



## Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to the families who attended our last open day. It was lovely to see you all and the children loved showing off their classrooms to their parents and some lovely art was created that day. The children loved getting messy and having their parents involved. One of the activities the Pre-Schoolers have been loving these past weeks are daffodil paintings - they have loved re-creating their own versions and have been getting very creative with different resources including paint, water colours and tissue paper to make some lovely flowers. Recently we have opened up our own sensory room and the children have loved spending some time down there getting acquainted with the new resources. Some of the Pre-Schoolers have been working very hard recently on their independence and handwriting skills to get ready for school. We look forward to hearing what schools the children are going to, so please let a staff member know when you find out so we can incorporate these into our group times. Can we remind all parents/carers to bring a bag full of spare clothes that can be kept on the child's peg and re-filled when needed. Can we also ask if any anyone has any spare clothes that they'd wish to donate, bring them in and give them to a member of staff - any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Abbie

## Dates for your diary

### Holidays and Closures:

- Good Friday - 29th March (nursery closed)
- Easter Monday - 1st April (nursery closed)
- Half Term for Term Time Only - 29th March until 12th April
- Early May Bank Holiday - 6th May (nursery closed)
- Spring Bank Holiday - 27th May (nursery closed)

### Other:

- Easter Sunday - 31st March 2024
- Fathers Day - 16th June
- Funding application deadline - 31st March

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## Bumble Bees

This month, The Bumblebee room have had lots of fun exploring different sensory trays. We have had a taste of safe sand, mud and paint trays and everyone's favourite, the water tray! The babies loved using lots of different senses including touch, listening to the sounds and tasting some of the safe sensory trays. In the bumblebee room we have also enjoyed getting outside and exploring the garden, using our gross motor skills to crawl around, stand and reach for toys. The babies have also loved doing lots of painting this month and practising their fine motor skills when using paintbrushes. We've enjoyed lots of Mother's Day activities including making cards and reading our "I love you mummy" book together. Our bumblebees loved getting to play with their mummies at nursery on our Open Day. We are excited to start getting ready for Easter, getting our bunny teddys and books out for group time and having lots of fun singing "Hop little bunnies hop hop hop!"

## Caterpillars

In the toddler room the children have been enjoying the musical instruments. During group time the children have been getting the musical instruments out making lots of noise while we sing our favourite songs "Tiny Tim" and "Wheels on the Bus." They have been focusing on Mother's Day cards for their mummies to celebrate. During the card making we have got the children to paint their hands and feet. This developed their fine motor skills as they were able to feel and explore the texture of the paint and create hand and foot prints. Recently we have got a new sensory room and the children have enjoyed all the sensory toys and exploring the different lights and textures. We have also started to introduce Easter. The children have loved singing Peter Rabbit songs at group time and playing with the egg shakers to represent Easter eggs. Over the next coming weeks children will be decorating cardboard eggs which will be sent home with them so keep an eye out for some yummy looking eggs.

## Butterflies

The Pre-Schoolers have enjoyed reading some new books and our favourite stories. They have been practising writing their name and recognising letters in readiness for school. They have been very busy making some lovely artwork for both the display boards at nursery and for the fridge at home. They have been moulding and making clay pieces, decorating them with paint or sticking on various resources. These will be going home within the next couple of weeks. Recently the children have been taking an interest in dressing up as "people who help us." They have loved taking turns and role playing all the different amazing jobs that keep our community running. Over the next coming weeks the children will be working on phonic sounds.

### Continue at home

Keep practicing your phonic sounds at home and don't forget to keep us updated with any home learning via EYLog so we can extend on this at nursery.



# Recipe of the Month

## RECIPE NAME - CHICKEN FAJITAS

### INGREDIENTS:

#### For the filling:

- 2 large chicken breasts thinly sliced (or a meat substitute)
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 red pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 red chilli, thinly sliced (optional)
- Handful grated cheese
- 1 heaped tbsp paprika
- 1tbsp ground coriander
- Pinch ground cumin
- 2 medium garlic cloves, crushed
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lime, juiced

#### To serve:

- 6 medium tortillas

#### For the salsa:

- 1 cucumber peeled and diced
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 250g tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 tbsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1 tspn lime juice
- 1 tspn olive oil
- 1/2 tspn ground cumin
- 1/2 tspn ground black pepper



### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oven to 200C/400F/gas mark 6.
2. Mix paprika, coriander, cumin, crushed garlic, olive oil, and lime juice together in a bowl.
3. Stir the sliced chicken breasts, red onion, red pepper, and optional chilli into the marinade.
4. Heat a griddle pan until smoking hot and add the marinated chicken.
5. Keep everything moving over the high heat until you get a nice charred effect. If your griddle pan is small, you can do this in two batches.
6. To check the chicken is cooked, cut into the thickest part of the chicken. If it is still red inside, then continue cooking
7. For the salsa, mix the diced tomato, onion, cucumber, then add the lime juice, minced garlic, cumin, and black pepper. Set aside.
8. Put the tortillas in the oven to heat up for a few minutes, and serve with the cooked chicken mixture, salsa, and grated cheese.

## Recent Training

Lucy has recently completed her paediatric first aid and within the next couple of weeks Hannah, Lauren, Tim and Kirsty will all be completing theirs.

Hannah is also working towards baby massage and Sadie is working towards baby yoga.

Hannah has completed designated safeguarding lead training.

All the staff are busy completing training courses and here are just a few: Autism Awareness, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging, Fire Safety and Environment in Early Years.

## Colleague Spotlight

### Sadie Ledwith

I would like to give a special mention to Sadie. She has recently joined the footsteps family and has settled in so well and made some amazing bonds with both the children and parents. She loves to get messy and gets out some lovely food safe sensory trays for the babies and often leaves at the end of day covered in flour as she loves to get involved. I would like to take the time as well to congratulate her on her recent promotion to baby room lead, Well done Sadie.

