



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

April 2025

We would like to give a special welcome to all our new children (Arlo and Rory).

It was lovely seeing the children enjoy themselves at the Easter Egg Hunt on the 24th April.

We are now taking bookings for the school year commencing September 2025. Please let us know asap what sessions you require. We have limited spaces available. Confirmation emails will be sent out by the 1st May..

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 premises 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 2025 (11 Week Term)

Monday 28th April

Term Starts

Monday 5th May

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 26th May – Friday 29th May (inclusive)

Half-term

Friday 18th July

End of Summer Term

Thursday 17th July

Graduation

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.



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Payment Policy Update

As you may be aware new statutory guidance has been published on how providers should have a clear, transparent payment policy that is easily assessable to parents and breaks down what is included in their free childcare entitlement.

Due to this we have had to reword our payment policy. This comes into effect from the Summer Term. On a termly basis parents will need to complete an opt in or opt out form in regards to what enrichment activities they would like their child to partake in (prior to the term starting). **You should have already filled this in for the Summer Term with Heather.** Please read payment policy on the website for further details. The daily activity charges remain the same cost and have not increased.

Please be aware that we have only increased our private fees. The increase is in line with the new government charges. We charge £5.37 per hour for a 3 year old or £7.33 per hour for a 2 year old.

Following parent feedback we have separated wrap around care so you can just pay £5 for a morning or £5 for an afternoon or £10 for both.

From September 2025 all monthly payments will need to be paid a month in advance.

From September 2025 we will be charging a refundable deposit of £25. This reserves your place and will be refunded once your child starts with us.

We will be handing out the Autumn terms forms after May half term.

EYPP – Early Years Pupil Premium

In the Autumn Term we put money towards Pyjama Drama coming on Tuesday mornings. The sessions encouraged 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 developed key skills such as; communication, co-operation, concentration, confidence and imagination. 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. We upgraded our Hudl at nursery to improve communication between the setting and parents using Tapestry. We bought resources to upgrade our outside facilities such as crates and balance logs. These will allow the children to take risks in their play, develop their concentration skills, gross motor skills, understand their own body limits, develop their own body awareness and improve their self-esteem when they achieve their goal of crossing the logs or crates.



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In the Spring Term we put money towards Pyjama Drama coming on Tuesday mornings. The sessions encouraged 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. We also put money towards Yoga/ Pilates coming on Thursday afternoon. The sessions help build confidence and self-esteem, because children learn from playing and experimenting. It allows children to scaffold their physical and mental development stage by stage. It strengthens the children bodies improving their core body strength. As they progress in their physical and mental development yoga helps the children grow in confidence and self-esteem. We have created a giant bug house outside with the children. By creating a giant bug house, the children will get to learn about different insects and the essential role they play in creating a healthy eco-system. It also gives a chance to the children to deepen their connection with nature.

This term we will be putting the money towards Leap Frog sports coming on Tuesday 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. We will also be building a new stage and music area. The new area will provide a larger, more stimulating space for children to explore music and movement, fostering creativity, gross motor skills, co-ordination and fine motor skills while using the resources. Music in the outdoors helps stimulate the children's senses as well as muscle movement as they dance to the beats they create.

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. Across the term, the role play area turned into different occupations for the children to experience. They explored a shop, building site and vets. The children had special visits from people who help us in the



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community. They had a visit from 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.

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.

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.



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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 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	o	The Troll
Week 2	u	Supertato
Week 3	l	Dinosaur Rescue – Paw Patrol
Week 4	f	Mad About Minibeasts
Week 5	b	Gingerbread Man
Week 6	j	Harper's Surprise
Week 7	z	Spinderella
Week 8	w	What the Ladybird Heard
Week 9	v	Shark in the Dark
Week 10	y	The Rainbow Fish
Week 11	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 swap 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.

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)



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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 4th April 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 photo's 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 photo's of achievements from outside nursery. When your child achieves something i.e. a certificate for 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.



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Garden Renovation

This term, we have updated our outdoor environment. We have created a balancing area with logs and balance beams, a sensory garden, music and stage area, bug house and chalk boards with early writing boards.

Balancing Area - These will allow the children to take risks in their play, develop their concentration skills, gross motor skills, understand their own body limits, develop their own body awareness and improve their self-esteem when they achieve their goal of crossing the logs or crates.

Giant Bug House - By creating a giant bug house, the children will get to learn about different insects and the essential role they play in creating a healthy eco-system. It will also give a chance to the children to deepen their connection with nature.

Music and Stage Area - This will provide a larger, more stimulating space for children to explore music and movement, fostering creativity, gross motor skills, co-ordination and fine motor skills while using the resources. Music in the outdoors helps stimulate the children's senses as well as muscle movement as they dance to the beats they create.

Chalk Board with Early Writing Boards - This will provide children Early Writing opportunities. Early writing skills are the first steps before children learn to write. The children begin creating drawings and symbolic marks that's 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, engages children's sense of touch, sight, sound and helps 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.

Sensory Garden - Sensory gardens are important for children because they provide a safe, stimulating environment that engages all senses, fostering development, learning, and well-being, particularly for those with sensory processing needs. Sensory gardens include features, objects and plants that appeal to our senses. They can be calming or stimulating, with a range of potential wellbeing benefits.

Composting Area - Composting is important for children to learn as it fosters environmental awareness, teaches about natural cycles, and promotes responsible waste management, all while being a fun and engaging activity.



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Future Garden Renovations

Loose Parts - 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.

Extra Shelters - This will provide essential weather protection from the wind, rain, and sun, allowing the children to spend more time outside all year around. Being outside is crucial for children's development, fostering physical health, mental well-being, and social skills through activities like exploring nature, engaging in physical activity, and building relationships.

Fairy Garden - Fairy gardens are important for children as they foster imagination, creativity, and a connection with nature, while also teaching them about plant care and developing their fine motor skills.

Bird Nesting Area/ Bird Feeders - Building and observing birdhouses with children fosters a love for nature, teaches about wildlife needs, and provides hands-on learning opportunities, while also promoting environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility for the natural world.

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)



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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.

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

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.



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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](#)

[Child Tax Credit and Childcare Funding](#)

[Early Help Family Support](#)

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

[Alcohol / Drugs abuse](#)

[Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Mental Health support](#)

[Parent Club Guide To Screen Time](#)

[Top Tips For Weaning Dummies Of Children](#)

[Advice For Bilingual Children or Children Learning More Than One Language](#)

[Tiny Happy People. Activity Inspiration For All Age](#)



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Events

Leapfrog Sports – Isadora from Leapfrog sports will be visiting on Tuesday 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.

Garden Party – Saturday 17th May 11-2. Donations and help on the day welcome nearer the time. This is our annual 2025 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.

Tiny Forest Wildlife Count – 19th May – 1st June. The children are loving exploring bugs at nursery and we are keen to follow their interest. On 19th May-1st June we have registered as a nursery to take part in the Tiny Forest Wildlife Count to see how many bugs and butterflies they can find. The count is a simple wildlife survey across 200+ Tiny Forests in the UK. This will help connect the children to nature, boost wellbeing and discover the wildlife in our community.

This is run by Earth Watch Europe a registered charity. If you are interested in joining in with this at home, you can register as an individual at: [Tiny Forest Wildlife Count - Earthwatch](#)

Graduation – Thursday 17th July



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Parents of younger children attending a Thursday will be asked to collect their children at 2 '0' clock. We would also ask the parents of children graduating arrive at 2.25 to start the ceremony. Any rising stars children who do not usually attend a Thursday are welcome to join from 12.00 for a leavers party.

Although graduation is on Thursday, we are still open on Friday 18th July. The older children are still welcome to attend as usual on the Friday however it is up to the parents as sometimes it confuses them due to them having already had their leaving party/ presents.