good solution. Working together as a team, they created their scarecrows. This activity helped the children think about the plant life cycle, understand the world around them, and learn how we care for it. It also allowed them to express their ideas and listen to others' opinions to make a group decision.

Continue at home

Create a small garden space at home, either in pots or in the garden, and involve your child in planting fruits, vegetables, or flowers. Talk about the life cycle of plants and how to care for them. Encourage your child to water the plants regularly and observe their growth over time.

Recipe of the Month

VEGGIE PARMIGIANA

INGREDIENTS:

- Aubergines, cut into 1cm thick rings
- 1 tbsp garlic infused olive oil (you can make your own by adding 2 cloves of garlic to olive oil)
- 3 large onions, finely chopped
- 3 large carrots, diced
- 3 peppers (any colour), diced
- 2 large courgettes, sliced
- 2 tspn dried oregano
- 2x 400g tinned chopped tomatoes (no added sugar or salt)
- 50g pasteurised Italian style cheese, finely grated
- 125g mozzarella, thinly sliced



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Set the grill to high, and grill the aubergine slices until browned on each side, and set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.
3. Heat the oil in a pan and add the onions. Stir until softened.
4. Add the carrots, peppers, and courgette, and stir frequently.
5. Mix in the tinned tomatoes and oregano, and simmer for 10 minutes.
6. Layer the sauce and aubergines in an oven proof dish, finishing with the sauce.
7. Top with Italian style cheese and sliced mozzarella.
8. Bake for 35 minutes until golden.

Recent Training

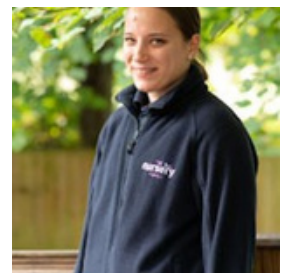
Recently, Billie has started her SENCO course to further her knowledge in her role as SENCO lead. Faith and Edi have also completed their first aid training, and Leah has attended a course on supporting challenging behaviour.

All staff working with children under 2 years old will be completing an NDNA course, Supporting Under 2-Year-Olds. This will deepen their knowledge and understanding of how to provide the highest quality care to our youngest children.

Hollie has also started her Level 3 apprenticeship, Hollie has started her Level 3 apprenticeship; I am sure she will fly through this course.

Colleague Spotlight

We want to say a big well done to Leah, who has been fantastic in supporting all the rooms and organising wonderful activities for all age groups. She has also furthered her personal development by completing a behaviour management course. Leah has taken her new knowledge into the rooms, engaging the children in activities that support their emotional development.



EXCITING CHARITY PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

At iStep Learning, we believe in nurturing young minds while also fostering kindness, empathy, and a strong sense of community. That's why we're thrilled to introduce iStep into the Community - our new initiative dedicated to giving back to local causes.

Each of our nurseries has chosen a charity close to their hearts. At Lower Beeding Day Nursery & Pre-school, we are committed to fostering a nurturing environment that extends beyond our classrooms into the broader community. We recognise the profound challenges faced by families of children with serious illnesses and understand the importance of comprehensive support during such critical times. This is why we have chosen to support Momentum Children's Charity, an organisation dedicated to providing tailored assistance to families of children with cancer or life-challenging conditions across Surrey, South West London, and Sussex. Momentum has also been a lifeline for one of our own families here at the nursery. Their mission aligns seamlessly with our values of compassion, community, and unwavering support for families in need.

Through two fundraising events - one in May and one in November - children, families, and staff will come together to make a meaningful impact. Keep an eye out for more details soon! Together, we can create a ripple effect of kindness!

We will soon be releasing our full iStep into the Community pack, which will showcase all the charities our nurseries have chosen to support.

You can find out more about the incredible work that Momentum do [here](#).

