

WINTER NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am excited to introduce our first termly newsletter, designed to keep parents and carers informed about the events happening each term. These updates ensure you stay current with everything going on throughout the academic period. We will also continue to share upcoming events on our social media pages and via email.

Throughout the Autumn term, we have seen fantastic progress in the children's social and emotional development and academic achievements. The key workers have shared lovely summative assessments, and we are excited to share these with you over the next few weeks. Once you have had a chance to review your child's assessment, we would like to invite you to a parent meeting to discuss any queries. These meetings can be booked with your child's room leader at a time that works for you. We have completed the baseline assessments for children who joined us this term, if you wish to discuss your child's assessment, please speak with your child's key person.

In the Spring term, we will continue to focus on your child's Individual Learning Record (ILR). This document helps us understand where your child is within the Montessori curriculum and tracks their progress. We will also continue with our monthly planning cycle, exploring cultural differences around the world and significant cultural festivities and events.

As 2024 draws to an end, we wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a wonderful new year ahead!

Becky

Dates for your diary

Holidays and Closures:

- December 24th- January 1st
Nursery is closed

Other:

- Thursday 18th December - Christmas Dinner
- Every Friday we will be wearing our Christmas Jumpers to raise money for a very special family!
- Saturday 22nd March - Open Day
- We are thrilled to let you know that Sofia is expecting a baby and will be leaving us at the beginning of March to start her maternity leave. Sofia is set to return in January 2026 and has already enrolled baby Cox at Frogmore!

Don't forget to follow our Social Media:





The Nest

Over the last term, we have celebrated various special days such as Diwali, Remembrance Day, Guy Fawkes Night, Children in Need, and Christmas. The children have used different materials, including tissue paper, cards, tin foil, cotton wool, paint, pens, and glitter, to create beautiful artwork through stamping, glueing, and sticking. We loved watching the weather change and get colder, with the children enjoying wearing their hats and wellies and splashing in the puddles.

We've also focused on developing fine motor skills through everyday activities from the Montessori curriculum, such as pouring, scooping, transferring, and opening and closing containers. Our older children are preparing to transition into the two-year-old room, where they've begun practising early sensorial activities like the pink tower and broad stairs with Hayley.

Continue at home

For children preparing for their transition into the next room, try introducing basic Montessori-inspired activities such as building with blocks, stacking cups, or sorting objects by size or colour. Encourage them to practise opening and closing containers, zipping and unzipping, or fastening buttons and buckles.

The Atelier

This term, we have been celebrating a variety of festivals. For Diwali, the children learned about the story of Rama and Sita and created some fantastic artwork inspired by the celebration. For Remembrance Day, they made beautiful poppies for a unique window display. This month, we've been focusing on making fantastic Christmas crafts and artwork while also practising our Christmas songs they have been singing beautifully and we are sure you have heard the Christmas Carols lots at home! In addition, the children have been taking part in BLAST phonics sessions and exploring the Click Clack book to support their learning.

Continue at home

Explore more cultural celebrations at home by learning about other global festivals, such as Chinese New Year, Eid, or Hanukkah. You can read books about these celebrations and discuss their traditions and customs. Try creating art or crafts related to these festivals, like making a Chinese lantern, decorating a star for Hanukkah, or crafting a moon and stars for Eid. You could also explore the traditional foods associated with each celebration by cooking or trying new recipes.

The Studio

In the Studio, we've had a wonderful time celebrating various holidays, including Ocean Week, Halloween, Hanukkah, Guy Fawkes Night, and Christmas. The children have been immersed in creative activities, using different art forms like collage and sculpture to express themselves.

To support their understanding of the world, we've been exploring the garden and discovering the bugs that live there. We've compared these creatures with those in our books, which has sparked many discussions and curiosity.

As the weather has been changing, we've also been focusing on the seasonal transitions in the garden. We've observed the changes as we move into Winter, from the cooling temperatures to the bare trees. The children have loved these explorations, which have linked them to their understanding of the world around them.

Continue at home

To extend these activities at home, you can continue exploring the changing seasons by taking nature walks to observe winter's arrival and noticing changes in the trees, animals, and weather. Encourage your child to collect natural materials like fallen leaves, pinecones, or sticks and create seasonal artwork or sculptures at home.

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

Next term, Lorraine is scheduled to refresh her Paediatric First Aid Training, while Bryony will renew her Safeguarding Training next week.

Joanna, Kelsey, and Millie are now a term into their Level 2 Apprenticeships, and Stacey and Courtney are progressing through their Level 3. Their growing knowledge and enthusiasm are evident to everyone.

This term, we will also be holding an in-house Montessori training morning for all staff, focusing on the role of the Montessori Teacher.

Colleague Spotlight

Staff members have voted for Lorraine as Staff Member of the Month due to her strong interactions with the children and the meaningful relationships she has built with them. She is also developing her knowledge of the Montessori curriculum and consistently shows eagerness to learn and grow in her role.

