



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

January 2024 – Chinese Year of the Dragon

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

It was lovely meeting the new children and their families on Wednesday 3rd January for the stay and play session.

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

Spring Term 2024 (10 Week Term)

Monday 8 th January	Term Starts
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February (inclusive)	Half-term
Friday 22 nd March	End of Spring Term

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



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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

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.

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

Autumn Term

During the first half term the children have been exploring autumn, healthy foods and emotions. To teach healthy foods we followed the children's interests of finding caterpillars in the garden and related it to the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. To teach the children autumn the children have been exploring the natural environment outside and the autumn investigation stations. To teach the children about emotions, we have been labelling the children's emotions and they have explored different emotions through 'The Colour Monster' story. To teach the children about Halloween, the children helped decorate nursery, read a range of spooky books, carved pumpkins, made a hedgehog pumpkin and explored various potion stations throughout the week.

We also had a visit from Animal Mania this term where the children got the chance to hold or stroke each of the animals. The children really enjoyed meeting Jack an African Bull Frog which is the biggest type of frog in the world, Stewart the Chinchilla, a Tortoise called Michelle which was only 12 weeks old, two Corn Snakes called Snowey and Dave, a giant Rabbit called Gary who was only 8 months old and an African Millipede called Kevin who has 800 legs.

During this second half term the children have been exploring different cultures and festivals. The children have explored Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas! To teach the children about Diwali, the children read a



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range of books, made clay Diva's, Rangoli floor patterns, lanterns, had a sensory light firework experience and explored various potion stations throughout the week. To teach the children about Bonfire Night, the children made their own firework pictures, took part in a giant splatter painting activity and made a giant bonfire outside where they learnt about fire safety. To teach the children about Christmas, the children helped decorate nursery, read a range of books, looked at the Nativity, made Christmas crafts to take home, took part in the concert as the character/ part of their choice, explored various potion stations throughout the week and enjoyed the end of term party.

We continued the children's learning about emotions, healthy foods and autumn. We introduce the topic of Winter. To teach the children Winter the children have been exploring the natural environment outside and the Winter investigation stations.

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.

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. They will be coming out again this half 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 to 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 we had potion, 'Colour Monster', 'Hungry Caterpillar' and Autumn investigation stations. This term the investigation stations will be based on the children's favourite stories.

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 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.



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	Letter of the Week	Book of the Week
Week 1	s	Gruffalo Child
Week 2	a	Dear Zoo
Week 3	t	Tiger Who Came To Tea
Week 4	i	The Dinosaur Who Pooped
Week 5	p	Were Going On A Bear Hunt

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.

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



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need to communicate these needs. Physical activities supports 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/u3vdGjj89k8> 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.

Chinese New Year:

- Food tasting activity.
- Watch 'Peppa Pig' festival episodes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfrJozXXs4c>
- Watch Chinese dragon dance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs0GuU0cUtw> (starts at 3.08)

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=llzxz2BAmSU>

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

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the new children, these will be created by 8th January 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'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.



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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.

Garden Renovation

We are pleased to say our final part of the garden renovation is complete. The children in the Autumn Term helped build/ make the new giant wormery and magic door.

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.

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.



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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](#)

Events

Yoga/ Pilates – Kathryn from KSCIM will continue to teach Yoga/ Pilates on Thursday afternoons. The children really enjoyed this last term. They got to pretend to be winter animals, dinosaurs and explored Autumn. This will support the children's anxiety, well-being whilst doing a physical activity.

Pyjama Drama – Lydia will be visiting on Tuesday mornings. Please read EYPP section for more information.

Dentist Visit – A Dentist will be visiting the nursery in January to teach the children through fun activities how to take care of their teeth.

We are hoping to have visits from emergency services i.e. police car and fire truck. We will let you know when these have been booked.

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



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