



Welcome Back



Just where is this year going? I can't believe it will nearly be Easter and then we have the warm, dry summer term to look forward to!



We have a really busy half-term to look forward to, with our No Pens Day, Grandparents session and music and dance week. This is looking like it is going to be a great week with lots of visitors already planned to come in. I think we only have 2 spaces left!

You may have noticed that Kimberley has left the nursery, she was only with us for two weeks so some of you may not even have seen her. Unfortunately this just wasn't the right career choice for her and she didn't fit in with our crazy, caring, dedicated and amazing team.

It is with huge excitement though that I can share with you that Julie Scholes, a very experienced and level 3 qualified practitioner will be joining our team. Julie worked for the nursery many years ago and following a break from Childcare, has missed the fulfilment that children bring. If you haven't yet heard about Julie, you soon will!! She will fit into our team perfectly and you will find her knee deep in mess, wearing high heeled shoes and singing at the top of her voice!!

We have been exceptionally lucky to have two amazing students from HTP for the last half-term. They are currently studying for their level 2 in Childcare and need a placement to fulfil the number of hours they require for their course. Rosie has been based in the small room and Kyesha in the main room. This half-term, they are swapping round to gain experience with varying ages.

Please be assured that students have to have DBS checks completed by their training provider and are supervised at all times. They are not included in the ratio of adults to children and do not carry out any intimate care. We are very lucky in that we have been given two very good students (we are very picky!!).

We have hit the magic 100 mark with children on roll and the last few of our new children started this week. We are now **TOTALLY FULLY** booked every morning and afternoon session so can't take on any new children until September. We do have some spaces between 3 and 6pm for current children to extend their sessions if needed.

Toys, dummies and bottles

As a setting we do not promote the use of dummies and baby bottles containing juice. The children will not be able to bring either of these items into nursery and the staff will ask you to take these away with you. Research suggests that the long term use of dummies can cause damage to teeth and delay speech. Juice in bottles can cause tooth decay and will effect a child's oral health.

The children have free access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and milk at snack times. They will be able to drink from their own drink bottle at lunch time only.



Wet weather

With the wet weather set to continue for a little while longer, could we please ask that you send your children to nursery with a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat. We currently have so many children with 'warm' coats (which is great) but often these soak up the rain and we have no way of drying them.

Unfortunately we also don't have enough pairs of wellies and a waterproof puddle suit for all of the children. As you know, we access outside in all weathers and want to ensure that any child who chooses to play outside, has the opportunity to do so.



**“There's no such thing as bad weather,
only unsuitable clothing”**



Beginning and end of the day

Could we please ask that your child arrives and leaves as close to their start and finish time as possible. As shared previously we will not be opening the door until 8.55am if your child starts at 9am and 2.55pm if your child leaves at 3pm.

These are our exceptionally busy times of the day and to ensure a smooth handover and minimal disruption for the children having story we have to ensure that the door is not constantly being opened and a constant stream of parents coming in.

We also continue to ask that you drop your children off at the door (except small room) and then come in and collect your children and receive feedback at the end of the day.

Please be patient though as we have got lots of parents to feedback to, so if you require feedback, please wait for a member of staff to be free.

We need to know

It is really important that you let us know if your child is not going to attend nursery for any reason i.e. illness, holiday or even just a day with the family. You can either give us a call in the morning or email us, we don't mind, as long as we know. We have a duty to follow up non-attendance so if your child doesn't attend and we don't know why, we will give you a call.

Also, if your child attends out of school club (breakfast or after school), you need to inform us if they won't be attending.





Last half-term we.....

We had lots of fun exploring ice and bath foam. We had a “people who help us “ week and had visits from Bryony who is a paramedic, Jared who is a postman and Dr Bartley. They all gave up some of their free time to tell us about their jobs and brought in interesting things for us to try on and role play. Thank you Bryony , Jared and Dr Bartley! We also got our dentist role play out and discussed the importance of brushing our teeth and had an opportunity to brush our “big teeth” We also visited the community library and met two police officers on the way back to nursery.





Highfield House

We recently went on a trip to Highfield house! We walked nicely in pairs the whole way and practised looking both ways before crossing the road. On the way, we spotted some numbers and letters and talked about them.

When we got there, we knocked on the big door and we were invited in. There were boxes of toys for us to explore in the room with the residents. We also took some valentines pictures to colour in and leave for our new friends to say thank you for having us to play .

We then ventured out into the garden to play hide and seek, 4 in a row and some bean bag games. We even found an ice cream shack to serve our friends ice cream from behind the counter!

We finished off our visit by going inside to sing some songs- we sang Happy Birthday to one of the residents who's birthday was today. To top it all off, we even got a real rocket ice lolly to eat as a snack ! Yummy!

The children's behaviour at Highfield House today was amazing, I had my happy face all morning! They were so considerate, polite and sensible. So proud of them all.





Grandparents

We love our Grandparents

We have all had an incredible morning and were delighted to welcome eight Grandparents to our first Grandparents session of 2024.

With Valentines day just around the corner, the day has been all about Love and Kindness. We made heart pictures, decorated wooden heart pebbles, decorated cakes for snack (with pink icing of course) and made heart shaped chocolates which we all got to try, they were yummy!

We also made snow globes and learnt how to sew, supported by our Grandparents. We then ended the session with a story and sing song and we all sung our favourite song with Makaton signs "I Love you, you love me, we're a happy family, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too".





No pens day

The aim of the day is to encourage the skills of speaking and listening, which is a part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and schools curriculum.

For one day, we will put down our pens and focus on activities which promote speaking and listening skills rather than writing skills. Staff and children will be able to join in with planned activities all of which will support the development of communication, language and listening.

Our last No Pen's day was based on the book "Dear Zoo" From animal scavenger hunts to moving like an animal, from cheeky monkeys making and eating banana bread to Dear Zoo yoga. You name it, we did it!

The banana bread smelt amazing and the monkeys (whoops children) enjoyed it too

We made a splash in the pool with our frogs and lily pads to keep cool and our youngest children joined in the fun too

We all had a great day, thank you for encouraging your children to join in by dressing up.





Holiday Club

What an amazing week we have had in holiday club. As well as the usual arts and crafts, games, construction kits and time on the Switch, we have had Pancake Day and Valentines Day. We made a gorgeous batter for pancakes, which the children helped to cook and flip and everyone was allowed a little bit of sugar and/or toffee sauce too. Thumbs up all round.

Molly introduced holiday club to some awesome group games that were great at the end of the day when it was nearly time to go home. They mainly involved food like "who ate the cookie from the cookie jar" and a funny game about saying tomato ketchup in a funny voice!

On Friday, we popped over to a very muddy park, but we still had fun!





Children's belongings & bags

We are getting to the point again where we have so many bags (some the size of suitcases) brought in everyday. These are often brought in, placed on the shelf and not touched as they are no longer needed. If your child is fully toilet trained and very rarely requires a change of clothes, please do not bring them in a changing bag.



We just don't have the room to store potentially 40+ lunch boxes and 40+ bags!! If your child does still need a bag at nursery, could you please ensure that this is named and as small as possible. Could you also please clearly name your child's lunch box and drink bottle or make them easily identifiable, we often have many identical lunch boxes which as you can imagine, causes a few problems!!

Parking permits

Parking is not permitted in the school car park or the lay by in front of the nursery. It is also not acceptable to park over the entrance to the school car park blocking access for the staff.

Parking permits for the Orchardleigh Road car park are available for the morning and afternoon, please ask a member of staff.



Nursery Mobile

We have a mobile phone for use when the landline is busy.

The number is **07872 174 344**



Facebook

To all our new parents/carers (and existing parents who may not have yet joined). Don't forget to request to join our Facebook group.

This is a closed group for the parents/carers of registered children only. Just search Furzehill Childcare Centre in groups, request to join and answer the two questions. We will approve your request as soon as we can.





Song of the week

Each week the children have the opportunity to learn a new song. This will be available for you to view on Tapestry, if you require a paper copy, please ask a member of staff.

Spring term 2

Week 1	Twinkle Twinkle Chocolate bar
Week 2	Incy Wincy spider
Week 3	Grand Old Duke of York
Week 4	Dingle Dangle scarecrow
Week 5	Miss Polly
Week 6	Tommy Thumb



Dropping your children off

Please remember that we ask all children to be dropped off for the start of their session at the front door unless they are in the small room.

This ensures that the nursery remains as calm as possible at this busy time and experience tells us that the children settle much more quickly. It also promotes the independence of the children, putting their belongings away and choosing where to play. All adults will be available in the room to support the children as they arrive.

If you have a need to bring your child in to the nursery or you feel that your child needs you to do this, please speak to your child's family worker to discuss whether this is needed.

Please don't be late!!

Please remember that you need to collect your child from nursery before any school children. We are finding that more and more parents are collecting late due to getting their siblings first which has a HUGE impact on our required ratio's and staffing levels. On some occasions, staff have left late because children have not been collected on time.

As per the funding and fees contact that you have all signed, a late payment charge of £10 will be incurred for any child collected more than 5 minutes late.





No Pens Day



**Our next 'No Pens Day'
is on**

MONDAY 25th MARCH 2024

The theme will be...

Down on the Farm

Children are welcome to dress up ready to join in the fun

Some of the activities we have planned for the day

The Farmyard Jamboree story time

Hoe down show down!

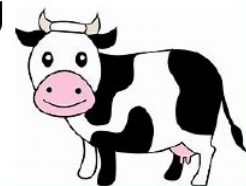
What's in the trough?

Yummy vegetable soup

Tractor racing and sheep herding

Welly throwing

More details to follow.....



So what is No Pens Day

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Why are we taking part?

Reading and writing are very important and valuable skills but people are often not aware of how important speaking and listening skills are too. Settings that include speaking and listening in a planned and structured way for children see improvements in the children's speech and language development. Ofsted inspectors are noticing more and more that speaking and listening is a really important factor for good teaching and child development both in their early years and later on at school.



Grandparents Session

Thursday 28th March 2024
10-11.30am



Calling all grandparents! Would you like to come along and see what we do at nursery? Then why don't you come along and join us for a fun filled morning of activities.

Spaces are limited so we are limiting to one Grandparent per child initially.

Please speak to a member of staff to book your place



Our theme for this session is **Easter and Spring**



Make an Easter Bonnet

Bake Gingerbread Men

Join in our Easter Egg Hunt

Help us to plant our hanging baskets

Sing with us Spring time songs and rhymes

Plus lots more things to play and do





Important Dates



W/C 11th March 2024 Music and Dance week

W/C 18th March 2024 Parent meetings (younger team and small room)

Monday 25th March 2024 No Pens Day- "Down on the Farm"

Thursday 28th March 2024 Grandparents session- "Easter and Spring"

Thursday 28th March 2024 Last day of Spring term

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024 Easter holidays- **Closed Good Friday 29th March and Easter Monday 1st April**

Monday 15th April 2024 First day of Summer term

Monday 22nd April 2024 Chicken eggs arriving for hatching

Monday 6th May 2024 Closed for the bank holiday

7th to 17th May 2024 Furzehill Café (details to follow)

W/C 20th May 2024 Parent meetings (transition team)

Wednesday 22nd May 2024 No Pens Day- "Space" (Monsters and Aliens)

Friday 24th May 2024 Grandparents session- "King and Queens"

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024 inclusive Half term (closed Monday for the bank holiday)

Tuesday 9th July 2024 No Pens Day- "Under the Sea"

Thursday 11th July 2024 Grandparents session- "Festival and Carnival"

W/C 15th July 2024 Leavers trips and events

Friday 26th July 2024 Last day of term **(this differs from St Blasius Academy)**



Our special visitors!

Well done for continuing to read until the end! We are excited to announce that we will be welcoming some chicks in April!

Our ducks were a HUGE success last year, so we can't wait to have chickens!



Coming Soon!

A truly unforgettable
10 day experience...



We are going to hatch some chicks!

Our eggs arrive on: **Mon 22nd April 2024**

They will be hatching around: **Weds 24th April 2024**

The chicks will be leaving us on: **Thurs 2nd May 2024**