

Summer Term One 2026

Welcome



Regular communication with parents is vital, so we work hard to keep you informed about our activities.

Our newsletters are available on the website, closed Facebook page, and can be requested in paper form if needed.

Each half-term newsletter includes children's activity highlights and other important information, such as staff news, funding updates, key dates, upcoming additional activities, and useful updates.

### **FUNDING UPDATE: Grace Period and reconfirmation**

Upon reviewing our funding portal, it has come to our attention that we have several children who's funding codes are currently in the grace period.

This status indicates that, as of now, the code is not valid for the forthcoming term and that eligibility must be reconfirmed. Please kindly log into your childcare funding account at your earliest convenience and reconfirm your eligibility before the deadline of 31 March 2026.

Please note that it is not possible for us to undertake this process on your behalf. If your code remains invalid in accordance with our terms and conditions, the responsibility for your child's fees will revert to you, and these fees will be invoiced accordingly for payment on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

It is recognised that there may occasionally be technical issues with the funding portal. Should you have already reconfirmed your eligibility, and your account indicates that it is not yet ready for reconfirmation, then no further action is required on your part.

**Key dates to remember for obtaining or renewing a funding code are 31st August, 31st March, and 31st December.**

**If your child is transferring from another setting to join us, please ensure that you give notice and that your child has left their previous setting before the Local Authority headcount week. If this is not done, we will be unable to claim funding for your child, and you will be responsible for paying the term's fees in full.**

Please follow the link below for our **IMPORTANT DATES** for the rest of this academic year.

### **Outings**

We have received several enquiries from parents regarding their child's participation in specific outings. We would like to clarify that while all children participate in various outings during their time with us, every child will not attend every outing. Outings are thoughtfully allocated based on individual interests and suitability, ensuring each child benefits as much as possible.



Please note that not all outings are posted on our Facebook page. Below is a summary of the weekly outings and special activities:

- Tuesday: Library/Cuppa Connect
- Wednesday: Allotment
- Thursday: Nursing Home
- Monday or Friday: Science
- Talk Boost: Daily
- Little Cooks/Baby Band and Mini First Aid (alternating; these incur an additional charge)

### **Online Safety for Young Children**

Children are growing up in a time where screens are everywhere and the internet plays a big part in their lives, even from a very young age. This can be beneficial, tfamily andrn new things,

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connect with friends and family, and have fun. But it's important to have conversations on how to explore the online world safely.

That's where the [NSPCC Techosaurus](#) comes in handy to have those first conversations with young children about online safety.

### Allotment Visiting Rules



**Welcome to our nursery allotment! This is a shared space for children, families, and staff to enjoy growing, learning, and spending time outdoors together.**

**To keep it safe, fun, and productive for everyone, please follow these simple guidelines:**

#### **1. Supervision First**

Children must always be supervised by a parent or guardian while in the allotment.

#### **2. Be Kind to Plants and Wildlife**

Encourage children to handle plants gently and respect insects and wildlife living in the space.

#### **3. Share the Space**

Please take turns with tools, watering cans, and popular areas so everyone can join in.

#### **4. Tool Safety**

Only use tools appropriate for children and return them to their proper place after use.

#### **5. Clean Up Together**

Help your child tidy up after activities, put tools away, dispose of rubbish, and leave the space ready for others.

#### **6. Pick with Permission**

Only harvest fruits, vegetables, or flowers from designated areas or with staff approval.

#### **7. Dress for Mess**

Gardening can be muddy! Please dress children in suitable clothes and footwear.

#### **8. Wash Hands After Gardening**

Encourage children to wash their hands after touching soil, plants, or tools.

#### **9. No Chemicals or Outside Materials**

For safety, please do not bring in fertilizers, pesticides, or plants without checking with staff.

#### **10. Have Fun and Get Involved!**

We encourage parents and carers to join in; gardening is a great way to learn and bond together.

11. Please **maintain the allotment as it is**, including all fixtures

#### **12. No Fires**

No fires are permitted anywhere on our allotment

#### **13. Dogs**

Dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times.

#### **14. Parking**

Ideally, we would like to encourage families to walk to the allotment, however if you do visit and drive there, you must use the carpark before the allotment gate.

**Please note Kirkgate Childcare cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage incurred whilst using the allotment. A policy will need to be signed.**

#### **Mini Eggs**

As a visit from the Easter bunny approaches please remember Mini Eggs can pose a choking hazard particularly in under 4's. They are just the right size to block a young child's airway.



Most parents appear to be aware of the need to cut grapes in half before feeding to their little ones but have you ever thought about the potential danger of Mini Eggs?

Mini Eggs carry a warning on the back of the packet which states they should not be consumed by children under the age of **4**

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Please be careful and stay safe this Easter, our advice is, its probably best for mummy and daddy to eat them

#### Duke of Edinburgh and Students

We're delighted to welcome Freya, Ferne and Leighton, who will be joining us for some volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh from 3.30 -4.30pm. Were so pleased to have you with us and look forward to working together.

A big welcome to Ellie, who will be with us every Friday while completing her Health and Social qualification. Were excited to support you on your journey and have you as part of the setting.

#### National Offer Day

We're so excited to find out which schools our children will be moving on to this September. Keep an eye out on the 16<sup>th</sup> April confirming your child's school place, such a special milestone and we can't wait to celebrate with you all.

#### Parent Kind

Parent kind are tackling a wide range of topics, their free webinars are designed to share insight on how you can support your child with a wide range of learning and life experiences, strengthen your understanding of education and school life and foster solid parent-child relationships along the way.

During these interactive webinars, you'll be able to engage with experts, ask questions and connect with others on a similar journey.

For more information or to book simply click this [LINK](#)

#### Navigating School Transitions



The first day of primary school is an important milestone in the lives of both children and their parents. This occasion often brings a mix of emotions, including excitement, nervousness

and apprehension, as families prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

Whether your child is starting at a new school alongside familiar faces from nursery, or entering an environment with entirely new classmates, they are likely to experience a range of strong feelings. These emotions may show themselves in different ways, depending on your child's personality and experiences.

As a parent, having strategies for effective communication can help your child adjust to their new routine and build a positive foundation for their time at school. It's equally important to prepare yourself for the early days, recognising that your child might need time to settle in, especially if their adaptation takes longer than anticipated.

We support the children with the transition in the months leading up to leaving us and they will be well prepared with teacher visits, photo books, visits to their new classrooms, summative reports shared with teachers, reading books all about the first days at school, trying on uniform and of course our parents transition evening and leavers picnic.

Click [HERE](#) for an informative guide on being school ready.

The [PARENT KIND](#) website is such a valuable resource for parents with blogs, top tips, school ready guides and so much more

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### **What we've been Learning**

#### **Exploring Nature and Growth**

Over the last few weeks, the children have observed the fascinating life cycle of our caterpillars, watching them transform into butterflies. In addition, we have spent time at the allotment planting a variety of flowers and have begun nurturing pumpkins and tomatoes from seeds into seedlings. These activities have provided an engaging opportunity to learn about growth, change and the natural world.

#### **Developing Skills and Community Connections**

We have participated in Little Cooks sessions at Café 1876, allowing the children to experiment with cooking and explore different foods. Alongside these sessions, we have been practising our gross motor skills, which are essential for physical development. The children have also begun phase 1 and some phase 2 phonics, supporting early language and literacy. Our outings to the library, garden centre and local shops have helped foster community connections and real-world learning experiences.

#### **Celebrations and Upcoming Activities**

We have celebrated our wonderful mothers, recognising their support and contribution. Looking ahead to the spring months, our focus will be on Easter-themed activities and further exploration of life cycles covering animals, plants and insects. Additionally, we have scheduled sessions with Mini First Aid to help children learn valuable safety skills.

#### **Friendly Reminders**

- Please make sure that all your children's clothes, lunchboxes and water bottles are clearly labelled. It can be extremely challenging to return lost items to their rightful owner when they are not labelled.
- Toys from home should not be brought into nursery, with the exception of

comforters. It is difficult to keep track of where these items have been taken, hidden or dropped, and they often disrupt children's play.

- To prevent choking, please cut grapes, cherry tomatoes and mini sausages lengthways before including them in lunchboxes.
- Popcorn, marshmallows and sweets are not permitted in lunchboxes. However, a small chocolate bar is acceptable.
- At nursery, part of your child's experience is learning to put on coats and shoes independently. We kindly ask that you ensure their shoes are easy to slip on.
- Please save your children's best clothes for home, as play can often get messy.

### **Budding Builders**

#### ***Budding Builders: Nursery Architects***



Who knew we had so many budding architects in nursery.

Our nursery children have demonstrated a

remarkable enthusiasm and talent for building and constructing. Whether working together or individually, they have shown creativity, problem-solving skills and a keen sense of design as they explore different materials and ideas. Their imaginative

efforts highlight the enjoyment and learning that takes place during our hands-on activities.

