



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

April 2024

We would like to give a special welcome to all our new children (Niamh, Seth, Reggie and Jude).

It was lovely seeing the children enjoy themselves at the Easter Egg Hunt on the 27th March.

We are now taking bookings for the school year commencing September 2024. Please let us know asap what sessions you require. We have limited spaces available. Confirmation emails were sent out over the Easter holidays.

Drop Off Time

We will be continuing with last year's routine at drop off time. Parents will not be allowed into the building, so the children will be dropped off at the door. There will be a member of staff on the door and in the cloakroom to welcome them and to help sort their belongings.

Updates

Please can you let us know if you have changed any of your child's details i.e. new address or emergency contact numbers.

Please can you let us know if someone else is picking up your child. We will not let your child leave the premise with someone unless you have instructed us to do so. They will also need to know the child's DoB or password.

Term Dates

Summer Term 2024 (14 Week Term)

Monday 8th April

Term Starts

Monday 6th May

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May (inclusive)

Half-term

Friday 19th July

End of Summer Term

Thursday 18th July

Graduation



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Invoices

Following parent feedback last year, we will be sending out the invoices prior to the start of term. This will allow you to set up payment schedules, review your bill, set up voucher schemes etc. This year you can pay online or by childcare vouchers. Please let us know how you will be paying. The invoices show the total fees for the term and how much to pay every month. Payment information will be sent out with the invoice.

EYPP – Early Years Pupil Premium

In the Autumn Term we put money towards Tiny Talk visiting on Tuesday afternoons. The children go to learn nearly a 100 British Sign Language signs. This has supported the children's speech development, confidence and social skills. The children learned the British Sign Language through action songs, stories and puppets. We also brought in Animal Mania to visit nursery. The children got the meet, hold and stroke different types of animals. They learnt new vocabulary, information about where the animals live and how to care for the different animals.

In the Spring Term we put the money towards Pyjama Drama coming on Tuesday mornings. The sessions encourage the children to pretend, play and explore real and imaginary worlds by harnessing the power of their imagination. Through games, singing, dancing and imaginative adventures the children develop key skills such as; communication, co-operation, concentration, confidence and imagination.

This term we will be putting the money towards Leap Frog sports coming on Thursday mornings. The sessions will give an opportunity for the children to learn a different sport each week. This allows the children to explore different sports in a positive way. It provides an opportunity for your child to burn off energy in a positive and pressure-free environment. They will develop fundamental movement skills (balance, agility and co-ordination). The children will also gain experience developing their independence and self-care by getting changed for the P.E. sessions. In Early Years teaching children about their body/ physical activity is important as it allows the children to develop confidence and an appreciation for their bodies. Learning about the body is also super important because it helps them to identify what their needs are. It also provides children with the vocabulary they need to communicate these needs. Physical activities support this by developing the children's cognitive skills creating healthy brain development from an early age.

Please let us know if there are any sessions that you have experienced and recommend to come into nursery.



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Spring Term

During the Spring term the children have been exploring occupations, our body/ physical activity, cultures/ festivals and oral health.

Occupations

The children have been exploring different occupations through their play, special visits and local walks. Every 3 weeks the role play area turned into a different occupation experience. They explored a shop, building site and vets. The children had special visits from people who help us in the community. They had a visit from a doctor and police from the local police station. The children got to ask questions, learn how to get help and use tools. The children discussed the job of the dentist when practising brushing their teeth. The children also went on a walk to watch a tree surgeon prune/ cut down some trees. They watched as he put on his protective clothing, how he climbed the tree and used a chainsaw to chop it!

Our Body/ Physical Activity

The children have developed confidence and an appreciation for their bodies through different physical activities such as yoga, music and movement, outside play etc. They have learnt their body parts in English and some in french. They can recognise what their needs are and can communicate them. The children have explored the garden and have started exploring new physical skills and taking risks.

Cultures/ Festivals

The children explored several different cultures and festivals in the Spring Term. They have explored Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day, St David's Day, Holi and Easter! To teach the children about Children New Year, the children read a range of books, created their own lion dances, tasted Chinese food, made cupcake case Chinese dragons, made Chinese almond cookies, experimented with chop sticks and explored the Chinese New Year investigation station. To teach the children about Mother's Day the children discussed what they love about their mum, made a Mother's day card and planted a flower which they looked after at nursery before giving it to their mum. To teach the children about Holi the children looked at different pictures, listened to book about Holi and had a colour party in the garden.



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Oral Health

The children explored their oral health. They looked at the job of the dentist and shared their own experiences. The children used some giant teeth and a tooth brush to practise brushing their teeth. They discussed healthy and non healthy foods and sorted food into piles!

We have introduced 2 songs of the week across the term. This has supported the children's language development in a fun way. We will be continuing this throughout the year. We have also introduced a book themed investigation station each week. The books were chosen with the children. The investigation stations supported the children's love of stories, illustrations and provided opportunities for them to explore the characters, rhyming words, rhythm, repeated refrain and act out the stories themselves. We will be continuing this over the Summer Term and the children have already chosen the stories they would like for the investigation stations.

Curriculum

Following OFSTED feedback we have reviewed and rewritten our nursery curriculum and vision. This was shared in the September newsletter and is available on our website to view. We have had two visits in the Autumn term from a Worcestershire County Council improvement advisor to check our progress and give advice and two times over the Spring Term to check the OFSTED grading statements and a practice inspection. They will be coming out again this term to discuss the next OFSTED inspection and to discuss questions they might ask the staff.

As part of our curriculum we have introduced an investigation station, which changes every week. The investigation table allows the children to follow their own lead and challenge their own learning of a topic. The investigation stations are designed to cover all areas of the EYFS but how the children explores it is up to them. This helps support them become more independent and challenge their own way of thinking. Last term the investigation stations were based on the children's favourite stories. This term we will be continuing with this.

As part of our curriculum we have introduced a story voting table where the children put a counter to represent their choice into the basket of the book they would like the adult to read. At nursery we are trying to provide the children more opportunities to be independent and make their own choices.

Planning

During the Summer Term we will be focusing on different cultures/ festivals, minibeasts, living and growing, life cycles and transitions to school. The first 2 weeks we will be focussing on transition, helping the new children to settle into nursery, building relationships and strong links. We will also be introducing



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2 songs, letter sound and book of the week across the term. This will support the children's language development in a fun way.

	Letter of the Week	Book of the Week
Week 1	m	The Snail and the Whale
Week 2	d	3 Little Pigs
Week 3	g	Whatever's Next
Week 4	o	The Troll
Week 5	u	Supertato
Week 6	l	Dinosaur Rescue – Paw Patrol
Week 7	f	Mad About Minibeasts
Week 8	b	Gingerbread Man
Week 9	j	Harper's Surprise
Week 10	z	Spinderella
Week 11	w	What the Ladybird Heard
Week 12	v	Shark in the Dark
Week 13	y	The Rainbow Fish
Week 14	x	Pig in the Pond

At home to support your child's language development, you can read the books at home as well. Explore the characters with the children i.e. "what they look like?", encourage them to retell the story on their own or join in with the repeated refrains. This will support the children's love of books. If you would like to borrow one of the books of the week please ask on the door.

At nursery we love stories and exploring them with the children. We have set up a book swop in the porch at nursery. This will give the children the opportunity to share books they love with their friends and try new ones. Reading stories with children is very important. They help develop listening and communication skills, improve concentration, memory, help sequence events, key literacy skills, early language development and bring experiences alive by creating a sense of wonder!

Why Living and Growing?

Children, interacting with nature brings great benefits. Nature offers rich stimuli and the chance to be inquisitive, exploratory, adventurous, innovative and messy. Adults who value and enjoy nature themselves enable children to make best use of nature by following child-led learning. It provides opportunities to enhance their capacities for such areas as thinking, transferring and applying skills and problem-solving, channelling feelings and emotions and developing a "can do" attitude. The use of plants can create sheltered calmer places for stimulating different kinds of play alongside experiences of growing plants, and hands-on experiences of wildlife, awe and wonder. Growing is an area of great fascination for children and offers much experience of "learning by doing" alongside physical activity, collaboration, talk, healthy eating and the foundation of lifelong positive attitudes.



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Young children are very curious to learn about the environment that surrounds them, and being in the garden provides the opportunity to explore different smells, senses and tastes. It also shows them how to care for our planet. Growing food helps young children understand what good food is, how it grows, and that it tastes delicious. It creates a sense of community from working together.

Why Cultures/Festivals?

All children are individuals. They come with a range of past experiences based on their own personal experiences. Cultural background gives the children a sense of who they are. Teaching children in Early Years different cultures allows them to explore similarities and differences to others and how to value everyone/ be respectful of others in the community.

Why Minibeasts?

Learning about minibeasts can play a big role in children's understanding of the world. Understanding the World provides powerful, meaningful context to children's learning and development. This understanding enables children to make sense of their expanding world and their place within it through nurturing their wonder, curiosity, agency and exploratory drive. Teaching children about insects and allowing them to see them up close will encourage them to make new discoveries and observations, and learn new concepts such as *Why does this insect look like this? Why does it need so many legs? What does it eat?* Learning about minibeasts at a young age is a great opportunity for children to understand and respect the natural world. They learn how to be gentle and kind to all living creatures and the best way to do this is by seeing minibeasts first-hand by getting outside!

Why Transition to School?

In Early Childhood the transition from nursery to primary school is a significant milestone in a child's life. Getting transition right is of the utmost importance for children to develop both emotionally and academically. Children need to feel happy, settled and secure to learn. Children greatly benefit from well-supported transitions. These moments enable them to develop essential life skills, such as self-regulation, independence, and resilience. Amongst the many skills children will develop, navigating transitions encourages them to adapt to change, follow routines, and develop a sense of time management – all of which are crucial for their overall development and future success.

Our nursery long term planning is available on our website. This shows roughly what the children will be learning over the year across the 7 areas of the EYFS. This is only a rough plan as it may be adapted to allow for the children's interests to flow through the progression.



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Home Link

The children are welcome to bring a toy from home for show and tell. **If you do not want to bring the toy in, you could also send a photo on Tapestry! Rising Stars children are to bring their homework/ letter sound books on Tuesday's and Thursday's so they can explore these with their keyworker.**

Home Learning – Minibeasts

To help support the children's knowledge of minibeasts, you can:

- Label different insects.
- Talk about what the insects look like? What are they doing? Where they live?
- Build a bug house.
- Go on a bug hunt.

Home Learning – Living and Growing

To help support the children's knowledge of living and growing you can:

- Talk about where healthy food grows i.e. underground, bush, vine, tree etc.
- Do some planting. You can plant flowers, bulbs, seeds, vegetables or fruit.
- Talk to the children about composting, recycling and reusing.
- Go on a nature walk to see what wildlife, flowers, trees, insects etc.

Home Learning – Transition to School

To help support the children's transition to school you can:

- Take your child for a tour of the school.
- Attend the settling in sessions at school.
- Attend the parent information sessions.
- Ask the school any questions you have.
- Teachers may visit the children at home to develop relationships prior to settling in sessions.
- Show the children a picture of their teacher and say their name.



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Home Learning – Cultural Events

To help support the children's knowledge of different cultures and festivals you can:

- Dress in cultural clothes.
- Join in with local celebrations.
- Listen to cultural songs or nursery rhymes.

Easter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs8jyWcnCPc> (4.2 mins)

Home Learning – Letter Sounds

To support the children's learning of letter sounds you could:

- Go on a letter sound treasure hunt in the house/ garden and see how many objects they can find.
- Go on a walk and see how many things they can find of that letter sound.
- Play letter sound 'eye spy' i.e. "I spy with my little eye something beginning with a". Make sure you are saying the phonics sound not the letter itself.

Tapestry

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the new children, these will be created by 27th March when all the registration forms have been returned. The parents will then receive an email on how to activate their account. **If you have not received this email, please let us know asap!**

Tapestry is our online learning journal that allows us to send the parents observations of what they have done at nursery home, and also for you to send photos from home. Last term we were blown away by the number of photos and achievements sent to us via Tapestry. We would love to continue this. If you go to a special event, any home learning activities, days out and WOW moments or even if the children want to show us something from home, please do not hesitate to send it via Tapestry. The children enjoy showing these photos during show and tell. How to upload photos or videos to Tapestry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=espJ96TJHV8>. You will receive at least 1 observation a week unless your child is off sick or on holiday. When you receive an observation it will say the areas of development it links too such as: physical development etc.

Wow Board

At nursery we have a 'WOW' board. It contains stars with achievements the children have met at nursery. The children themselves with their keyworker add their own stars to the board. The board also contains photos of achievements from outside nursery. When your child achieves something i.e. a certificate for



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dance, using the toilet for the first time, learning a new song etc, please can you send us a photo on Tapestry or email so the children can add it to the board. A 'WOW' board is important as it shows the strong links between parent and nursery. It helps the children become more positive, helps them grow in confidence, feel valued and raises their self-esteem.

Post Covid -19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language

In the Autumn Term, we started the Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language. This is a fantastic opportunity that has only been offered to a few chosen settings (12 across Worcestershire over 2 years). As part of this opportunity we have assessed all the children with a Speech and Language therapist (Kathryn) using the Wellcomm assessment. Kathryn attended on Thursday mornings throughout the term. She trained the staff on how to do the assessments and how to support the children with different strategies. She has also been doing little language classes with a select few children with consent given by parents for them to take part. She has created a plan of how to support these children going forward which we have passed onto the parents so they can work with the children using the strategies at home as well. In the Spring Term, we had our final visit from Elisa as Kathryn went on maternity leave. She helped review the children's progress and offered further support and training of new strategies. From this, the staff has signed up to the termly speech champion training. They have so far attended understanding key word levels, reluctant talkers and are looking forward to this term's training. This term we will be completing a review of the children's progress using the Wellcomm assessment.

Garden Renovation

This year, we have completed our garden renovations. In the Autumn Term the children helped build/make the new giant wormery and magic door. In the Spring Term we purchased bike helmets to support the children's safety and self-care, spinning toys to help one of our SEN child self-regulate and two loose parts sets. Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. Loose Parts open the door to children's self-directed creative and imaginative play. They enhance children's ability to think imaginatively and see solutions and bring a sense of adventure and excitement to children's play.

This term, we have updated our craft and book areas. These areas help support the children's early reading and writing skills. Early writing skills are the first steps before children learn to write. The children begin creating drawings and symbolic marks that represent their ideas and thinking. It develops their understanding that writing is a form of communication and that marks they make can convey how they are feeling. Craft activities engage children's sense of touch, sight, sound and help develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. It also encourages the children to explore their creativity, imagination, and self-expression, which can boost their confidence and emotional well-being. Early reading skills ignite creativity, spark curiosity, and stimulate the imagination in young children. When children learn to read



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at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, a wider range of vocabulary, they are more fluent readers, and they have improved attention spans and better concentration.

Oral Health

Keeping your children's teeth healthy will help them to maintain clean and healthy teeth and gums and develop good oral hygiene habits they will need throughout the rest of their lives.

Worcestershire Oral Health have a Facebook page and a Twitter account and post on both regularly with tips and news: <https://www.facebook.com/HWHCTSmileSquad/>

Below are links to apps and songs which can support you and your children with toothbrushing:

<https://www.brushdj.com/> An app to make toothbrushing fun!

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/townscape-oral-health/> Learn about oral health and how you can support children and families

<https://youtu.be/u3vdGjj89k8> Hey Duggee toothbrushing song (Cbeebies)

E-Safety

As a setting we teach children about internet safety by making them aware of what safe use of technology looks like. We choose educational apps that help them to develop their skills. We have an e-safety policy which we follow at nursery. Below are a few links and video's on online safety and how you can support/protect them at home.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

[Pre-school \(0-5\) online safety tips and advice | Internet Matters](#)

<https://youtu.be/O3OF-NWDzGo> - E-Safety video for parents

<https://youtu.be/lqRSaRQqPt0?list=PLJSbhHkqYnrSxHUttYbDAzh4ysG-UC9Dr> - Good habits for children with technology and online safety

[Early years online safety video guides | Internet Matters](#) online safety videos



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Operation Encompass

We are pleased to say that we are an Operation Encompass nursery. Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between Early Years Settings, schools and Police forces. It means that as a nursery we will be notified when a child has experienced domestic abuse (seeing or hearing), prior to them arriving at nursery. All staff members have been trained but the designated key adult is Heather (Designated Safeguarding Lead), with back up of Natasha (Deputy Safeguarding Lead) when Heather is not available. We believe being a part of this scheme as a nursery will provide the best support to all our children and will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Early Help

At Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery we recognise the challenges that families face in bringing up children. There may be times when you need extra help and support.

Early help is a way of getting extra support when you or your family needs it, but getting it as soon as the difficulties start, rather than waiting until things get worse. Help can come from all kinds of services and organisations who work together to support your family. You might be using some of these services already, but we want to make sure they are providing the right support for you and your family's needs.

It could be that you're worried about your child's health, development or behaviour, or perhaps because you are caring for a disabled child. Maybe your child is affected by domestic abuse, drugs or alcohol. Maybe you have had a bereavement in the family or someone close to your child is ill, or there has been a disruption to your family life and you are worried about the effect on them.

It could be that you yourself find times difficult and need advice with housing, debt, relationships or mental health issues.

If this is the case, please come talk to us. There are many ways our nursery can help and support you and your family.

Useful Links:

[NSPCC - Keeping Children Safe](#)

[Domestic Abuse Support](#)

[Childline](#)

[Harmony At Home](#)

[ERIC – Toileting Advice](#)

[Starting Well Partnership](#)

[Alcohol / Drugs abuse](#)

[Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Mental Health support](#)

[Child Tax Credit and Childcare Funding](#)

[Early Help Family Support](#)

[Help To Buy Food and Milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)



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Events

Leapfrog Sports – Amanda from Leapfrog sports will be visiting on Thursday mornings after the Easter holidays. The children will get to learn a new sport every week. The rising stars children will need a P.E kit to change into. The children not going to school 2024 will need to wear suitable shoes but **do not** need a change of clothes.

Lamb Visit – We will be having a lamb visit nursery one day this term. It will be a chance for the children to learn about lambs and how to look after them. They will get to stroke, bottle feed and walk with it around the garden.

Insect Lore – We will be having some caterpillars arriving at nursery this term for the children to look after, see how they change into cocoons and then into butterflies for them to release in the nursery garden. The children will learn first-hand about the life cycle of a butterfly.

Brookfield Photography –Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th April. Group and single photographs have been booked on the Thursday for the Rising Stars children and Wednesday for the children not going to school. Children who do not usually attend can drop in if they would like to take part.

Garden Party – Saturday 22nd June 11-2. Donations and help on the day welcome nearer the time. This is our annual 2024 fundraiser for the children, it provides resources and special activities. It's a time when parents and children get together, bring picnic blankets and join in with the fun.

We charge £6 per family to include a bouncy castle, outdoor activities, a treasure hunt and a craft making session (these activities are more suitable for younger children).

Other activities include the BBQ (available from 11.30) where you can purchase hot dogs, and burgers, refreshments, including cakes and cold drinks, match the card on the jar, name the animal, bottle tombola, toys and books.

Please contact us by phone 07749477553, email or on Facebook to reserve your ticket.

If there are any other activities you feel your child might enjoy, please let us know.