

November 2025

We would like to give a special welcome to Elsie, Harper, Isabelle and Rory L who will be joining us this half term.

We are very proud of all the nursery children so far this term. They have settled in really well and are showing curiosity over learning new things. They have progressed developmentally so much this half term and we cannot wait to see their future progress too!

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024 (14 week Term)

Monday 1st September	Term Starts
Monday 27th October - Friday 31 st October (inclusive)	Half-term
Friday 12th December	End of Autumn Term Christmas Party

Events

Rising Stars Meeting - Thursday 20th November 2.25-2.45

This is a meeting for the rising stars parents (children going to school September 2026) to discuss the Rising Stars Sessions, routines, and special homework books. If you cannot attend, please let us know and we will find an appropriate time for you separately.

Christmas Concert – Tuesday 2nd December 2024 2.00 – 2.45 (Main Hall – End of Car Park)

Parents to arrive/ bring children who do not usually attend at 2pm to put into costumes if required. The play will start at the latest 2.15 and will finish no later than 2.45. It is £2.50 ticket (4 tickets per child). Tickets are numbered and given out on a first come first serve basis.

Cash in an envelope would be best for the tickets so that the money can go into funds for the party.

We need some help with setting up the chairs in the main hall and selling raffle tickets (please let Heather or Natasha know if you can help).

All proceeds towards the cost of the children's party including food, present and entertainer. Raffle tickets will also be available at this time for the Christmas Hamper. (Donations gratefully accepted. A list will be put up nearer the time).

Christmas Party – Friday 12th December 12 – 3.00

All party food, party games, entertainer and small gift will be provided by the nursery. Friday morning sessions will be open for the children who usually attend. (Extra staffing is in place so all children have the option to attend. If you would like your child to participate, please book via email (the sessions fee will be applied, you may be able to claim government funding). If your child receives EYPP, the party is free of charge).

Invoices

Invoices have been sent out prior to the start of term. This was to provide you time 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. A late payment fee of £20 will be added if fees are not paid on time.

Attendance

Whilst attendance at an early years setting is not mandatory, regular poor attendance may be a sign of safeguarding and welfare concerns that should be followed up. It is a legal requirement for us to monitor the absences from nursery. We ask if your child is going to be off nursery, to please inform us by text or phone call within an hour of when your child is due to arrive. If we have not heard from you, the manager will call to ask why your child is away. If children are going to be absent due to holidays, we ask that you complete a holiday form.

Maths Champion

Our nursery has successfully been accepted to participate in the Maths Champion Programme. Maths Champions is an online professional development programme with 12 months access. The aim of this innovative programme is to improve children's maths outcomes by providing access to a range of bespoke online training, evaluative tools and resources which can all be used to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of practitioners working at the setting. The Maths Champion is Natasha and the Deputy Maths Champion is Heather.

Nutrition In Early Years

EYFS Nutrition Guidance April 2025 - Good nutrition in the early years is crucial for setting the foundations for a lifetime of good health. From September 2025, settings should have read the nutrition guidance and come up with a setting approach. Our whole setting approach to food and healthy eating is available on our website.

Sustainability

The sustainability and climate change strategy for education states: “By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan”. Research has highlighted that settings have the greatest success in driving change where there is a holistic action plan that is supported by a leadership team with the authority, knowledge, and commitment to take it forward. Our Climate Change Ambassador is Tomomi. Our action plan is available on our website.

First Half 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. To teach the children about Diwali, they listened to the story ‘Peppa’s Diwali’, made Clay Diva’s, Rangoli floor pattern, lanterns and painted fireworks outside.

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 Freddo an African Bull Frog which is the biggest type of frog in the world, Stewart the Chinchilla, a Tortoise called Michelle, a Corn Snake called Julie, a giant Rabbit called Jennifer who was only 4 months old, a Skinny Pig called Jeff who was 6 weeks old and a Bearded Dragon called Darrel.

This Half Term

During this half term the children will be looking at different cultures and festivals. They will get to explore Bonfire Night and Christmas! We will be continuing to learn about emotions, healthy foods and autumn. We will be beginning to introduce the topic of winter. We will continue to introduce 2 songs and a book of the week across the term. This will support the children’s language development in a fun way.

	Book of the Week
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 swap 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.

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 is available on our website. 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.

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.

Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXxlW9cW-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=Z6gPFp3iNcw> (3 minutes 17 seconds)

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

Progress Reports

Towards the end of this term you will receive a progress report or 2 year old check showing how your child has progressed developmentally so far. If your child was with us last year it will include where they are now with the EYFS with a brief description of what they have achieved this term. Following feedback from parents last year an option for a parent consultations/ meetings will be available the last 2 weeks of term to discuss the reports with your child's keyworker. Please let us know if you would like a meeting with your child's keyworker. If you have any concerns regarding your child's development or you would like us to work on something with you, please do not hesitate to talk to your keyworker or Heather/ Natasha as we can offer advice, support and work with you to put strategies in place to help your child progress.

Tapestry

Every child has a Tapestry account. For all the new children, these will be created before the 3rd November 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!

<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.

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/lqRSaRQgPt0?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.

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](#)
[Help To Buy Food and Milk \(Healthy Start\)](#)
[Free Instrument Hire](#)
[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 Age](#)
[Starting Reception](#)
[BBC One - Panorama, The Truth about Baby Food Pouches](#)
[Information for parents](#)
[Better Health - Start for Life](#)
[Feeding, weaning, and healthy eating |](#)
[Worcestershire County Council](#)
[Best Start Worcestershire](#)
[Preparing Food Safely](#)
[EYFS Nutrition Guidance April 2025](#)
[Eatwell Guide](#)
[Early Years Food Chocking Hazards](#)
[How To Resuscitate A Child](#)
[Appropriate Food Preparation - Weaning](#)



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