



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

July 2024

Term Dates

Summer Term 2024 (14 Week Term)

Friday 19th July
Thursday 18th July

End of Summer Term
Graduation

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2nd September

Summer Term

During the Summer Term the children have been exploring different cultures/ festivals, minibeasts, living and growing, life cycles and transitions to school.

Living and Growing?

Over the term the children have explored living and growing. They have worked together to plant seeds, watched them grow into seedlings and planted them in the vegetable patch. They planted beans to take home to see how tall they would grow. The children have looked after them and got upset when they found a rabbit had eaten all the plants. The children harvested their potato plants and got to take some home. The children have showed care and concern for living things in the environment, looking after a shrew, rabbit, birds, squirrels and mini-beasts. During 'Snail and a Whale' book week, the children learnt about how they can save the animals and protect the environment. The children have learnt how to separate rubbish into compost, recycling and general waste. During Forest Schools the children had a special visit from two 4 week old lambs which they called Bam Bam and Milky. They got to bottle feed and stroke the lambs. The children also had a visit from Luna, Heather and Natasha's 3 month old puppy. The children gave her lots of cuddles, stroked her, fed her treats, learnt about her favourite food and played fetch in the garden.

Minibeasts

This term the children have been exploring different minibeasts. They participated in the EarthWatch Wildlife count. They recorded what wildlife they found and how many. They explored what the differences



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between beetles, butterflies, moths and bees. Across the term the children have been looking after struggling minibeasts, by gently moving them and giving them drinks so they get strong enough to fly away. The children on recycling week, made their own 'litter bugs' out of recycling from home. The children took pride in showing what they had created in the nursery porch display. During this half term, the children have been watching their Insect Lore caterpillars grow, turn into cocoons and hatch into butterflies to release into the nursery garden.

Transition to School

This term, the Rising Stars children have been developing skills to help support their transition to school. They have been learning how to negotiate, challenge each other, get dressed and undressed, develop their confidence in expressing their own needs and ideas. The children have been discussing what school they will be going to, what lunches they may have, what their teacher is called and are excited to go visit their school. The children who have already visited their school, have been so excited to tell their friends what it was like and how much fun they had. The children have listened to stories about going to school and explored the feeling they may have.

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 next 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 next year and we look forward to seeing what books the children choose next.

Trips

Last week the children went on a special trip to Avoncroft Museum. The children visited the windmill, where we talked about making flour. They enjoyed looking at the wooden buildings and brick buildings. They saw an apple orchard, mole hills, 10 sheep and a well. We talked about life using water from a well. At the end of the trip the children got to play at the park. The children had a wonderful time!

OFSTED

We are thrilled to announce that we received an GOOD OFSTED rating from our last inspection in May. The OFSTED inspection report is available on our website. We would like to thank everyone for their support and look forward to what the future brings.



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Summer Activities

Following feedback from this year's parent questionnaire, we are sending out summer activities so the children can extend their learning over the summer holidays. This summer we will be basing our activities on current events in Worcestershire. We have planned the activities to use resources available at home or cheap, fun experiences you can do as a family. If you need to borrow any resources please let us know. The summer activities will be sent out alongside this newsletter.

Summer Stay and Plays

We are holding free stay and play sessions over summer for new starters and children returning in September on:

Tuesday 23rd July 10-11

Thursday 8th August 10-11

Wednesday 21st August 10-11

Events

Graduation – Thursday 18th July

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 19th 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.