

Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026



Round up of the week:

This week has been all about Bears, and we have loved linking our learning to some very well-known bear characters from our favourite stories. The children became familiar with Winnie the Pooh and his friends by exploring yellow, gloopy water to represent Pooh's famous honey. Through tipping, pouring and scooping, the children strengthened their hand and arm muscles – an important early writing skill – while enjoying lots of sensory fun. We had a very exciting day exploring Goldilocks and the Three Bears, with porridge oats absolutely everywhere! The children enjoyed role-playing the different characters, calling 999 and tracking down the cheeky Goldilocks. Through maths activities, the children rescued bears, counted them, sorted by colour and organised them into simple patterns. All the children repeated phrases, made playdough bears and went on a bear hunt! Our Paddington Bear day was a big hit, as many of the children were already familiar with the character. The children counted bears onto a London bus, created famous landmarks using wooden blocks and loose parts, made marmalade sandwiches, and got wonderfully messy playing with bears in "mud." Our final bear book was The Bear That Went BOO! The children practised mark making and writing the letters BOO on foil, enjoyed ice painting, and explored messy shaving foam to represent the Arctic home of the mischievous polar bear from the story.

Outdoor Learning:

Through rain, mud, blue skies and freezing temperatures, the children have fully embraced the wonderful outdoor area we have at Flying Start. The children enjoyed finding Winnie the Pooh's numbered honey pots around the garden and pegging them in order, as well as moving like Tigger, flying like Owl and running like Piglet. Our garden was transformed into a snowstorm, forest, mud swamp and river from We're Going on a Bear Hunt, with children reciting familiar phrases and discovering the bear's cave. We also had great fun making mud pies and painting with mud on giant boxes, helping to strengthen core and arm muscles needed for early writing.



Value of the month:

Our value for this month is **Independence**. We encourage children to take responsibility for small everyday tasks. You can support this at home by involving your child in simple jobs, like helping to set the table or putting toys away after play.

Reminder

Please label ALL items.

Please write your child's name on the **outside of their lunch box**

Meet The Team



Meet Sam Smith, our new Deputy Manager

"I have a Level 3 diploma in Early Years and have worked in both schools and nurseries for the past 10 years. I started as a lunch time supervisor, then became a teaching Assistant. After 4 years in the school and completing my level 3, I became a Deputy Manager at a local Day Nursery.

I have 2 older children and 2 younger children, which all keep me very busy!

In my spare time, I make candles and wax melts and love anything to do with interior design.

As a family, we visit Cornwall as much as we can, as my parents live there and my youngest children love to go there for their holidays."

Important Dates

Spring Term (11 weeks)

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Half Term – Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

INSET DAY: Monday 23rd February

Tuesday 24th February – Friday 27th March

Summer Term (13 weeks)

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

Half term – Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Thursday 16th July

Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

Friday 17th 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!

