

# SPRING NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the Spring term we have had at Frogmore! We have welcomed several new children into the Frogmore family, and it has been wonderful watching them settle in. Our older children have offered fantastic support as they adapt to their new environment.

We continue to follow our monthly planning cycle, focusing on individual learning within the Montessori curriculum and celebrating festivities worldwide. This helps broaden the children's understanding in the 'Understanding the World' curriculum area.

We have been working hard behind the scenes to finish our new allotment area and are now just waiting for the final delivery. Thank you so much for all the donations to get us started and for the helpful tips, books, and invitations to visit allotments. We've already begun planting some items, which will be ready to move once the frost has disappeared! Some exciting news moving forward, our plan to extend and renew our under-2 patio will commence soon. We hope to have this ready by the summer term.

As we enter the second part of the term, we will complete baseline assessments for all new starters and summative assessments towards the end of the term. You can access these on EY, but we would also like to invite you to a parent meeting with your child's key worker if you would like further information or would like to see their Montessori Individual Learning Record.

Please, can I kindly remind parents to avoid using the driveway unless necessary and to refrain from parking in the turning bay at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., as these are our busiest times. Children are often entering or leaving the setting and walking on the driveway at these times.

We also have some additional availability in the Studio on Fridays. If you would like to add these sessions to your booking pattern, please let me know. Don't forget that you can also book additional sessions instantly via Pebble.

We are also asking parents to kindly take some time to leave a review on Day Nurseries. If you have enjoyed our open days or any particular events, we would love to hear your feedback! Your support means so much to us, and we truly value your thoughts.

You can leave your review using the link below:

<https://www.daynurseries.co.uk/review-submit/6543212921/rcsid/1012/>

Thank you for your continued support,

Becky

## Dates for your diary

### Holidays and Closures:

- **Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April** No Funding is available
- **Friday 18th April - Monday 21st April** Easter Bank Holiday

### Other:

- **Mother's Day** - We would love to invite any mum's, Grandmother's or mother figures into the setting to read a favourite story with your child and their friend's. Please speak with Becky to arrange a time that suits you.
- **Friday 21st March** - Red Nose Day
- Throughout the month of **May and July** we will be running a charity event for a local charity called Give a child a chance. We will share more information in due course.
- **Saturday 22nd March** - Spring Spectacular Open Day

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





### The Nest

This term has been a time of transition in the Nest, as we welcomed many new babies into the setting and supported them in settling into their new routines. At the same time, some of our older babies have transitioned into the Atelier, where they continue to grow and explore.

As the weather has become drier and brighter, we have made the most of our outdoor environment at Frogmore, enjoying plenty of time outside.

We have also celebrated a range of cultural events this term. For Chinese New Year, the children created lanterns and dragon pictures and explored messy noodle play. As part of the Big Garden Bird Watch, they decorated big, colourful birds, and for Valentine's Day, they made beautiful cards for parents and carers.

We have many exciting activities planned for St David's Day, Mother's Day, and St Patrick's Day. We are also exploring introducing special weekly extra-curricular activities in the Nest next term and will update parents as soon as we have more information.

### Continue at home

Fill a basket with a variety of safe, textured items, such as soft fabric, wooden spoons, and natural objects like pinecones. Let your baby explore the different textures and talk to them about how each item feels.

### The Atelier

It has been an excellent term in the Atelier, filled with exciting learning opportunities and celebrations. In January, we celebrated Chinese New Year, during which the children created beautiful fireworks pictures and learned about the story behind the festival. As 2025 is the Year of the Snake, they developed their Arts and Expressive Design skills by making colourful snake collages. We also introduced counting to five in Chinese, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

We also marked World Snow Day, using this to explore snowy places like Antarctica. The children learned about the animals in cold climates, including polar bears, penguins, and Arctic foxes. Their BLAST phonics sessions focused on transport and animal sounds, which sparked great engagement. In February, we explored Valentine's Day, with the children creating beautiful handmade cards and engaging in themed craft activities. Their BLAST phonics sessions focused on family, where they used flashcards to describe action words, learned colour names, and played matching colour games to reinforce their understanding. We look forward to another exciting term with more opportunities for creativity, exploration, and learning.

### Continue at home

Fill a tray with cotton wool for snow, toy animals like polar bears and penguins, and spoons or scoops for digging. Talk with your child about where these animals live and how they keep warm in the cold!

### The Studio

It has been an exciting and creative term in the Academy, filled with hands-on learning and engaging activities. To celebrate the Big Garden Birdwatch, the children took part in a variety of craft activities. They painted individual birds to decorate the classroom and worked together to create a large bird sculpture using their handprints. We also made and decorated our own binoculars, which the children used to observe the bird decorations around the room. At Frogmore Pre-School, we had a wonderful time celebrating the Year of the Dragon for Chinese New Year. The children made paper chain snakes, cut out and decorated lanterns, created paper fans, and worked on dragon-themed crafts. They also learned about the story behind Chinese New Year and expanded their literacy skills by forming letters in rice using chopsticks, held in a tripod grip to develop fine motor control. Our recent science experiment was a big hit with the children! We soaked cotton wool balls in different food colourings and asked the children to predict what would happen when they were dropped into a tray of milk. They were fascinated by the swirling colours that appeared, sparking curiosity and discussion. For National Polar Bear Day, the children created beautiful polar bear artwork using sponges and finger painting. They also strengthened their fine motor skills for Valentine's Day by cutting and sticking materials to make their own special Valentine's cards.

### Continue at home

Encourage your child's scientific curiosity by trying a colour mixing experiment at home! Fill small cups with water and different food colourings, then let your child mix colours using a dropper or spoon. Talk about what new colours they create and explore how different combinations change.

## 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

Mel has recently completed our annual safeguarding training, ensuring she remains up to date with best practices in keeping children safe. Meanwhile, Millie is set to undertake paediatric first aid training..

This term, we have been focusing on all staff completing food hygiene, FGM, and Prevent training, reinforcing our commitment to maintaining a safe, knowledgeable, and well-equipped team.

## Colleague Spotlight

Joanna is currently working towards her Level 2 apprenticeship and is demonstrating incredible dedication and effort. She has been a fantastic addition to our team, bringing a positive, hardworking, enthusiastic, and nurturing approach to the setting. Her passion for learning and supporting others is truly inspirational. Joanna is always eager to help, expand her knowledge, and take on new challenges with a great can-do attitude. She consistently goes the extra mile, and we are delighted to have her as part of 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 Frogmore Montessori Day Nursery & Preschool, we are committed to supporting the holistic well-being of children in our community. Recognising the challenges faced by children and adolescents dealing with emotional, behavioural, and mental health difficulties, we have chosen to support Give a Child a Chance, a charity dedicated to providing financial assistance to these young individuals in Plymouth. Their mission aligns with our values of empathy, support, and fostering positive development in children.

Through two fundraising events - one in May and one in July - 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 Give A Child A Chance do [here](#)

