



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

February 2024

We are now taking bookings for the school year commencing September 2023. Please let us know asap what sessions you require. We have limited spaces available. Confirmation emails will be sent out over the Easter holidays.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2024 (10 Week Term)

Friday 22nd March

End of Spring Term

EYPP – Early Years Pupil Premium

Last 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.

This term we will be putting the money towards Pyjama Drama coming on Tuesday mornings. The sessions will 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.

Funding

From April working parents with 2 year olds can claim 15 hours funded hours. Please check if you qualify and apply for your code on: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> . Codes need to have been given before 31st March to qualify for the Summer term. Please ask Heather for further information.

If you qualify for 3 year old 30 hour funding 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.



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Planning

During the Spring Term we will be focusing on different cultures/ festivals, oral health, occupations and our body/ physical activity. 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	n	Superworm
Week 2	c/k	Squash And A Squeeze
Week 3	e	Brown Bear, Brown Bear
Week 4	h	Mad About Dinosaurs
Week 5	r	Room On A Broom

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.

Why 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. We will be supporting this by teaching children this term about healthy foods, show the children how to brush their teeth using a giant model/ toothbrush and in January a dentist will visit nursery to talk to the children as well.

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 Occupations?

In Early Childhood it is important for children to make connections with their local environment as they can last a lifetime. In the Early Years we build connections and values in children that they can take throughout their lives and become community- minded and responsible adults. It is important for the children to understand the people in the community who support us and how to get help in case of an emergency.



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Why Our Body/ Physical Activity?

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 cognitive skills creating healthy brain development from an early age.

A copy of our nursery long term planning will be sent to you shortly. 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 maybe adapted to allow for the children's interests to flow through the progression.

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 - Occupations

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

- Label different occupations.
- Talk about what people do in different occupations.
- Take the children to community events to meet people who help us.

Home Learning – Oral Health

To help support the children's knowledge of oral health you can:

- Talk about healthy foods.
- Talk about how to brush your teeth.
- Make oral health fun by counting or using songs.

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/u3vdGij89k8> Hey Duggee toothbrushing song (Cbeebies)



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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/>

Home Learning – Our Body

To help support the children's knowledge their body you can:

- Name the parts of the body.
- Play eye spy with body parts i.e "I spy something you use to smell something".
- During physical activities talk about how you are feeling/ what you need i.e. "i'm tired, I need to rest" or "I'm thirsty I need a drink".

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.

Holi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3Ew2ctrWmc>

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

World Book Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBcl2ej0zig>

St David's Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llxz2BAmSU>

St Patricks Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PKRxke0sc>

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.



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Tapestry

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's 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

Last term the children helped create a 'WOW' board in nursery. It contains stars with achievements the children have met in nursery. The children themselves with their key worker add their own stars to the board.

We are looking to put photo's of achievements from outside of nursery onto the board too. When your child has achieved 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.

Post Covid -19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language

Last term we started the Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language. This is 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 has been attending on Thursday mornings. She has 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.

This term Elisa from Speech and Language will be visiting as Kathryn is on maternity leave. She will be visiting to review the children's progress and offer further support and training if needed.



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Garden Renovation

We have improved our outdoor book and mark making area by making some book crates and a cable wheel table. We have purchased a spinning cone, whizzy dizzy, bike helmets, wheel trolley 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.

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

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.



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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](#)

[Alcohol / Drugs abuse](#)

[Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Mental Health support](#)

[Harmony At Home](#)

[ERIC – Toileting Advice](#)

[Starting Well Partnership](#)

[Child Tax Credit and Childcare Funding](#)

[Early Help Family Support](#)

Easter Raffle

We will be holding an Easter Raffle to be drawn at our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Tickets available £1 a ticket. Proceeds towards summer activities for the children.

Easter Raffle donations welcome.



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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.

Easter Egg Hunt – Wednesday 30th March 10-12 (Awaiting confirmation). A family fun day out for just £2 per child. Follow the trail around Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery grounds, to find the elusive clues to retrieve your egg prize.

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

Brookfield Photography – Wednesday 10th April 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 (Awaiting confirmation). Donations and help on the day welcome nearer the time. This is our annual 2023 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.