

# FAMILY NEWS

# FootSteps Portslade

Day Nursery & Pre-School

SPRING 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Marta (Toddler Den) & to Courtney W (Pre school study) who will both be leaving us this month. Marta is having a change of career and Courtney will be working in a nursery closer to home. We wish them all the best for their future. The children are looking forward to exploring spring and planting flowers & herbs and we will hopefully be exploring the life cycle of a frog when our frog spawn arrives. Thank you to all of the parents who came and joined in with our Open Day, we hope you all had lots of fun with your child exploring the activities and sampling the food. Reminder that the nursery is open from 7:30am if you have booked an early start please do not ring the bell before this time.

A reminder that the nursery will be closed on Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April due to these dates being Bank holidays. For those children on a term time only contract the last day of term is Thursday 28th March and term begins on Monday 15th April. For those children who turn 2 or 3 between 1st January - 31st March 2024 please make sure that you have checked your eligibility for the 2 / 3 year funding you need to apply for this before 31st March to be able to claim the funding from 1st April 2024.

Jo

## 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

**Don't forget to follow our Social Media:**

 [/footstepsdaynursery](https://www.facebook.com/footstepsdaynursery)

 [@thenurseryfamily](https://www.instagram.com/thenurseryfamily)



### The Baby Snug

In the baby snug we have been exploring all of the children's likes and dislikes. During the course of the day different activities are set out for the children to explore & play. We have been looking at puzzles and trying to fit the pieces back into the hole. We have been exploring lots of different sensory activities - oats with pasta, flour and animals making marks. We have also been using pencils and chalk to create marks. We have also been practising rolling balls across the floor to each other. In the garden we have been trying to kick the balls. Also in the garden we have been practising our climbing on the climbing equipment. We have been sharing lots of stories, singing and dancing.

#### Continue at home

Provide your child with a pot of pasta and some smaller cups/bowls and watch them practice their filling, scooping and pouring techniques.

### The Toddler Den

In the Toddler Den we have been sharing the story of the colour monster and learning about all the different feelings and how we can express them. We have been exploring lots of different textures through sensory play, looking at all the different colours and numbers. We have been exploring the garden and learning how to play running games "3,2,1 go!, can you catch me!"

#### Continue at home

When in the local park, practice some running games with your little one. They will love racing you up and down and of course winning every time!

### The Pre-School Study

Preschool have been enjoying their Monday PE sessions and developing their throwing, catching and balancing skills. They are enjoying reading a collection of books about Biff, Chip & Kipper - in the stories they are having adventures using a magic key. The children have loved using this story in their role play. Preschool enjoyed celebrating Chinese New year, painting their own colourful dragons. On pancake day pre school ate pancakes for snack and chose their own toppings. They made pancakes out of card and tried to flip them in the frying pans. Now that spring is on it's way we have been talking about how our environment will be changing and have created a new display board with our spring pictures using lots of different media and materials to complete them.

#### Continue at home

When out and about, have discussions with your child about the season change and see how many different colours you can see in the flowers and trees.

# 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

Hannah and Laura have recently completed their Paediatric first aid course.

We would also like to welcome Jo to our team who will be based in our Toddler Den. She has lots of experience and is level 3 qualified. We look forward to you all meeting her.

## Colleague Spotlight

### Hannah Smith

Staff mention is for Hannah Smith who is always willing to help out and cover with all of the different ages and in all of the different branches. - Thank you Hannah for all your continued hard work.

