



07749 477 553

## January 2021 (Chinese year of the Ox)

Welcome to the 'Spring' Term at Nursery and a special 'hello' to all our new children (Darcy-Rose, Emma, Ivy-May and Theo).

### Curriculum

This term we are focusing on different shapes each week and a letter sound. We also look forward to finding out all about the children's new interests.

Week	Date	Focus letters	Shapes
Week 1	04/01/21	s	Square
Week 2	11/01/21	a	Circle
Week 3	18/01/21	t	Triangle
Week 4	25/01/21	i	Rectangle
Week 5	01/02/21	p	Star
Week 6	08/02/21	n	Diamond

### **Parent information on Website**

[Starting Information](#)  
[Medication Forms](#)

[Term Dates](#)  
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[Tapestry our assessment system and how your child's information is stored.](#)

### Spring Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Half Term (closed) Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Feb - Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

### Tapestry

Tapestry is the nursery online learning journal. When you first start you are sent an email to create your own access password to your child's account. We do not name children in group observations, but if it is an individual observation your child's name will be used. We post one observation a week on Tapestry about what your child has achieved. If your child is absent or on holiday, please can you send us photo's of what your child has done or achieved. If you would like instruction of how to upload pictures onto Tapestry, please let us know.

Over lockdown and the summer holidays, we were blown away by the number of photo's and achievements sent to us via Tapestry and email. We would love to continue this. If you do anything special, the children have a WOW moment or even the children just want to show us something from home, please do not hesitate to send it via Tapestry. The children love to show the adult and their friends the photo's and this creates a good sense of community within our nursery.

The children will be discussing the snow and Christmas the first week back, so any photo's uploaded to Tapestry, the children will be able to show and discuss with their friends (like show and tell time but without the toys from home). We have loved seeing some of the snow pictures already.

If your child has any wow moments, however small we would love to share them. We have also created a WOW board inside the nursery. The children will be able to stick on the board, WOW moments from their key worker,

staff members or even notes from home. If due to Covid if you do not wish to write them down and bring them in. You can send them on Tapestry or tell Heather or Natasha on the door and we will make sure the children get to put it up on the board. A WOW moment board helps increase the child's confidence as they feel proud of their achievement, a sense of community as it's being recognised by the whole nursery and feel supported in their goals.

### **Medication**

A form is required for any medication to be used whether prescribed or non-prescribed.

### **Early Years Pupil Premium**

This term we put the money towards updating the environment to help teach about world cultures and discuss the children's feelings / emotions they may be having. We have also bought a giant music, song and dance set to support the children's development through of their interests.

### **General**

Please ensure all children have names in their coats and their wellingtons every day.

**Please let us know if you have changed your address or phone number including mobiles** and fill in a Holiday Form to tell us of your Child's absence from Nursery. Please text or phone (the mobile) to let us know if your child is not attending due to illness (emails cannot be accessed until the evening).

All the children should have their own named water bottle, available from nursery if required. (Water bottles cost £2 each). Please let us know if your child does not have one. The children get used to using their water bottles when thirsty gaining name / picture recognition skills ready for school.

Children should be collected promptly throughout the week. Please telephone if you are running late so that arrangements can be made.

**Due to Covid and further guidance, we will be increasing the ventilation periods to the nursery room, as well as being outside. Please ensure the children have layers of clothing that can be added or removed if necessary.**

### **Fun Fridays**

We are continuing our activities into the garden following the principals of the 'Forest Schools'. We have waterproof outfits on loan, and this will allow us to go out every week regardless of the weather and have lots of messy fun, digging, painting, building and chalking. Please, Please, Please, send the children in old, warm clothes.

### **Hot Dinners**

We have been given the opportunity to restart hot dinners on a Tuesday and Thursday, if we have the minimum amount of children doing it to safely keep the food at the right temperature. The cost would be £2.50 per meal/ day. Let us know if you would like your child to partake.

## COVID-19

**A parent letter and risk assessment on the current pandemic and how it affects our nursery will be sent out separately by email (latest Saturday night). Let us know if you have not received them.**

It is vital that your contact details are always correct. Please can you let us know if anything changes especially mobile phones. We also understand that some of you are moving house or are about to move house. Please can you make sure, we receive your new address so we can update our records.

Please fill in a Holiday Form to tell us of your child's absence from Nursery.

Please text or phone to let us know if your child is not attending due to any illness (07749477553).

## **Symptoms**

This is public health campaign that communicates advice about how you can help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), by promoting the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and advising people to stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Key messages include:

- No one in your household should leave home if any one person has symptoms
- Find out how to get a test and how long to isolate at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

**Please do not come to nursery if you or your household have symptoms of Covid 19. You can return immediately if test is negative. If test comes back positive, you should self- isolate along with your household and support bubble for 10 days from when the symptoms began.**

## Urgent Information

Please can you let us know if you are currently isolating due to a positive test.

Worcestershire County Council has also asked us to find out if any of our nursery children or families have tested positive over the Christmas break.

If you have to isolate for any reason, whether the nursery or siblings bubble is shut or you are told to by the app, we will provide activity packs for the children to do. We have always done this even through the very first lockdown. If you need any resources, we will try to provide them. This means the children still feel part of the nursery and continue their development whilst not attending. Photos or observations uploaded to Tapestry would be appreciated.

## **Collection Routine**

Please let us know if someone else is picking up your child. We will not let your child leave the premises with someone unless you have instructed us to do so. You may have given us instructions of a nominated (authorized) person on the registration document.

## **Safeguarding**

All the staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid and hold their food hygiene certificates. The Managers and Deputies are experienced Safeguarding Professionals. All volunteers, trainees or outside professionals brought in to help will have been vetted through the DBS system and/or will always be under direct supervision.

Due to Covid- 19 risk assessments will be carried out for when outside professionals visit. Where it is viewed not to be safe for the professional to come in a virtual opportunity might be provided. This will also be reviewed in accordance with internet safety.

## **Snack and Lunch Time**

All the children should have a labelled piece of fruit required for morning and afternoon sessions can be put in containers.

We continue to focus on exercise and healthy choices.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/healthier-lunchboxes>

If staying for lunch, we would suggest the following items in the lunch box

- ensure perishable contents of packed lunches contain an ice pack to keep food cool
- Sandwiches with a healthy filling, fruit, and milk-based deserts such as yoghurt or crème fraiche with spoon.
- We discourage sweet drinks and can provide children with water or milk.
- We discourage packed lunch contents that consist largely of crisps, processed foods, and sweet products such as cakes or biscuits.

**Due to allergies in the setting, we would appreciate it if you can avoid sending peaches or any peach products such as yoghurts.**

## **Fees**

Non-government funded hours are charged at £4.50 per hour the term after the child's third birthday. Prior to this we charge £5 per hour.

Fees continue to be payable if a child is absent or on holiday. In the cases of prolonged absence, please speak to the partners. Each child's attendance at the group is conditional upon continued payment of any necessary fees.

We now have to consider a rise of fees to cover the extra products required to sanitise the setting and cover the increase to staff wages in April as minimum wage goes up. We are thinking of increasing our afternoon additional fee from £1 to £2, and the morning fee from £2 to £2.50 for the government funding children as the government payment per hour is lower than what we charge for 3-year olds. This is the same throughout the country no-matter what area you are in.

Special notice for 30 Hour funded children - Please ensure you keep your code valid / updated; Worcestershire County Council will only guarantee funding if the code is valid prior to the start of the term that you attend so being validated as current for the term.

## **For all new parents**

More detailed information about routines can be accessed in our on-line prospectus.

We post one observation a week on Tapestry about what your child has achieved. If your child is absent or on holiday, please can you send us photo's of what your child has done or achieved. The children love to show the adult and their friends the photo's and this creates a good sense of community within our nursery.

You will need two pieces of labelled fruit if your child stays all day, one for the morning and one for the afternoon.

The water bottles are kept in a tray accessible to the children – we suggest buying one of our own so that they get used to looking for his/her name, we also include a sticker for recognition purposes to help them. If the children finish what in their bottle, we will refill it with water.

At snack time, we help them pour water or milk into a cup to drink depending on what they require; they can also have milk at lunchtime and afternoon snack.

We are not allowed to provide squash due to Healthy Eating requirements and the amount of sugar they contain.

We ask you to bring a pair of wellingtons to be left at the nursery. There is a slot in line with their coat pegs at floor level. We love them to go outside but sometimes wellingtons are needed if the grass is wet.

Their named lunch boxes are placed by their pegs.

We get the children to eat their sandwiches or pasta or pitta first as they do at school.

We try and ask for parents to avoid things like sweets and keep to healthy options. There is a member of staff at each table to help open boxes etc.

I personally would avoid squeezy drinks with straws, or yoghurts that squirt. Water bottles can be used throughout the day.

A bag of spare clothes etc, comfort blanket can be left on their pegs in their bag.

The policies can be read on-line from the website - [www.avoncroftpreschoolnursery.co.uk](http://www.avoncroftpreschoolnursery.co.uk)

Activities we do can be located on our Facebook page - @AvoncroftPreSchoolNursery

I'm sure your child will settle in well.

The only thing I would ask is to label everything.

If your child is in distress, we will contact you.