

Highwood Summer Term News

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Spring is in full swing here at Highwood Day Nursery, and the children have been busier than ever exploring and learning new things every day

If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to say hello, please feel free to contact us via the Blossom App, telephone 01283 565069 or email us on info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk

We always love hearing from our Highwood family!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education journey. Let's make this term a memorable one together!

Highwood Day Nursery Summer term newsletter – let's start with some important dates for your diary:

May Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

Half Term Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Monday 15th July – Graduation Party

End of Term Friday 12th July

Please inform us of your summer holidays via The Blossom app or sending in an email.

Change of Details – Please remember to inform us of any change to your personal details such as mobile phone numbers, home telephone numbers and your address or place of work, thank you.



FREE Childcare explained				
	9-23 Months old		2 Years old	3-4 Years old
Working families	15 Hours Sept 2024	30 Hours Sept 2025	15 Hours Apr 2024	30 Hours Sept 2025
Families receiving additional government support	N/A		15 Hours Now	N/A
All parents	N/A		N/A	15 Hours Now

*For full criteria and eligibility, please refer to the Childcare Choices website.



Not sure what support
you could get with
childcare costs? Go to
childcarechoices.gov.uk



Funding Information for 9-month-olds

You apply online here on Gov.uk once you have checked your [eligibility criteria](#).

New Entitlements for Working Parents of Under 2 Year Olds

The DfE have now confirmed the arrangements for the next phase of the expanded entitlements for the Under 2's that comes into force on the 1st September 2024.

Parents of the new cohort will be able to apply from the 12th May 2024.

To be eligible a child will need to have turned 9 months old on or before the 31st August 2024. As with other working parent codes, parents will need to reconfirm their eligibility every 3 months. This means that any parents that do apply before the 1st June 2024 will need to reconfirm their eligibility prior to the 31st August to be able to take up a place from the 1st September. Once you have your code please can you pass it on to us along with your NI number so that we can claim funding on your behalf.

The earliest that a parent can apply for a code is 16 weeks before they turn the age of eligibility.



Rainbow Graduation

Graduation party is Monday 15th July 6.15pm-7.15pm the theme is "Rainbows". An evening to be filled with joy, laughter, and special moments to cherish.

This celebration is for the children who are starting school (reception) in September (Invitations to follow)

School offer day

April 16th 2024 is a big day; it's when parents and carers find out which Infant/primary school their child will be going to! We hope you all receive the news you've been waiting for – and we can't wait to find out where your little one will be heading next on their journey. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can best support your little one's transition from nursery to school.

Holiday Club Bookings - We will be running a Big Kidz Holiday Club throughout the summer. Please see Vicki or Aimee for details and places available. The club is for those children who have started school. Come and join in the fun at Highwood's Big Kidz Club

Father's Day - we will be celebrating all the wonderful fathers and father figures in our children's lives. Stay tuned for surprises to show our appreciation for the fantastic dads out there!





Health and Safety –

Jewellery -For safety reasons we prefer jewellery not to be worn at nursery. We are unable to take any responsibility for injury, loss or breakages. We would also ask that if your child have their ears pierced, please could you ensure they wear plain studs for nursery.



Sun safety

We will be spending lots of time in the garden in the summer months, exploring a variety of activities in the lovely weather. From being builders, to gardeners, to bug hunters, splashing in the water and building those all-important gross motor skills in climbing.

To ensure your child is protected as we welcome the warmer months, please supply your own (ideally 4-star with an SPF of 30 or above), clearly labelled sun cream for staff to use. Parents/carers are still required to thoroughly apply a layer of sun cream to your little one before they arrive at nursery to ensure maximum coverage.

We also recommend that your child has an appropriate sunhat for nursery, which protects their head and shades their face, neck, and ears (e.g., a broad-brimmed or Legionnaire-style hat).

*Sun creams with nut-derived oils in them are banned to help keep everyone with allergies at nursery safe. Please do not apply this to your child before they attend nursery. Please ensure your child has a coat with them every session and we discourage children wearing flip-flops and crocs for safety reasons.

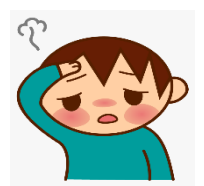
Suitable Clothing and foot wear: We kindly request that you send your child/ren in suitable clothes so that they can enjoy the activities with their peers Shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings are great allowing the children free movement as layered dresses or skirts can become a hazard during play. If you send your child in wellie boots, please can you send either pumps or slippers to change into to ensure that they are comfortable throughout their day.

Many of the children travel to nursery via car, please remember waterproof coat for our unpredictable English weather

Labels and Large Bags: Please label all of your children's clothing so we can identify them. We always do our best to return all your child's belongings at the end of the day, but sadly, with lots of children attending nursery this can be difficult if the belongings aren't labelled.

For storage of children's belongings at Highwood there is limited space. we therefore kindly request that you send your child with a small bag that will fit on their peg. This also helps to keep personal items safe and prevents loss of belongings.

Illness: Please DO NOT send your child to nursery if they are unwell. We also ask you NOT to bring your child to Highwood if they have taken any medication in the morning. If they have suffered from diarrhoea or sickness, please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. This also applies to those children who have started a



course of antibiotics.

Thank you for your continued support.

"We are thrilled to inform you that implementing 'In the Moment Planning' at Highwood Day Nursery has had a positive impact. This approach allows us to be more responsive and flexible to your child's individual interests and needs. We believe this will create even more engaging and enjoyable learning experiences for all our little learners."

Pancake Day!

Here are some of the activities we took part in on Pancake Day... Our favourite activity was tasting them!

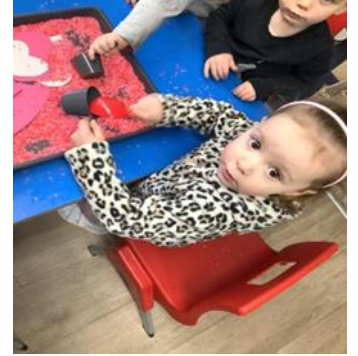


EYFS – Learning Intent: Physical development: Try a wider range of foods with different tastes and textures. Develop manipulation and control. Explore different materials and tools. Develop manipulation and control.

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Our children were fascinated by some sensory Valentine's themed activities...





EYFS – Expressive arts and design: Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them. Manipulate and play with different materials. Physical development: Develop manipulation and control. Use small motor skills to do things independently.

Chinese New Year





World Book Day



Developing a love of books and reading is imbedded in our day-to-day curriculum:

0-3 years: Children listen to simple stories and are encouraged to understand what is happening, with the help of the pictures.

3-4 years: Children share longer stories and skills of recall are promoted as children can remember much of what happens

Literacy –The EYFS says... It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together.

Supporting a love of reading at home...

✓Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story, either!)

✓If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.

✓Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.

✓Borrow a book or story sack from our nursery.

✓Join your local library. Libraries are full of great advice and recommendations, and you'll have a new supply of books to enjoy.

As part of our curriculum, children learn that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

To promote British Values, children learn to respect their own and other cultures, faiths and traditions.

St David's Day –celebrating the patron saint of Wales





Caterpillar Room We have had a brilliant start to the year in our Baby Unit/ Caterpillar Room.



The babies have enjoyed a range of activities to enhance their motor skills and speech. We have had some new friends join us in the Baby Room this month who have settled into nursery life amazingly; the staff have been working to support this transition and build strong attachments.



Easter

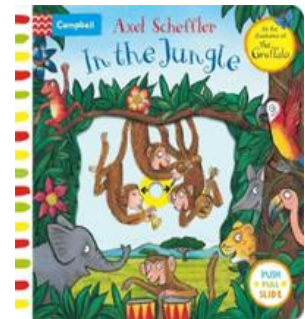
In the Baby Unit we explored Easter themed activities together. . .





Babies will be working on imitating specific sounds, like those that correspond with jungle animals. We will play together imitating sounds that relate to the jungle animals.

As practitioners we will practice these sounds within a context that makes sense. For example, animal sounds when reading a book about animals or playing with jungle small world animals. This will help your little one to understand the meaning of the sounds as they learn to imitate them.



We will have lots of fun using our bodies to pretend to be a jungle animal while imitating their animal sound, like using your arm as an elephant trunk while making an elephant sound. This can be a great way to capture your child's attention and make it fun while you practice

Music and movement can be a great way to capture your child's attention and make it fun while you practice.

The song we will be focusing on is "Walking through the jungle" a fantastic song to practice animal sounds together.

Walking through the Jungle



Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle

What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)
What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a monkey (monkey sound)
I think it was a monkey (monkey sound)
Think it was a monkey (monkey sound)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.

Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle

What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)
What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a Elephant(STOMP, STOMP)
I think it was a Elephant(STOMP, STOMP)
I think it was a Elephant(STOMP,)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.
I hope it isn't me!

Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle

What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)
What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a Lion(roar, roar)
I think it was a Lion (roar, roar)
Think it was a tiger (roar)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.
I hope it isn't me!

Walking through the jungle, walking through the jungle

What do you see, what do you see?
If you hear a noise (shh, shh, shh, shh)
What could it be, what could it be?
I think it was a snake (hiss, hiss)
I think it was a snake (hiss, hiss)
Think it was a snake (hiss)
Looking for his tea, looking for his tea.
I hope it isn't me!



Sing Along With Me



Butterflies

Over the last few months, the children have enjoyed exploring all about winter this included animals, colours and textures through a range of sensory activities.

The children have really enjoyed playing with the Vets role play corner where they have had the opportunities to dress up as vets and care for the animals with their peers and discuss their own pets at home.



As the season changed to "Spring" we introduced the children all about the colours of spring, the weather change, baby animals, insects and planting. To enhance the children's learning and understanding about Spring we are going to be exploring different sensory trays and creative activities.



Linking National Gardening Day on the 14th we will have our own gardening week at nursery where the children will discover how to plant seeds care for them and watch them grow. New words linking to planting such as roots, stem, petals, seeds, plant pot, watering can and soil will be introduced to build upon their vocabulary.

This term we are going to be creating our butterfly garden centre, in this area the children will be able to role play with their peers pretending to buy gardening supplies and use pretend money.

The children will be getting creative to make their loved ones something special for "Father's Day" from this we talking to the children about all families using the small world people and house. We will be celebrating the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two Mummy's or two Daddy's, a big family or a small family, a clean family or a messy one, this will help promote the children's knowledge and understanding of that no matter what kind of family you have, every family is special in its own unique way This will be supported

We will be updating our family board in the room so please send in family photos for us to put on there.

The June 18th is "National Picnic Day" to celebrate this and weather permitting we will making our own sandwiches to eat at our teddy bears picnic in the garden.

As we enter the summer season, we will be discussing the items of clothes that we wear during the summer and as the weather hopefully gets warmer, we learn all about keeping safe in the sun when it's really hot. The song we will be singing to go with this theme is "You are my sunshine"

Number rhymes are amazing. They help children develop number sense and mathematical concepts in a fun and low pressured way.

Children learn through repetition, so we support this by counting and singing number rhymes throughout their busy day. We hope that by doing so it sparks an interest in numbers and encourages a positive have a go attitude towards MATHS.

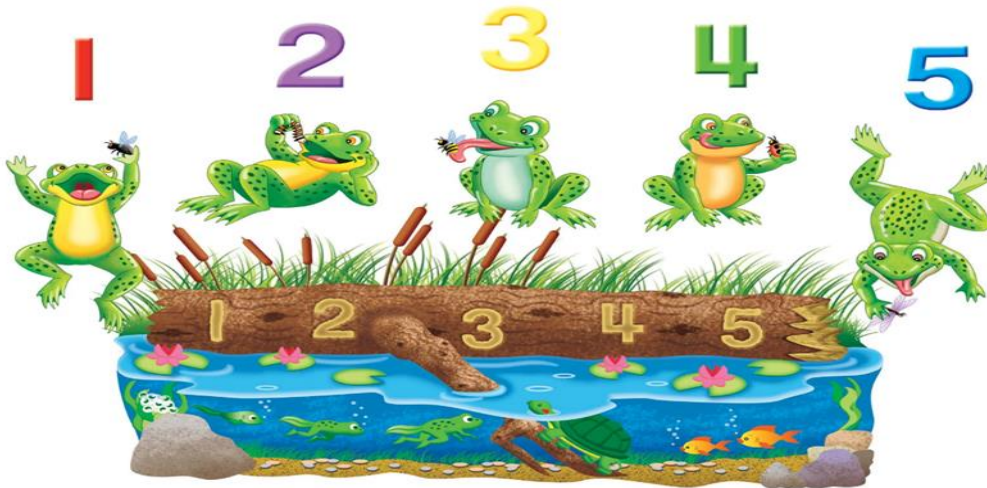
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FIVE LITTLE SPECKLED FROGS

Five Little speckled frogs
Sat on a speckled log,
Eating some most delicious bugs.
Yum, Yum!
One jumped into the pool
Where it was nice and cool,
Then there were four speckled frogs.
Glub Glub!

(Continue rhyme until all frogs jump into the pool)

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As well as helping to develop a wide range of mathematical skills, number rhymes also support language development, social and emotional skills and listening skills and physical development.

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With the introduction of the frogs, we will look at life cycles of a frog. if any parent /carer has any frog spawn that they would like to donate we would be most grateful so that we can watch the process in real life.

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world of
**ERIC
CARLE**



Brilliant Books for Very Hungry Minds!



The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Children will learn about the different fruits that our hungry caterpillar eats, and discuss healthy eating while they sort and count their fruit.

We will also be tasting a variety of the foods that the hungry caterpillar eats and talking about the foods that we enjoy or dislike.

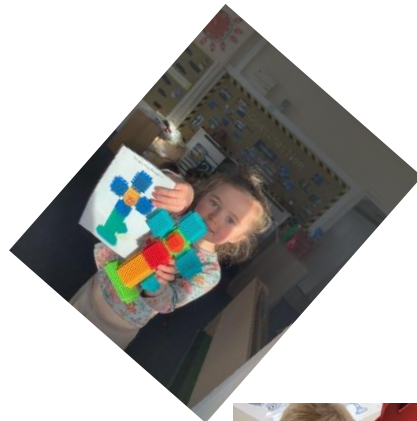
On top of that, adding the fun factor we will encourage children to pretend they're feeding The Very Hungry Caterpillar each piece of fruit as you read along with the story.

The children will be able to visit the Ladybird room to watch first hand the life cycle of a butterfly in real life form.

Ladybirds

Our Curriculum -Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Our educational programme includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures.



We explore 2D and 3D shapes through construction and loose parts play. We look for and create patterns, spot connections and talk about our experiences using mathematical language.



We learnt all about St. David's Day. We worked together to create a beautiful collaged daffodil - the national flower of Wales



In March we celebrated World book day, the children had the opportunity to bring in their favourite stories from home to share in group time.

We enjoyed engaging in a range of activities that were implemented alongside story book themes. We enjoyed – Goldilocks and The 3 Bears using the different sized capacity spoons and using the porridge oats and different sized bowls, Room on a broom- enjoying science experiments, using bicarbonate of soda and the coloured vinegar to create their own potions and creating reactions



In extension to our interest in fairytales the children used loose parts to design their own princess dress. They had opportunity to use their imagination and choose which resources they would like to use.





For Mother's Day we made some special cards which we took home. We invited Our Mummy's for afternoon tea. We enjoyed sharing some delicious treats together



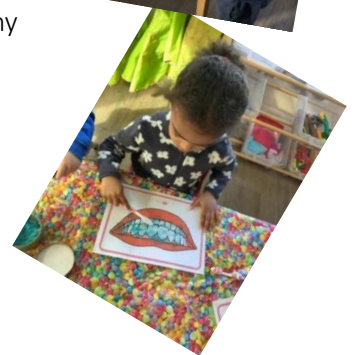
St.Patrick's Day

Creating Rainbows using colours in the correct sequence



To celebrate Oral Health Day, we changed our role play area into a dentist surgery. We used the toothbrushes and toothpaste to develop control to clean the dirty teeth on the laminated mouth templates. We imitated roles based on first hand experiences as we took it in turns to take on the role as the dentist and the patient and learnt the importance of looking after our teeth keeping them clean and healthy.

Our conversation station the children worked together to group foods that were healthy and unhealthy





We enjoyed making special cards and hats for Easter, we went outside to find a special surprise the Easter bunny had left outside for us. We used loose parts to decorate a blossom tree and used our fingerprints to decorate. We learnt about the changes that happen in spring and used the easter eggs to match the quantity and number together



What we are doing next.....

We will be busy creating a display on school readiness with the children who are going to school. We are going to be looking at our new uniforms and logos, supporting the children with their emotions as they begin their transition onto their new setting. We will be talking about St. George in celebration of St. Georges day on April 23rd. We will be practising our hand washing skills for world hand washing day understanding the importance of preventing germs. We will be joining in a pepper and soap activity which links to the children learning about germs.

This term we have been lucky to have our own caterpillars linked to the children's learning of lifecycles and new life as our caterpillars are now getting bigger, we are looking forward to their next stage and sharing the news with you when we finally have butterflies We will keep you updated.

We will be continuing looking at lifecycles as we find out about Bumblebees, we will be trying honey finding out how many of us like it? and investigating a real piece of honeycomb.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we are focusing on preparing our little ones for their next big adventure - school readiness.

If your child is leaving us this summer, could you please let us know their leaving date, this is to ensure their transition records are ready to pass on to their new setting

We are dedicated to ensuring that all our children are well-prepared for the exciting transition to school. Our dedicated team is working hard to develop their social, emotional, and academic skills to give them the best start possible.

The Highwood Team would like to wish all our children and families who are moving onto school and a new adventure, every success for the future.

We are very proud of them all and will miss their smiley faces.

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE WERE
MAKING MEMORIES, WE JUST KNEW
WE WERE HAVING FUN

