

Monkey Puzzle Colchester August 2024 Newsletter



Our Mission Statement:

"Working Together with Families, Staff & Children to Provide an Enabling, Safe and Healthy Environment where Children can Learn, Laugh & Grow with Us"

Welcome to our August edition of Monkey News.

Welcome from Early Years Director



Hi, I am Clare Ford and I am the Early Years and Childcare Director at Monkey Puzzle Colchester. I hold an NNEB, BA in Early Years and Early Years Teacher status. I started my early years journey back in 1991, starting the NNEB at Barking College. I have remained in the sector for over thirty years.

During my career I have held positions as nursery nurse, senior nursery nurse, deputy manager, nursery manager, area director, and Quality support lead.

As a nursery manager I successfully led my team through three consecutive outstanding inspections. More recently I have trained as an Early Years Ofsted Inspector, seeing the inspection process from the other side. I enjoy applying all my knowledge and skills to the work that I do. Driving continuous improvement is essential in delivering high quality childcare and education. I love working with others to evaluate provision and identify new and exciting ideas and initiatives that add excitement and magic to early years. I also write and contribute to articles for the early years sector and have presented at the Nursery World Conference.

On a personal level, I am mum to my daughter Caitlin. My proudest achievement is helping her to manage her profound hearing loss and navigate the world around her. She is currently at University in Cambridge studying Forensic science. I love to read and learn as much as I can about early childhood. I am creative minded and enjoy baking and interior design.

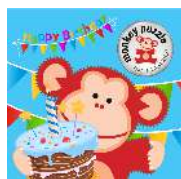
Nursery Parent Number:

01206 560695

Birthdays

We have had lots of birthdays to celebrate in August across the nursery and would again like to wish a massive 'Happy Birthday' to...

Nellie Adam, Zahra, Madison, Oliver, Evie Livings, Bethany, Roman & Billie.



Early Years Curriculum & Training Lead



Hello, I'm Ashleigh, I am the new Early Years Curriculum and Training Lead at Monkey Puzzle. I have worked in Early Years since 2016 and have worked in numerous kinds of settings as well as working around Europe with Tui and Crystal Ski looking after children in holiday clubs! I am passionate about working with children and giving them exciting learning opportunities within the nursery environment. I am really excited to get to know all the children here at Monkey Puzzle and get to know the staff so I can support them to provide quality and outstanding care for all the children. Outside of work I am usually out exploring with my dog Button who is a miniature chocolate cockapoo. Family is especially important to me as I have 4 beautiful nieces and a nephew who I spend lots of time with.

In the month of July the children have been exploring lots of different activities, especially now the weather has started to improve the children have been loving the garden. In the Starfish room the children have been exploring water play in the garden as well as lots of painting activities. Rainbow Dolphin has made the most of our new resource delivery and been using the cardboard boxes for imaginative play creating cars and different transport vehicles. The Dolphin room have been supporting the children with potty training in July, and have seen the children progress and become more confident with asking to use the potty and their independence. Upstairs with our older children in Octopus room the children thoroughly enjoyed the story sack 'What the lady bird said', in Coral Reef the children have loved exploring their home corner they have a new dressing table which they have loved 'doing hair and makeup' and the super hero capes have been a firm favourite. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the nursery, the email address to reach me is: seniormanager@monkeypuzzlecolchester.co.uk

SUN SAFETY: At Monkey Puzzle your child's safety is paramount to us, and this also includes looking after their skin when the sun is out. We would require you to supply a named bottle of sun cream for your child which will remain at the nursery (Please check the ingredients within the bottles as some do contain traces of nuts) Sun cream will be applied when the UV levels go over 3.

**All payments to be received on the 1st of each month or first working day after.
(All late payments will result in a £25 late charge)**

WE WOULD KINDLY ASK ALL PARENTS TO PLEASE TELEPHONE THE NURSERY ON 01206 560695 BY 9AM IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ATTENDING NURSERY ON THAT DAY. IN ADDITION WE WOULD ASK YOU ALL TO READ AND FAMILIARISE YOURSELVES WITH OUR SICKNESS EXCLUSION TIMES ON PAGE 9 THANK YOU

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Nursery News:

Park Visit:

The babies here at Monkey Puzzle have had a trip to the park! Everyone had a great time taking turns on all the exciting apparatus!

Nursing Home Visit

Some of the pre-school children are going to be visiting the Loganberry Lodge Nursing Home where they will be chatting and exchanging stories with the Ladies and Gentlemen that live there.

Who to contact regarding your issue?

Manjit: Regarding any issues / questions regarding occupancy of the nursery, increasing / decreasing your child's days, funding, and finances.

Amy: General nursery matters regarding your child, reporting if your child is sick or not going to be attending Nursery.

Pick up and Drop off at MP:

Due to busy times at pick up and drop off please be advised that your child's key person is unable to give you a detailed and lengthy handover. We have informed our staff to keep handovers to around 30 seconds, unless there are forms such as accident / medication / funding to be signed. All information regarding what your child has eaten, how they have slept etc is all on the parentzone app.

Nursery Gifts:

The whole team at Monkey Puzzle would like to thank everyone who has given us gifts, we really appreciate them :) However, could we kindly ask that any products containing nuts are not brought into the nursery due to our no nut policy and keeping everyone safe. Many thanks for your understanding on this matter.

**Nursery Parent
Number:**

01206 560695

INFORMATION

Basic Care:

At Monkey Puzzle we strive to deliver exceptional care towards all the children within our care with basic care being the top of our agenda.

If you do have any concerns regarding the basic care of your child please do not hesitate to get in contact with the management team who will quickly look into and deal with any issues.

Mealtimes at MP

Please be advised we have set mealtimes at Monkey Puzzle. This is to help build routine and consistency at the nursery. The times are as followed.

Breakfast 7:30-8:30AM (last sitting around 8.25ish)

AM Snack: 10AM

Lunch: 11.30AM

PM Snack: 2PM

Tea: 3.30PM

Important Dates for 2024!

Our inset days for 2024 are:

Tuesday 27th August 2024

(Please be advised the nursery will be closed on the inset days)

Preschool Graduation:

Thursday 22nd August 2024

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What will we be learning this month?

Monthly Theme:

Summer

Home Learning:

The theme of the month is 'Summer'. For the home learning this month it would be nice if the children could visit some outdoor summery spaces, such as parks, beaches etc. We would love to see your pictures.

Books of the Month:

Dear Zoo

by Rod Campbell

Old McDonald had a farm

Staff Spotlight

Hi, I'm Dorina and I'm working in the Starfish room and I really enjoy being in there. I am currently completing my Level 3 qualification. Working with children for me is not just a job but my passion! Before working for Monkey Puzzle Nursery I was working as a social worker and at the same time I was working for children with different abilities. I love helping children reaching their full potential, this is something I really enjoy doing.



Staff Birthdays:

Throughout August we have celebrated lots of staffs birthdays. We at Monkey Puzzle love celebrating a birthday and would like to wish the following another 'Happy Birthday' Tas, Nikki & Sandy



Dates for your Diary:

5th August - Farm Animals

12th August Zoo Animals

19th August Pets

22nd August Graduation

27th August Staff Inset Day

29th August Wild Animals / Habitats

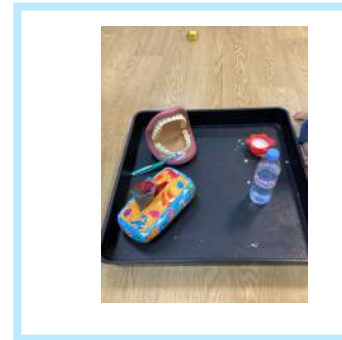
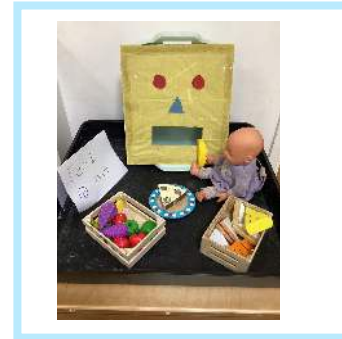
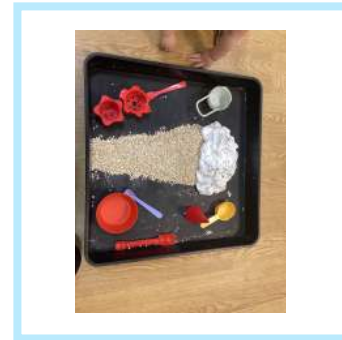
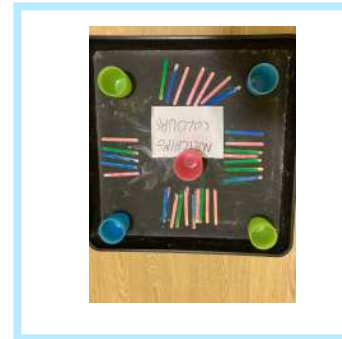
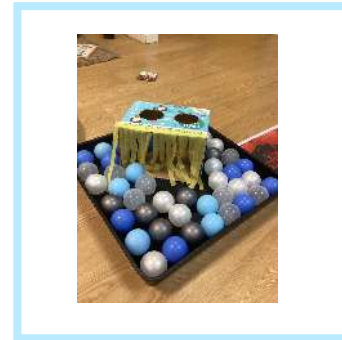


July Recap

Starfish

This month in starfish we have had some lovely activities for our babies to engage in, we have had a lot of sensory play using oats and a home made football pitch, we engaged in a play picnic using play food, a picnic rug and our friends, pizza making from coloured paper shapes, water play with the ocean, dinosaur play, teeth brushing role play, feeding the face we made and ice cream role play. The children had so much fun doing these activities.

Well Done Starfish.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Starfish this month

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July Recap

Rainbow Dolphins

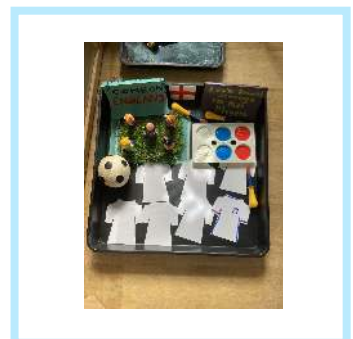
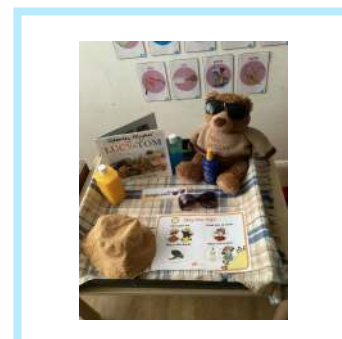
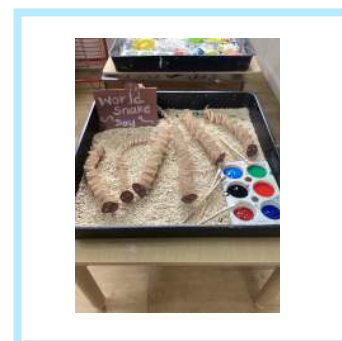
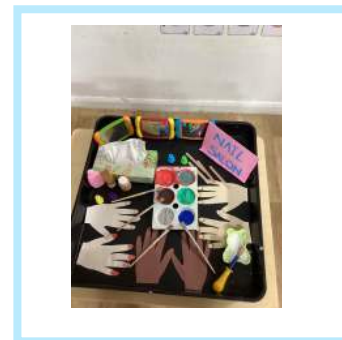
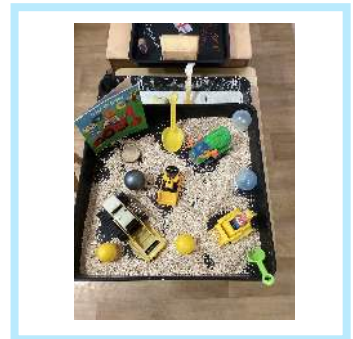
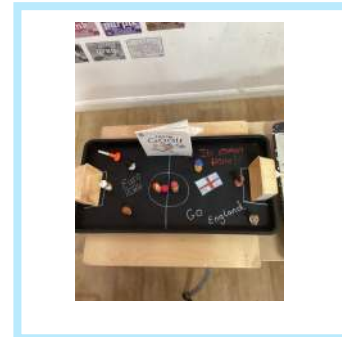
This month in Rainbow Dolphins we have been learning all about summer, although we are still waiting for the summer weather to arrive! We have started off the month learning about sun safety and why we need to wear a hat and sun cream when it is sunny outside. The children loved getting the Teddy Bear ready for the garden they found a hat and sunglasses for our Bear to wear.

We have also set up some exciting tuff trays for the children to explore such as a beach themed tuff tray with sea animals, lots of the children were able to name the different creatures which is great for their speech and language development. We have also been looking at holidays and pictures of different types of holidays, lots of children pointed at the picture of a aeroplane. We extended this by making our own aeroplanes using chairs in a line for the children to sit on and we pretended to fly putting out our arms.

This month we have also looked at camping and made our own tents using different sheets and blankets, the children absolutely loved this especially when we gave them torches to shine in their tent.

Of course we have also celebrated England making it into the Euros final. We have made lots of different crafts and have been playing football outside in the garden. Lots of dancing has been had, dancing to football songs, the children loved joining in waving their flags around.

We hope the sunshine appears for us in August and we look forward to lots more fun with all the children next month.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Rainbow Dolphins this month

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July Recap

Dolphins

This month in Dolphins we have had lots of exciting and fun activities some relating to our topics such as the football, different celebrations, land and sea, the beach and other fun topics such as our extra curriculum of cooking which all Dolphins really enjoyed doing and making.

We have spoke about what we see in our activities and what they feel like, and the colours we see in the activities too. Dolphins have been lucky and have had lots of new resources/toys brought for them, such as babies and baby equipment including clothing, bottles, bibs and nappies for our babies, we have also been role playing 'hair dressers' with our new equipment including hair brushes, hair straighteners, mirrors and role play make up and brushes. Over all our Dolphins have had so much fun learning through their play.

Well done Dolphins.



Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the Dolphins this month

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July Recap

Octopus

Summer in the first week of July, we embraced the warmth of summer with various engaging activities. The children expressed their creativity by making ice lollies and ice cream crafts, enhancing their fine motor skills and understanding of shapes. Lemon stamp painting introduced them to new textures and patterns, while the summer flower garden counting activity reinforced their counting and number recognition skills. Our beach exploration tray with flashcards provided a sensory experience and expanded their vocabulary, and creating a sun using shapes, further solidified their grasp of geometric concepts.

Week 2-Theme: Beach Week brought the excitement of the beach into our room. The beach ball painting activity allowed for creative expression, while sea shell counting fostered early mathematical skills. Making sea animal fossils with play dough was a hands-on way to explore textures and marine life. Crafting flip flops and making patterns for octopus legs improved their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The beach exploration tuff tray, coupled with book reading, enriched their understanding of beach environments and introduced them to new stories and concepts. Week 3-Theme: Travels and Holiday In the third week, we ventured into the theme of travel and holidays. The children collaboratively made and painted a big airplane, promoting teamwork and creativity. The small world airport setup provided opportunities for imaginative play, while the travel methods exploration tuff tray introduced different modes of transportation. Activities like packing their own luggage and making binoculars and cameras honed their cutting skills and encouraged pretend play, expanding their understanding of travel and exploration. Week 4- Theme: Water and Water Safety. The final week of July we focused on water and water safety. Crafting boats using shapes incorporated both artistic and mathematical elements. Creating water safety posters during carpet time discussions heightened their awareness of safety measures. Rain-themed scissors practice enhanced their cutting skills, and the floating starfish activity taught concepts of buoyancy. The dissolving in water science activity spurred curiosity and scientific thinking, while the water cleanliness exploration tuff tray, along with book reading, emphasized environmental awareness. Special Activities throughout the month, we also integrated special activities that included Europe Football League-themed crafts and physical activities, American Independence Day crafts, and a "What Ladybird Heard" reading activity with farm animal puppets and a tuff tray. These activities not only celebrated diverse themes but also supported literacy and physical development. The varied activities throughout July nurtured the children's creativity, fine motor skills, early mathematics, sensory exploration, and environmental awareness, ensuring a holistic developmental experience.

Preschool Uniform:

If you would like to purchase a preschool top at a cost of £13 please speak to Manjit.

The polo tops come in two sizes: 3-4yrs / 5-6yrs.

taking part
in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds'
activities.

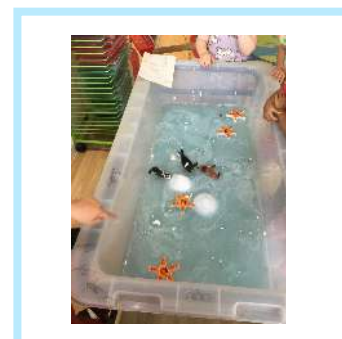
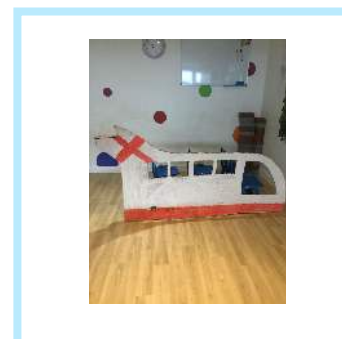
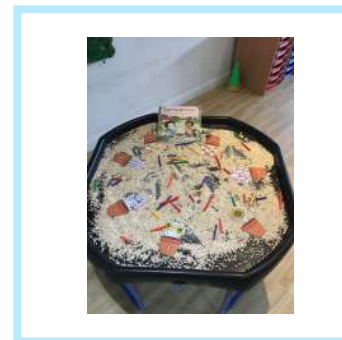
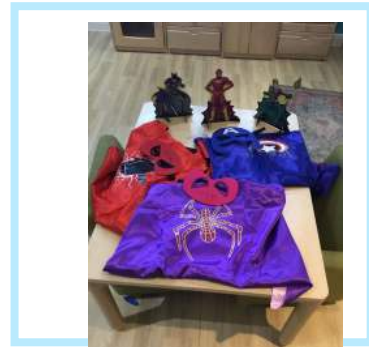
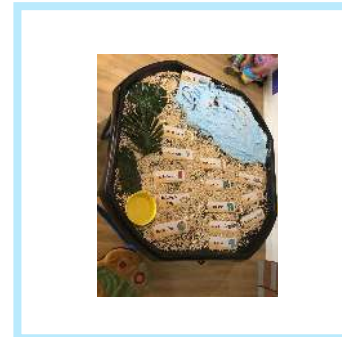
This Month:

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the children in
Octopus.

The children in Octopus will be taking part in a Tennis
lesson.

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July Recap

Coral Reef

The children in Coral Reef had a fantastic month of July. They have been exploring and engaging in different kinds of activities under our weekly topics. The children have made some lovely boats, using their beautiful summer themed tuff tray under the topic of summer and beach topics. We talked about the summer clothes we may need to wear and how we protect ourselves during the summer by applying sun cream and the importance of drinking more water during the day.

We made some lovely hot air balloons and aeroplanes in the tuff tray under the theme of travel & holidays. The children made paper plate cars and they decorated their hot air balloons in different ways as part of the activities under this theme.

We discussed about the water and water safety during our circle time. We did many activities relating to this theme, we made some water safety tyres to make the children understand how important it is to use safety tyres and jackets in the water.

All these activities helped them to develop their skills in many ways. In addition to above we have been doing lots of activities like creating fire works and decorating a lions face too. Everyday the children were playing with playdough in the classroom and all these activities helped them to develop their fine and gross motor skills. The children in Coral Reef celebrated the USA Independence Day and they made some lovely US flags with their hand prints. Further more we supported our England team in the Euro football championships, the children were busy making t-shirts. During the month of July the children in Coral Reef were busy engaging for some science activities and some cooking activities too. They made delicious cookies and some cheese twists, everybody loved them.

Preschool Uniform:

If you would like to purchase a preschool top at a cost of £13 please speak to Manjit.

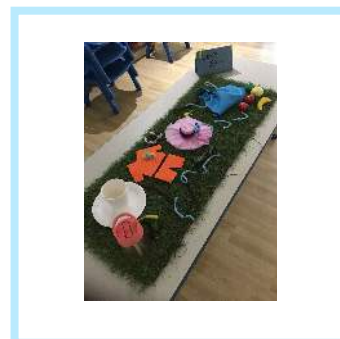
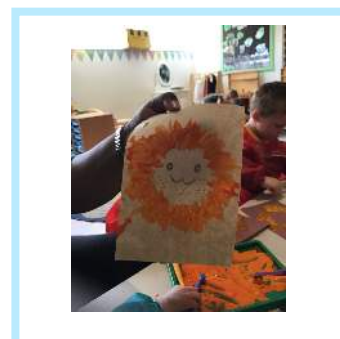
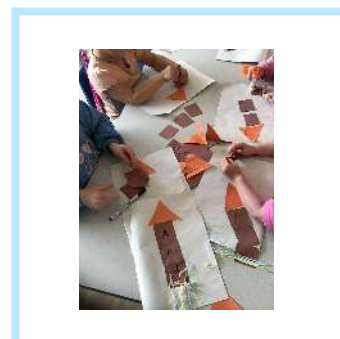
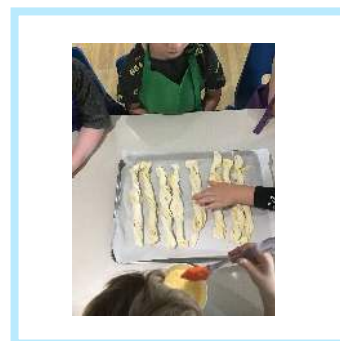
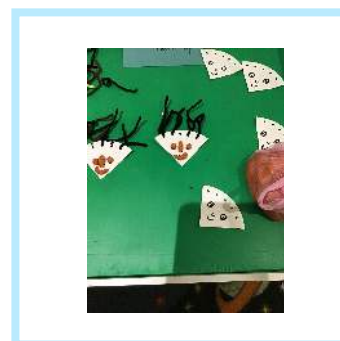
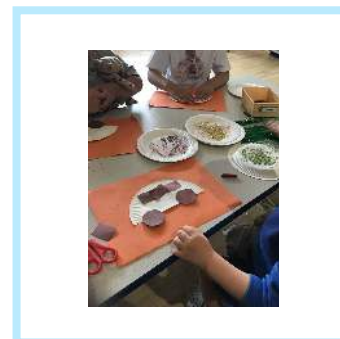
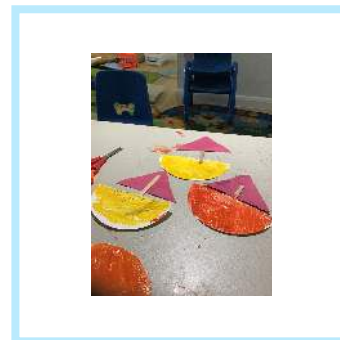
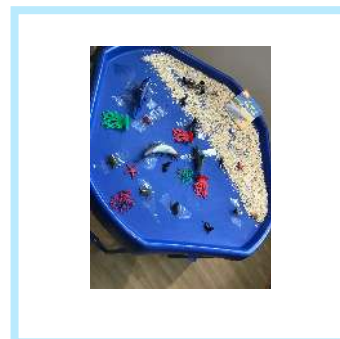
The polo tops come in two sizes: 3-4yrs / 5-6yrs.

in a range of Science, PE and 'Letter and Sounds' activities.

This Month:

KidsLingo will be visiting the children to teach them Spanish.

Jo Jingles will be coming to visit the children in Coral Reef.



The children in Coral Reef will be taking part in a tennis lesson.

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Refer a Friend.

Refer a friend to the nursery and if they register you will receive **£100 off of your next month's fees.**

(T&C's Apply)

Important Notes for Parents

Facebook



Have you checked out of Facebook page yet?

Like us on Facebook for regular updates on the nursery and a chance to win in our quarterly prize draw.

www.facebook.com/monkeypuzzlecolchester

Please check your ParentZone updates and emails from the nursery regularly.

Please ensure that all of your contact details and your child's emergency contacts are up to date.

Please check the parent / carer area on the website regularly for updates.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather outside, we will be accessing the garden in all weathers.

Day Nurseries

We are proud to be rated 10/10 on daynurseries.co.uk and voted as a Top 20 day nursery in the East of England.

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who have already reviewed our nursery!



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ILLNESS / INFECTION EXCLUSION PERIOD

Chicken Pox	Minimum of 5 days from the onset of the rash and all spots must be fully scabbed over before returning to nursery.
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	Whilst symptomatic and for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	There is no recommended exclusion period. Please look out for signs of high temperature, headaches and red spots.
Headlice	There is no recommended exclusion period, however, parents are requested to regularly check their children's hair for head lice and we would be grateful if nursery are informed so that other parents can be alerted to check their child's hair.
Impetigo	Until the lesions have crusted or healed.
Measles	Excluded for 4 days from the onset of the rash.
Scarlet Fever	Excluded from nursery for the first 24 hours after starting treatment.
Whooping Cough	Excluded for 2 days after starting treatment, or 21 days from the onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.
Prescribed Medication	Children must be taking any medication for a minimum of 24 hours before coming in to nursery. Medication can only be administered after the 24 hour exclusion even if your child has previously taken the same medication. All medication must be in its original packaging with the prescription label attached and clearly showing child's name.
Immunisations including Flu nasal spray	If your child has had any form of immunisations, including the Flu nasal spray, they are not permitted to attend nursery for the following 24 hours due to possible allergic reactions.
Infant Suspension - Calpol	If a child develops a fever whilst at nursery the staff will use natural methods first, such as removing clothing, to try and reduce the temperature while closely monitoring the child and contacting the parents. If a child does require emergency Calpol due to a high temperature of 38 degrees or above the parents will be contacted prior to ensure all details are correct and that they agree with the dosage being given. Parents will then be required to collect their child.

