



Avoncroft Pre-School Nursery

September 2024

We would like to give a special welcome to all our new children (Alexander, Arthur, Arlo, Ayla-Rose, Connie, Darcey, Ivy, Lottie, Lola, Max, Martha, Remy, Skyler, Scarlett, Theodore).

It was lovely meeting the new children and their families on Tuesday 23rd July, Thursday 8th August and Wednesday 21st 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 2024 (14 week Term)

Monday 2nd September

Term Starts

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November (inclusive)

Half-term

Friday 13th 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

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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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 new children to settle into nursery, building relationships and strong links. We will also be introducing 2 songs and book of the week across the term. This will support the children's language development in a fun way.

	Book of the Week
Week 1	Sharing A Shell
Week 2	Peppa Loves Our Planet
Week 3	The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Week 4	The Colour Monster
Week 5	Billy Goats Gruff
Week 6	Worrysaurus
Week 7	Squirrels Who Squabbled
Week 8	Winnie's Amazing Pumpkin
Week 9	Fire Engine Is Flashing
Week 10	Goldilocks
Week 11	Giraffe's Can't Dance
Week 12	Koala Who Could
Week 13	Pip And The Bag Of Buddies
Week 14	Not So Perfect Penguin

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 swop 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 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.



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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 may be 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.



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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



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Tapestry

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the new children, these will be created before the 2nd 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. **If you have not received this email, please let us know asap! Please note if we have not received the registration forms we cannot email you an activation code.**

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.

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.

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!



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<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, transparent painting boards, chalking area, wormery, magic door, loose parts construction and water, reading area and craft area. We are currently expanding our outdoor music area. We are hoping to create a music tube area to support the children's learning of rhythm, rhyme and beats whilst expanding on their imagination skills creating their own music.

Indoor Renovation

Over the summer the staff have dedicated time to give the indoor environment a full makeover. We have painted, sorted, cleaned and added sound absorption materials to the environment to reduce the background noise in the environment. We have created an environment that is free flow and child initiated. The makeover includes a quiet space, story area, cloakroom, construction area, investigation station, music zone, craft area and home corner. Each area has been designed to cover all areas of the EYFS and provide opportunities to learn through their interests.

Cloakroom: We have created a new cloakroom where the children have their own coat peg for their belongings and a cubby hole for their wellies. This will help support the children's independence, helping others, name recognition and self-care skills.

Resources: The resources have been sorted and boxed up. The boxes are easily assessable and are labelled with pictures and words. We have range of toys suitable for a variety of ages, interests, learning and opportunities. This will support the children's independence, making choices, extend own play and word recognition.

Quiet Space: We have created a quiet space where children can go to when they get overwhelmed. It is a small carpet area with a range of children's interest and self-regulation toys.



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Story Area: We have created a story area where children can explore their love of books and early reading skills in various ways. The area has chatter bags, story sacks, puppets, letter people, teddies, cushions and books. The children can access books independently, share stories with their friends, act out stories, make their own choices and see letters in the environment. Early reading skills ignites creativity, sparks curiosity, and stimulates the imagination in young children. When children learn to read at an early age, they have greater general knowledge, a wider range of vocabulary, they are more fluent readers, and they have improved attention spans and better concentration.

Sound Absorption: We have added more sound absorbing materials to the inside of the building to help reduce the background noise. This will help support and promote the children's listening, speech and language skills.

Construction Area: We have created a construction area where the children can explore using their imagination. This will support the children to talk about their past experiences, imagination, creativity, language and communication, social skills, team work, organisation, independence, confidence, problem solving, number recognition, shapes, building structures, fine motor skills and gross motor skills.

Investigation Station: We will be creating different investigation stations based on the book of the week. This is a child led learning opportunity where the children learning by doing and show more of a can do attitude. This supports the children's language development and ask more questions to further their knowledge.

Music Area: We have created a music area where children can explore their love of music, dance, songs and rhymes. The children can access musical instruments from around the world throughout the day from open labelled boxes. This will support the children's gross motor skills, fine motor skills, syllables, rhythm, rhyme, coordination, sounds and sensory exploration.

Craft Area: We have created a craft area where the children can explore their creative side and develop their early writing skills. 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.



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Home Corner: We have created a home corner where the children can explore using their imagination. The area is a home from home environment in which they can act out real life experiences. This will support the children talking about home, imagination, creativity, language and communication, social skills, life skills, organisation, independence, confidence, problem solving, maths, healthy food choices and fine motor skills.

By updating the indoor environment it will provide further opportunities to promote the children's development through the characteristics of effective learning.

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.



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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 Ages](#)



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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

Events

Christmas Concert – Tuesday 3rd December 2.00 – 2.45 in the main hall (to be confirmed).

Christmas Party – Friday 13th December 12 – 3.00 (all children able to attend) (to be confirmed).

Animal Mania – Thursday 26th September. This is always a favourite for the children as they get to see, touch and hold various different species of animals

Pyjama Drama – Tuesdays. 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.

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.

French – Mondays. The sessions will develop the children's early language skills through fun experiences, stories, games, songs and dances. Engaging the children at this young age will create a curiosity and early love of learning foreign languages.

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