

September 2023

We would like to give a special welcome to all our new children (Alice-Dawn, Barney, Eadie, Esme, Floss, Harper, Isabelle, Isla, Molly, Oscar and Phoebe).

It was lovely meeting the new children and their families on Tuesday 8th August and Friday 18th August and Wednesday 23rd August for the stay and play sessions. It was also great to see some of our current children as well at the stay and play sessions.

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.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023 (14 week Term)

Monday 4th September

Term Starts

Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November (inclusive)

Half-term

Friday 15th December

End of Autumn Term
Christmas Party

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.

Ofsted

The outcome (requires improvement) from our recent Ofsted inspection (11th July 2023) was devastating. From the feedback on how to improve before our next inspection in 6-12 months time, we created an action plan which was sent to all parents on the 15th August. We have already had a meeting with Worcestershire County Council improvement advisor and they will be coming out again in the Autumn Term to check what we have put in place meets the Ofsted requirements. We would like to thank everyone for their support and the feedback from parents before, during and after inspection was fantastic!

Our Vision

'Working together to give children and families the best opportunities in life'

At Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery our intent is that every child should have the best opportunities in life. We provide a small, safe, homely environment with experienced staff, large outdoor area (which they explore in all weathers) and bespoke activities to ensure all children enjoy themselves, expand their knowledge and achieve their goals. We work in partnership with parents to provide a high quality service where children flourish as a whole, have a sense of belonging and become strong independent learners, to help ensure their future success.

Curriculum



Our curriculum is underpinned by the (EYFS) Early Years Foundation Stage. We use Development Matters and Birth to 5 Matters as a guideline to assess the children's development.

Our curriculum is delivered by highly qualified teachers/team with years of experience, who are caring and committed to do their very best for the children in their care.

Our curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities and experiences which brings learning to life and makes it memorable. We offer a well planned mix of adult directed and child-initiated play to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Our curriculum can be accessed by all children and is differentiated/ tailored to support each child's individual needs, as every child is unique and learns at their own pace.

Our curriculum enables children to reach their full potential and become strong independent learners.

Our children leave us confident, resilient learners, well prepared for the next stage of their education.

For more information please look at the curriculum page on our website.

Planning

During the Autumn Term we will be focusing on different cultures/ festivals, healthy foods and emotions. The first 2 weeks we will be focussing on transition, helping the children settle into nursery, building relationships and strong links. We will also be introducing 2 songs of the week across the term. This will support the children's language development in a fun way.

Why Emotions?

Early Years children feel a range of emotions, but often cannot express, interpret or process them. Research shows that children with poor emotional skills, it could be harder for the children to learn. Behaviour can be an expression of their feeling and emotions.

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 Healthy Foods?

In Early Childhood good nutrition is essential as it is a time of rapid growth, development and activity. This is a vital time for healthy tooth development and prevention of decay. General eating habits, likes and dislikes are formed in the first few years of life. Children need to develop an understanding of their own likes and dislikes of food and how different foods affect their body. The children will then be able to make healthy choices which will result in them having a healthy body and mind.

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!**

Home Learning - Emotions

To help support the children understand their emotions, you can:

- Label the children's emotions when at home. "I understand you are feeling _____".
- Ask them "how are you feeling?"
- "Why do you that way?"
- Show pictures of emotions.
- Listen to what the child says.
- Look at their body language, actions, sounds or words used.

Home Learning – Healthy Foods

To help support the children's knowledge of healthy foods you can:

- Go to the supermarket, corner shop, farm shop. How many vegetables can the children spot or name.
- Go to the supermarket, corner shop, farm shop. How many different fruits can the children spot or name.
- Fruit or vegetable tasting activity.
- Do you have a vegetable patch or fruit trees? Can the children spot where the fruit and vegetables grow?
- Do a cooking activity with the children using the fruit or vegetables such as; apple crumble, carrot cake etc.

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.

'Peppa Pig' Halloween rhymes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUnnc2GSLVw>

- Read 'Peppa Pig' or other festival stories.

Diwali: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-ecsnFZ4ZI>

- Food tasting activity.
- Watch 'Peppa Pig' festival episodes.

Halloween: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfMTu_b_xY (4 minutes 11 seconds)

Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXxIW9cW-c4> (9 minutes 55 seconds)

Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb2eRVeNyPk> (Has lots of different episodes).

Bonfire Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6gPFp3jNcw> (3 minutes 17 seconds)

Remembrance Day Animation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv_ub7Be7oA

Tapestry

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the new children, these will be created before the 4th September once we have met all the new starters at the stay and plays and all the registration forms have been returned. The parents will then receive an email on how to activate their account (sent on 27th August). **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, next steps 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.

Post Covid -19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language

We have been approached to be a part of the Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan by Speech and Language. This fantastic opportunity has only been offered to a few chosen settings (12 across Worcestershire over 2 years). As part of their opportunity we will receive extra support with children's speech and language skills in the coming academic year focusing on identification of children who have speech and/or language needs and running intervention groups for these children. This has been funded by the government as part of their COVID-19 catch up recovery plan.

During this Autumn Term 2023:

- We will be assessing the preschool children using the Wellcomm toolkit.
- All staff will be trained on how use the Wellcomm assessment tool.
- A dedicated Speech and Language assistant will attend for 6 weeks in the mornings or afternoons to support the setting. During these times they will offer advice on how to support the children and demonstrate different interventions such as small listening groups, demonstrated language groups and speech programmes. They can also support staff by demonstrating adult child interaction strategies for those children who are not yet ready for smaller or larger group work.
- We will have access to a wide range of resources from the speech and language therapy team to update any older resources and support staff in delivering speech and language intervention.

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)

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.

Garden Renovation

Last academic year we renovated the nursery garden. We have created a music stage area, bug/ nature area, play house, giant mud kitchen, ride on role play car, construction area, giant gazebo's, pirate ship sand pit, vegetable patch, water wall, reading pod, transparent painting boards and chalking area. We are pleased to say our final part of the garden renovation is a wormery and magic door which should arrive this term.

Events

Christmas Concert – Thursday 7th December 2.00 – 2.45 in the main hall.

Christmas Party – Friday 15th December 12 – 3.00 (all children able to attend)

Animal Mania – Thursday 5th October. This is always a favourite for the children as they get to see, touch and hold various different species of animals (to be confirmed).

Yoga/ Pilates – KCSIM (Kathryn) will be coming every Thursday afternoon to teach the children some Yoga /Pilates. This will support the children's anxiety, well-being whilst doing a physical activity.

Tiny Talk Signing – Tuesday 26th September. This is a trial session for the children. The children will get to explore and learn sign language through songs, rhymes and physical activities. At the end of the year the children will learn 150 signs that they can use to help them communicate alongside their words. We would value any parent feedback on this session and if you feel it would be beneficial to include in the extra activities we offer at nursery.

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

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](#)

[Alcohol / Drugs abuse](#)

[Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Mental Health support](#)

[ERIC – Toileting Advice](#)

[Starting Well Partnership](#)

[Child Tax Credit and Childcare Funding](#)

[Early Help Family Support](#)



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