

FAMILY NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the new term, we're excited to continue our adventures with Beach School and Forest School, where the children will explore nature, develop new skills, and enjoy plenty of outdoor fun.

Rocky, our playful dachshund, has been bringing lots of joy to the nursery. His visits help teach the children about empathy, responsibility, and caring for others – and, of course, he loves all the extra cuddles.

The children have been busy in their role play areas, using their imaginations to recreate everyday life. Whether pretending to be shopkeepers, doctors, or chefs, these activities help develop essential social and cognitive skills through problem-solving and teamwork.

If you have any old bags, scarves, bracelets, headbands, or similar accessories you no longer use, we would be grateful for any donations to enhance our role-play areas. These items will help the children bring their imaginative play to life in exciting new ways.

Please ensure all your child's clothing is clearly labelled and that they come dressed appropriately for the weather. We love spending time outdoors in all seasons.

We're looking forward to a fantastic term and can't wait to share more wonderful experiences with you all.

Best wishes,
Terri and the Shoreham 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:

- **Saturday 22nd March** – Spring Spectacular Open Day
- **26th March** – Tell a Fairytale Day
- **28th March** – Mothers Day Breakfast
- **6th April** – Early Years Teacher Day

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:

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

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



The Baby Snug

This term, the babies have been full of energy and excitement during our baby boogie sessions, especially while dancing along to The Grand Old Duke of York with colourful scarves. These sessions bring so much joy while also helping to develop rhythm, movement, and coordination, supporting their physical and sensory growth.

Alongside music and movement, the babies have been busy exploring different textures and materials as they build and create. The mirrored blocks have been a particular favourite, capturing their curiosity as they delight in seeing their reflections and those of their friends. This sparks their imagination and helps develop self-awareness and social engagement as they play and explore together.

Continue at home

Continue the baby boogie fun by listening to your favourite nursery rhymes at home. Use scarves, tea towels or lightweight fabrics for your children to wave, shake or toss as they move to the rhythm. Try lifting them up and down in time with the song to reinforce movement and coordination.

The Toddler Den

The toddlers have been eagerly exploring and creating small-world scenes during their play, drawing inspiration from their real-life experiences to bring their imaginative ideas to life. Using various materials, they have recreated familiar settings such as homes, parks, and favourite shops, blending creativity with memories from their daily routines.

They have also been actively engaging in music-making activities, experimenting with different tempos and rhythms. This exploration encourages them to move their bodies in diverse ways, adjusting their actions to match the pace and tone of the music. These dynamic activities not only spark creativity but also support the development of gross motor skills, helping to build coordination, balance, and body awareness in a fun and engaging way.

Continue at home

Turn a box, laundry basket, or cushion into a car, bus, or train and go on an adventure! Encourage your toddler to decide where they're travelling, perhaps the beach, the zoo, or outer space. Bring in soft toys as passengers and talk about what they see on their journey to spark storytelling, creativity, and role-play.

The Pre-School Study

In the preschool room, children have been exploring how we can express our emotions, thoughts, and feelings through engaging activities inspired by The Colour Monster book and wooden emotion people. These activities have helped them recognise and communicate their emotions in a meaningful and supportive way.

The children have also been expanding their understanding of food by learning how different cultures influence our meals. Through discussions, they've explored how food gives us energy, supports our growth, and helps keep us healthy. This curiosity has led to an exciting new project where the preschoolers collaboratively choose a dish to prepare for the following week. To ensure every child can participate, the cooking activity will rotate each week.

Lastly, the children have been learning about responsibility and caring for others with the help of Rocky, the nursery's companion puppy. His visits to group time have sparked conversations about empathy, kindness, and how to look after living things.

Continue at home

Involve your child in meal planning by letting them help choose and prepare a simple dish. Talk about the ingredients, where they come from, and how they help keep our bodies strong and healthy. This can be as simple as making a fruit salad or helping to mix and measure ingredients for a family meal.

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.

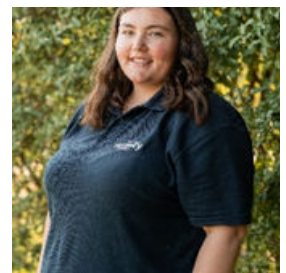
Recent Training

Terri and Billie are currently working towards their Level 5 qualification, while Millie is completing her Level 3 alongside baby massage training.

Colleague Spotlight

Since moving into the preschool room, Megan has made a fantastic impact, bringing her expertise and enthusiasm into daily activities. Her keen eye for in-the-moment discoveries has sparked curiosity and deepened learning, creating a truly engaging environment for the children.

Megan's passion for forest skills shines in the garden, where she encourages little explorers to connect with nature. Whether planting seeds, identifying insects, or inspiring imaginative outdoor play, she helps children develop a love for the natural world while building confidence and independence. We're so lucky to have her on our team!



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 Southwater Day Nursery & Preschool, we foster an inclusive environment where every child feels valued and supported. We recognise the importance of accessible play and leisure opportunities for children and young people, especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This is why we have chosen to support the Springboard Project, a local charity dedicated to providing inclusive play and leisure opportunities for families with disabled children and young people. Their mission aligns seamlessly with our values of inclusivity, community support, and enhancing the quality of life for all children.

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 Springboard do [here](#)

