

# Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026



## Round up of the week:

We've had so much fun exploring our construction theme this week! The children have enjoyed lots of opportunities to develop teamwork, problem-solving, sharing ideas and critical thinking as they planned, built and created together.

Our tuff tray has been filled with a variety of messy sensory activities including sand, cornflour and shaving foam. These experiences are fantastic for sensory exploration, early science learning, fine motor development and curiosity. Simple actions such as rotating wrists and tipping sand into pots help build the strength and control needed for the small movements involved in forming letters later on.

The children have also been making great use of our continuous provision resources which are available every day. These open-ended resources allow children to explore their individual schemas and self-select toys and materials that interest them most.

- Some children love sitting on our maths mat sorting, stacking and matching different shapes, counting objects, recognising numbers and solving puzzles.
- Others are drawn to the small world and construction areas using animals, people, blocks, ramps, cars and buildings to create imaginative scenes and structures.
- Our sensory area has been very popular with children closely observing coloured water dripping through liquid motion toys, exploring mirrors and manipulating big and small clear shapes.
- Many children enjoy our role play area taking on roles such as cooks, parents and babies and acting out real-life experiences.

To encourage mark making in a variety of ways and inspire all children to have a go we've offered:

- Floor drawing
- Drawing around tools
- Drawing on large boxes
- Crayons for little hands and pencils for our older children

It's been a busy, creative and joyful week full of exploration and learning through play!

## Value of the month:

Our value for this month is **Independence**. Have you ever heard of 'Backward Chaining?' It's where you teach children the steps of getting dressed starting with the last step. For example, help to put their coat on, except for the last arm. Here is more information [CLICK LINK](#)

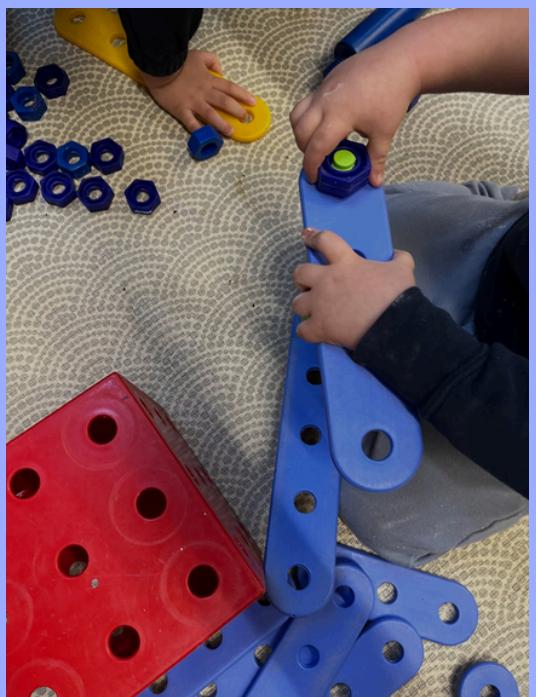
## Reminder

\*Thank you for your support in labelling bags and items - this is a huge help!

\*Please put wet wipes in your child's bag

\*Cut up cherry tomatoes, blueberries and grapes. Sausages are to be sliced long ways. (every time staff have to cut up food it takes them away from the children)

# Take a closer look .....



# Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning and Forest School play a vital role in the early years and strongly support children in getting ready for school. Being outdoors helps children develop confidence, resilience, independence and strong physical skills while learning to problem-solve, communicate and work together. Through imaginative play, exploration and hands-on experiences, children build the foundations for learning in a meaningful and active way.

This week the children became busy birds, building a giant nest using planks, twigs, wool, feathers and cosy blankets. They explored tiny dens, cared for animals and engaged in rich role play as builders, diggers and road makers in the mud. Children worked together to build towers, lay roads with planks, dig in the mud and use pipes to create house foundations. They constructed a ball run, investigating how far the ball could roll and how to make it travel further. There were mud cakes, songs and lots of teamwork as children used large loose parts to create shapes, build bridges over the 'river' and mix sand in the cement mixer. These experiences support communication, teamwork, early maths, physical development and creative thinking while having lots of fun outdoors.



## Meet The Team



### Meet Claire Ford

"Hi, I'm Claire and I love nothing more than seeing little faces light up during play and exploration—whether it's digging in the garden, baking something delicious or getting creative in the preschool!"

Outside of preschool, I spend time with my two boys and husband, heading out on adventures together, particularly enjoying swimming and cycling.

You may also see me volunteering with the scouts, where I help children develop new skills and confidence through teamwork, outdoor challenges and play."

## Important Dates

Spring Term (11 weeks)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Half Term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

INSET DAY: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Summer Term (13 weeks)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 9.30 – 11.00:

Stay and Play Session (New Children)

# GOLDEN RULES

## Be kind:

1.

- Gentle hands
- Kind words
- Caring for our toys



Let's share our smiles with all the world!

## Be safe:

2.

- Walking inside
- Hands to ourselves

Keep our friends and toys safe and sound!



## Be ready:

3.

- Listening ears
- Looking eyes
- Give things a try

Let's learn and play — we'll reach the sky!



Be kind, be safe, be ready each day —  
That's the preschool way!



## Our Curriculum Intent:

We aim to ignite the flames of your children's natural curiosity by providing high quality, varied learning opportunities to guide their development in a safe and nurturing environment, where ALL children love learning, make good progress and thrive.

## Our Aims:

- ✿ NURTURE – Children thrive when they feel safe, cared for and valued. We take time to build strong relationships, support emotional well-being and ensure that every child feels secure and confident.
- ✿ ENGAGE – We believe learning should capture children's imaginations. Through purposeful play, stimulating activities and following their interests, we create experiences that spark curiosity and make learning meaningful.
- ✿ INSPIRE – Our goal is to inspire children to explore, question and discover. By offering new challenges, celebrating achievements and modelling a love of learning, we encourage them to see the joy in learning that will last a lifetime.