

FAMILY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Your Spring Newsletter!

I hope you are all well and looking forward to some much-needed spring sunshine! A warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us this year—we are excited to share your child's learning journey with you.

Our Pre-School children have been thoroughly enjoying their Spanish lessons, and the pizzas made in Cookery Club have looked absolutely delicious!

On Tuesday, 18th March, we are pleased to welcome back Jasmine Barnes, the Reception teacher from Springwood. Jasmine visited us last term to work with some of our prospective school leavers and will be doing the same this term. She was incredibly complimentary about the children's behaviour, attitudes, and level of learning. During her visit, she will support the children's current abilities and chat with them about what to expect in a school environment.

We are also excited to announce our Spring Open Day on Saturday, 22nd March. This is an excellent opportunity to explore the nursery, and if you know any families interested in joining us, they can book a tour. As a bonus, you'll receive a credit on your account if they enroll (T&Cs apply).

Finally, we are delighted to announce that Chloe will return to the Baby Snug in March after maternity leave. We can't wait to welcome her back!

We wish you all a wonderful spring, and we look forward to sharing another exciting term with you.

Best regards,
Helen and The Purbrook 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:

- W/C 17th March - Parents Evenings
- Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day
- **Saturday 22nd March** - Spring Spectacular Open Day

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:





The Baby Snug

Our youngest children are currently learning all about Dinosaurs! They have thoroughly enjoyed making dino footprints and exploring small world scenes set up with different sensory resources and a variety of dinosaurs. The children have been climbing, jumping, and engaging in lots of messy play, which they love. Along with their dinosaur exploration, they enjoy singing along to their favourite songs and rhymes using props from their Song Bag, which helps bring the songs to life.

The children always get involved with their yoga moves, practising balance and stretching in a fun and interactive way. Seeing them so engaged and active as they discover the world of dinosaurs has been wonderful!

Continue at home

Create a sensory dinosaur hunt by hiding small dinosaur figures around your home or garden. Use items such as leaves, sand, or even rice to create a 'dinosaur excavation' site.

The Toddler Den

During Gardening Club, our Toddler Group filled the bird feeders and replanted the herb garden, which was ready to use in the Mud Kitchen. We've made bird feeders with Cheerios, created obstacle courses in the garden, and had lots of fun with shapes and colours!

Tierney celebrated Child Mental Well-Being Day with the children by sharing paint hugs. The paint transferred from one sheet of paper to another when the children hugged each other – they loved this activity and found it very funny!

In Science Club, the children enjoyed watching 'clouds' form when they mixed shaving foam with water and food colouring. We had a lot of fun with the diggers and our homemade 'mud' – a mixture of sand and shaving foam.

Our Toddler Group loves anything messy!

Continue at home

Create your own 'clouds' at home by mixing shaving foam with water and food colouring. Let your little one watch how the colours spread. For more sensory play, you can also make a messy 'mud' mixture with sand and shaving foam!

The Pre-School Study

We have been making pizzas in the Cookery Club and learning about how clouds are formed in the Science Club.

In the Pre-School classroom, we have been practising our pencil control, and in the Art Studio, we have been colour mixing, making patterns, and creating our own playdough.

During our Chinese New Year celebrations, we learned a Chinese Dragon dance, made snakes and lanterns, and enjoyed chow mein for lunch with chopsticks!

During Bird Watch Week, we made bird feeders and learned about different kinds of birds, even making colourful parrots!

We also had a fantastic time during the Fire Engine visit, where we were able to sit in the fire engine and even help squirt the water hose.

Continue at home

Try making your own bird feeder at home using simple ingredients like peanut butter, seeds, and a toilet roll. Hang it in your garden or outside your window and observe the birds that come to visit!

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

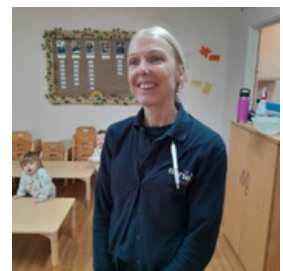
1. Set the grill to high, and grill the aubergine slices until browned on each side, and set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.
3. Heat the oil in a pan and add the onions. Stir until softened.
4. Add the carrots, peppers, and courgette, and stir frequently.
5. Mix in the tinned tomatoes 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

All staff have completed their termly Paediatric First Aid refresher, and Annie, Chantelle, and Taherah have updated their Safeguarding training (which all staff do every two years). To keep our knowledge current, we regularly participate in quizzes, discussions, and formal training. Tierney and Grace have both begun their Level 3 childcare qualifications.

Colleague Spotlight

Tina has been leading the Baby Snug Team since last October and has been doing a fantastic job! The Baby Team works wonderfully together, supporting each other and providing our youngest children a caring and nurturing space. Tina ensures that everyone has a voice and contributes to the smooth running of the room, all while maintaining the high standards on which we pride ourselves.



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 Purbrook Day Nursery & Preschool, we believe in fostering a compassionate community and teaching our children the importance of supporting those in need. We recognise end-of-life care's profound impact on patients and their families. This is why we have chosen to support Rowans Hospice, a local charity dedicated to providing high-quality palliative and end-of-life care to individuals living with life-limiting illnesses in Southeast Hampshire. Their commitment to honouring life and offering hope aligns with our empathy, support, and community engagement values.

Through two fundraising events - one in June 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 Rowans Hospice do [here](#)

