

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.



Why is PLAY so important.....
Play is essential for fostering children's communication and language development, while also promoting their

learning and overall wellbeing.

Below are ten key reasons highlighting its significance:

1. Play offers children continuous opportunities to explore the power of their voice, experiment with new and familiar sounds and words, and enhance their expressive abilities.
2. Through play, cognitive development is stimulated; it encourages language acquisition, problem-solving skills, and creativity.
3. Play facilitates the practice of home languages and introduces children to a broader range of vocabulary.
4. It eliminates participation barriers, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all. Various forms of communication such as facial expressions, body language, signing, touch, eye contact, and speech, can support engagement in play.

5. Play supports the advancement of physical, gross, and fine motor skills, each of which contributes to writing proficiency. Active play promotes muscle growth, imagination, communication, coordination, and general health.
6. Opportunities to practice, revisit, and consolidate deeper learning are afforded through experimentation and repetition during play.
7. Natural curiosity is fostered, enabling children to make connections and comprehend their experiences and observations within the world around them.
8. Play encourages the development of independence, perseverance, and turn-taking, assisting children in building negotiation skills and forming relationships.
9. A safe environment is provided for children to explore and regulate their emotions, aiding the cultivation of resilience and empathy.
10. Play cultivates a sustained interest in learning, inspires imaginative thinking, and helps children understand concepts through engaging and enjoyable activities.

Dummy Use



Dummies can be very soothing for young babies and, as they get older, can become very attached. But they can also be a source of stress for

parents, as there are lots of questions that go alongside dummy use. When should you use them? When should you not use them? How should you react when your little one just won't let go? In the video below it breaks down some of the top tips for helping your child give up their dummy.

[Follow the link to tiny happy people video](#)

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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 1st 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 2026/2027 IMPORTANT DATES** for the rest of this academic year.

School Transitions

Kim, our Assistant Manager and Transition Lead, has reached out to all seven feeder schools to

coordinate visits from new teachers to the nursery children. Please take advantage of any sessions offered, as they greatly help ensure a smooth transition into primary school.

Please don't forget the following dates:

2nd June Mrs Poulter (Barkston Ash)
4th June Mrs Sampson (Athelstan)
15th June Hungate teachers
17th June Scarcroft teachers
18th June Mrs Speake (South Milford)
10th June Transition Evening
This replaces parent consultations

20th July School Leavers Teddy Bears Picnic Eversley Pary.

Suncream

With warmer weather approaching, please make sure your child has suncream already applied before arriving. Suncream should be put on at least 15 minutes prior to sun exposure. If children arrive without it, staff must stop valuable learning time to apply it. Those who come without suncream will need to apply it at the entrance, and we will reapply as needed throughout the day. Also, please pack weather-appropriate clothing and spare items in your child's bag.



Water bottles



We have observed an increase in children bringing juice in their bottles to nursery. As a setting committed to promoting healthy habits in early childhood, we kindly request that only water is provided in your child's bottle, except where medical circumstances require otherwise; in such cases, please supply a letter from your child's doctor or consultant for our records.

In accordance with our healthy food and drink policy, any bottles found to contain juice will be emptied and refilled with water unless a valid medical reason has been communicated.

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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.

Sunglasses and Sunhats

Please note that sunhats are provided for all children in the nursery. We kindly request that children do not bring their own sunhats or sunglasses. Bringing personal items can lead to disruptions during learning time, as well as issues with unlabelled, misplaced, or mixed-up belongings. Due to limited time at the end of the day, it may not be possible to search for missing items. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

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

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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.

What we've been Learning

The children have participated in Mini First Aid, where they learned what to do during emergencies, memorised the important number to call, practised placing the special teddy in the recovery position, and listened to a story about Freddie, an accident-prone little boy.

We've spent plenty of time outside in the mud kitchen, using knives to hone our chopping skills while preparing wonderful delicacies.

We've embraced risk-taking by balancing and jumping on the equipment.

We've planted sunflowers and will monitor their growth as they develop.

We've observed caterpillars transform into butterflies and released them into the garden.

In addition to all this, we've enjoyed our weekly outings: Cuppa Connect at the OGS, visiting the allotment, library, and nursing home.

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.

Biting information for parents

Biting is very common among young children. Despite this, it can be one of the most difficult issues in the setting to deal with.

It is often painful and frightening for the child who is bitten, and frightening for the child who bites, because of the upset and anger it can cause and the feeling of loss of control. Other children may also be upset or disturbed, or start to imitate.

It is difficult for parents and carers as well. If your child has been bitten you will be outraged and angry, if your child is doing the biting you may be embarrassed and frustrated

Please click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) to read the information regarding biting.