

UNDER THE OAK TREE

acorn half termly newsletter

APRIL SPRING BLOSSOMS EDITION



MESSAGE FROM LORNA



As we come to the end of this term, I'd like to thank all our children, families, and staff for making it such a wonderful few months. It has been a joy to see the children learning, growing, and enjoying new experiences every day.

We hope everyone has a lovely Easter and enjoys the holiday break. We look forward to welcoming you all back for another exciting term filled with fun, learning, and new adventures!

Warm regards,

Lorna



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Stay and plays
Father's day - Friday 19th June

Photography visits
Friday 22nd May
Friday 13th November

School transition information
evenings
Wednesday 22nd April

Preschool graduation
Saturday 27th June



CHILD AND ADULT WELLBEING

Hi, my name is Elli and I am the Room Lead in Tiny Acorns. I also take on the role of Wellbeing Officer within the setting. My focus is on supporting the wellbeing of our staff team, recognising how important it is for everyone to feel valued, supported, and able to thrive in their workplace. When staff feel happy and cared for, it naturally creates a more positive and nurturing environment for the children too.

Wellbeing is something I am very passionate about. I am always looking for ways we can support one another, encourage open conversations, and create a workplace where people feel comfortable, respected, and motivated. Small things can make a big difference, whether that's promoting a healthy work-life balance, encouraging teamwork, or simply making time to check in with one another.

Alongside staff wellbeing, I also place a strong focus on children's mental health. In early years, emotional wellbeing is just as important as learning and development. I aim to help create a positive, calm, and supportive environment where children feel safe, confident, and happy to express themselves. Through nurturing relationships, positive interactions, and mindful activities, we help children build resilience, confidence, and emotional understanding.

I am always exploring new ideas and ways to boost happiness and positivity across our setting, for both children and staff. A happy environment helps everyone flourish, and I am proud to play a part in helping make our setting a supportive and uplifting place to be.





LITTLE ACORNS

This term in the baby room has been full of exploration, discovery, and exciting celebrations as we welcomed spring together.

The children have particularly enjoyed our spring and Easter-themed tuff trays, exploring coloured rice, nests, eggs, and chicks. These activities supported their sensory development and fine motor skills through scooping, pouring, and hands-on investigation.

We also celebrated several special events, including Oral Health Day, where the children helped clean our dinosaurs' teeth, World Book Day with creative costumes and storytelling, and St Patrick's Day. We finished the term with a lovely Mother's Day stay and play session, giving families the chance to share special moments together.

The children have made great use of both garden spaces, building confidence in their gross motor skills through climbing, walking, and exploring. It has been wonderful to see their growing independence.

At snack times, we introduced new fruits and vegetables, and the children have enjoyed trying different flavours and textures. We have also begun using open-top cups, supporting their independence.

Our new water station has been a great success, with children learning to recognise their own photo to find their cup, helping to build self-awareness and a sense of belonging.

Overall, it has been a joyful term, full of new experiences and achievements. We are so proud of the children and look forward to continuing their learning journey next term.





SUPER SEEDLINGS

This month in the toddler room has been full of curiosity, creativity, and connection. The children have shown a growing interest in the natural world, especially when exploring insects, where they enjoyed observing and talking about different bugs and their movements.

Our much-loved Freddy Teddy has been on a variety of adventures, sparking imagination and encouraging storytelling as the children shared their ideas about where he might go next. In the lead-up to Easter, we engaged in a range of craft activities, giving the children opportunities to explore colours, textures, and simple creative techniques.

Small group puzzles have supported problem-solving skills, turn-taking, and collaboration, while everyday interactions have continued to build confidence, language, and social development. We are now looking forward to welcoming new children into the room during the upcoming transition period and supporting them as they settle into our environment.





MIGHTY OAKS



It's been a super busy and exciting term in Mighty Oaks!

We absolutely loved welcoming you all to our Mother's Day stay-and-play session. It was wonderful to see so many of you join us, explore the room, and get involved in the activities we had set up. The children were so proud to share their space with you, and we hope you had just as much fun as we did.

Over the past few weeks, we've also enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day. The children took part in a variety of creative activities using love hearts, and we had lots of lovely discussions about who we love and why those people are special to us.

There has been a huge interest in all things messy this term! Slime and playdough have been particular favourites. We've explored these in lots of different ways—printing with letters, using natural resources to create self-portraits in playdough, and experimenting with making different shapes and textures. It's been fantastic to see the children so engaged and imaginative.

Superheroes have also been very popular. The children regularly ask to play with them, and this has inspired lots of imaginative role play. We've had superheroes getting stuck and needing to be rescued, going on adventures, and even getting cleaned up after a busy day of saving the world!

We have also really enjoyed welcoming some of our younger friends from Super Seeds into our room. It has been lovely to see the children beginning to build bonds and relationships with one another. The older children have shown kindness and support, helping to build each other's confidence and creating a warm, nurturing environment for everyone.

We finished off the term with lots of Easter fun. From decorating eggs to going on exciting egg hunts and even digging for eggs in the mud, the children have thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

We are now looking forward to our final term together before many of the children head off to school. It's a special time, and we're excited to make the most of it with lots more learning, play, and memorable experiences.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.





GREAT OAKS



What a busy and exciting term we have had in Great Oaks!

We started the term by celebrating Chinese New Year. The children enjoyed a range of sensory tuff trays, including water and glitter, as well as noodles and chopsticks—which proved quite tricky but great fun! We also explored numbers using the light-up box, adding even more sparkle with glitter. To finish our celebrations, we held a special Chinese afternoon where the children tasted a variety of delicious foods such as noodles, sweet and sour sauce, and prawn crackers. It was such a hit that many children asked for it again the next day!

We were delighted to welcome so many mums and nannies for our Mother's Day celebration. It was lovely to see so many of you join us—thank you for coming! Together, we enjoyed a range of activities including making fruit faces using our favourite fruits, planting seeds, and creating beautiful butterflies.

We have recently introduced story crates to our reading area, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring them and acting out different stories. We have also added some Easter-themed story crates, which have been very popular.

For St Patrick's Day, the children got creative making their own clovers, used their maths skills to count pots of gold, and developed their fine motor skills while creating colourful rainbows.

We also took part in Oral Health Day, where the children enjoyed role-playing as dentists and patients. They practised brushing teeth using shaving foam and toothbrushes—such a fun and engaging way to learn about dental hygiene!

Recently, the children have been fascinated by ladybirds they've found in the garden and on their way to nursery. This sparked lots of interest in insects, and we have been learning more about them through crafts and activities. We have also embraced the arrival of spring by making lambs, creating flower pictures, and exploring lots of colour.

Our sensory tuff trays continue to be a favourite, especially those involving filling and emptying. The children have also been developing their fine motor skills by practising cutting along lines on Easter egg shapes, we made fluffy chicks ready for Easter. To end the term we will be having our own Easter egg hunt!





A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PANCO

physical activity and nutritional co-ordinator

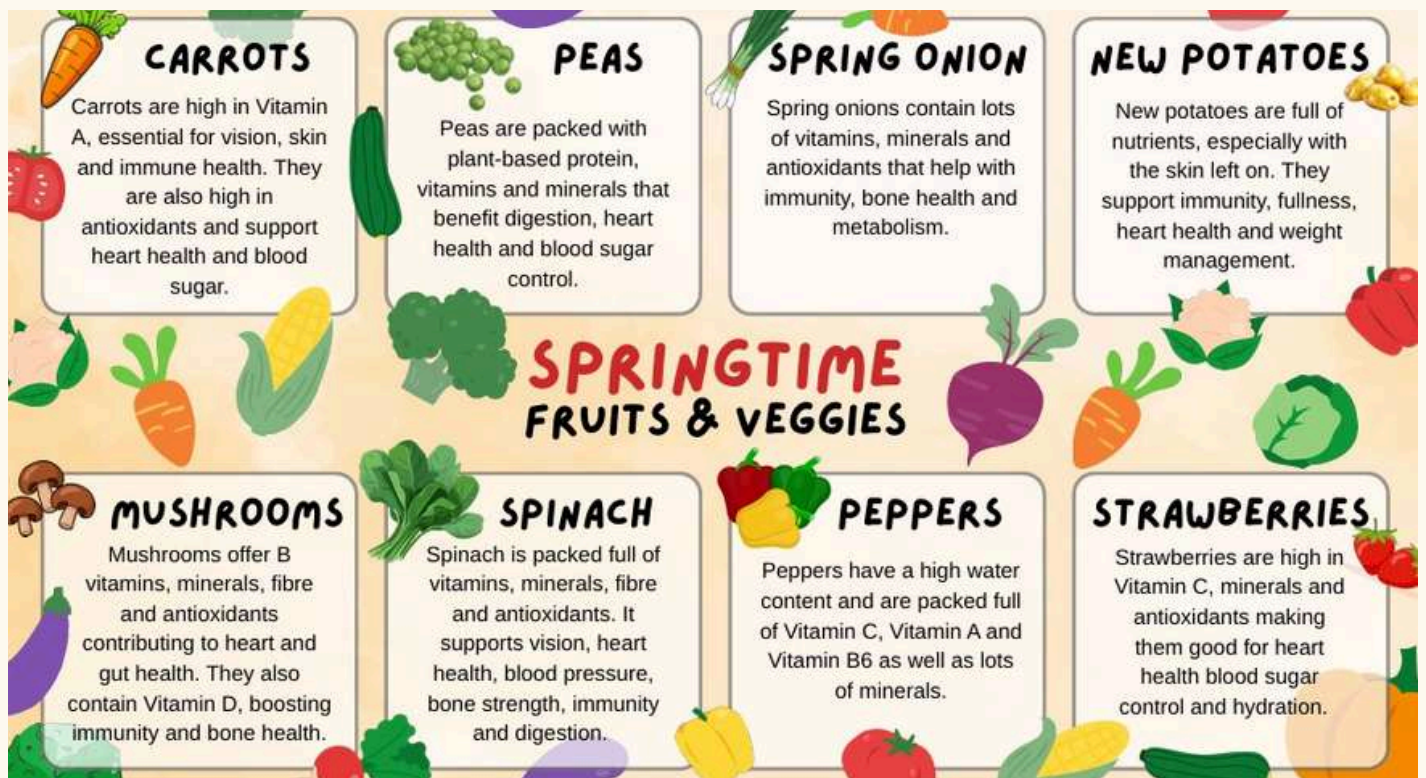


HOW TO ENJOY EASTER TREATS!

1. Keep the sugary snacks to mealtimes only as part of your pudding. Finish off the cheese and vegetables between mealtimes instead!
2. After eating a meal, rinse your mouth out with water to wash the excess sugars away and help neutralise the mouth.
3. Brush twice daily, for two minutes, with a fluoride toothpaste. One of these times must be the last thing you do before you go to sleep.



BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT SPRING TIME VEGETABLES & FRUIT



CARROTS
Carrots are high in Vitamin A, essential for vision, skin and immune health. They are also high in antioxidants and support heart health and blood sugar.

PEAS
Peas are packed with plant-based protein, vitamins and minerals that benefit digestion, heart health and blood sugar control.

SPRING ONION
Spring onions contain lots of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that help with immunity, bone health and metabolism.

NEW POTATOES
New potatoes are full of nutrients, especially with the skin left on. They support immunity, fullness, heart health and weight management.

MUSHROOMS
Mushrooms offer B vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants contributing to heart and gut health. They also contain Vitamin D, boosting immunity and bone health.

SPINACH
Spinach is packed full of vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants. It supports vision, heart health, blood pressure, bone strength, immunity and digestion.

PEPPERS
Peppers have a high water content and are packed full of Vitamin C, Vitamin A and Vitamin B6 as well as lots of minerals.

STRAWBERRIES
Strawberries are high in Vitamin C, minerals and antioxidants making them good for heart health blood sugar control and hydration.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR H&S OFFICER



Easter Treats and Hidden Risks: Keeping Children Safe

Easter is a time of family celebrations, and of course, plenty of chocolate treats. From colourful foil-wrapped mini eggs to jelly sweets and small confectionery, these seasonal favourites are enjoyed by children of all ages. However, it's important for parents and carers to be aware that some of these treats can pose a choking hazard—particularly for younger children.

Small, round, and hard sweets such as mini chocolate eggs and similar are especially risky. Their size and shape can easily block a child's airway if swallowed whole. Children under the age of five are most at risk, as they are still developing their chewing skills and may not fully understand the need to chew food thoroughly. It is for this reason that Mini egg type chocolates are not recommended for children under the age of five.

To help reduce the risk:



- Always supervise young children while they are eating.
- Encourage children to sit down and eat calmly rather than walking or running with food.
- Consider choosing age-appropriate treats—larger, softer chocolates are often safer alternatives.
- Avoid giving small, hard sweets to toddlers and very young children.
- Remind older children to chew carefully and not to put multiple sweets in their mouths at once.

What to Do If Your Child Is Choking

- If a child is choking, it is important to act quickly:
- If they can cough, encourage them to keep coughing to try to clear the blockage.
- If they cannot breathe, cough, or speak, call emergency services immediately.
- For younger children, give up to five firm back blows between the shoulder blades.
- If this does not work, give up to five abdominal thrusts (for children over one year old).
- Continue alternating between back blows and abdominal thrusts until help arrives or the blockage is cleared.



By staying aware and taking a few simple precautions, families can enjoy a safe and happy Easter.



ELKLAN

speech and language



NURSERY RHYME (SONG)



HERE IS THE BEEHIVE,
(MAKE A FIST)



WHERE ARE THE BEES?
(SHRUG SHOULDERS)

HIDING AWAY WHERE NOBODY SEES.
(COVER FIST WITH OTHER HAND)

WATCH THEM COME CREEPING OUT OF THEIR HIVE
(WIGGLE FINGERS INSIDE FIST)

ONE AND TWO AND THREE, FOUR, FIVE!
(COUNT FINGERS AS THEY POP OUT)

BUZZZZZZZZZZ!

(WIGGLE FINGERS AND MOVE THEM AROUND LIKE
BEES)



ELKLAN UPDATE

THIS TERM, OUR FOCUS HAS BEEN ON DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE SKILLS THROUGH A LOVE OF BOOKS AND STORYTELLING.

WE CELEBRATED WORLD BOOK DAY BY SHARING FAMILIAR STORIES, EXPLORING NEW BOOKS, AND ENCOURAGING THE CHILDREN TO TALK ABOUT THEIR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS. DRESSING UP AND STORY-BASED ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED CONFIDENCE, IMAGINATION, AND EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE.

WE WERE ALSO DELIGHTED TO WELCOME A VISITING LIBRARIAN, WHO INTRODUCED THE CHILDREN TO A RANGE OF BOOKS AND MODELLED HOW TO ENGAGE CHILDREN IN STORYTELLING. THIS EXPERIENCE SUPPORTED LISTENING AND ATTENTION, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGING CURIOSITY ABOUT BOOKS.

WE RECENTLY COMPLETED OUR "READER'S PASSPORT" CHALLENGE, WHICH HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL WAY TO STRENGTHEN THE HOME-NURSERY LINK AND PROMOTE REGULAR READING. A BIG WELL DONE TO GREAT OAKS FOR READING THE MOST BOOKS—AN EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT!

WE ALSO HELD A STAFF STORY SACK CHALLENGE TO INSPIRE CREATIVE WAYS OF SHARING STORIES. A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH BLADES FROM MIGHTY OAKS, WHO CREATED THE WINNING STORY SACK—THANK YOU FOR YOUR FANTASTIC IDEAS AND ENTHUSIASM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN HELPING US BUILD STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATION AND A LIFELONG LOVE OF READING.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE TIP

YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN TO TALK BEST THROUGH EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS. ONE SIMPLE AND POWERFUL STRATEGY IS "COMMENTING, NOT QUESTIONING."

INSTEAD OF ASKING LOTS OF QUESTIONS LIKE "WHAT'S THAT?" OR "WHAT COLOUR IS THIS?", TRY COMMENTING ON WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING:

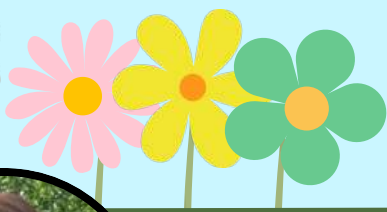
- "YOU'RE BUILDING A TALL TOWER!"
- "THE CAR IS GOING FAST!"
- "YOU'RE STIRRING THE PRETEND SOUP!"



THIS TAKES THE PRESSURE OFF CHILDREN AND GIVES THEM CLEAR LANGUAGE TO COPY. IT ALSO HELPS BUILD CONFIDENCE AND ENCOURAGES MORE NATURAL CONVERSATION.

TOP TIP: FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD—TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN AT THAT MOMENT





HEALTHY RECIPE

cheesy veggie wedges



INGREDIENTS

- 100g pasta shapes (or 300g cooked potato, in chunks)
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 courgette, grated
- 1 carrot, grated
- 4 eggs
- 50g reduced-fat hard cheese, grated
- 2 teaspoons dried mixed herbs
- 1 pinch ground black pepper



DIRECTIONS

- Cook the pasta shapes in boiling water for 10 to 12 minutes, until just tender. Once ready, drain thoroughly and rinse with cold water to cool them quickly.
- While the pasta is cooking, heat the vegetable oil in a non-stick frying pan and gently cook the onion for 3 to 4 minutes, stirring often. Remove from the heat and add the courgette, carrot and pasta (when ready). Mix well.
- In a bowl, beat the eggs together and add the cheese. Stir in the dried herbs and season with some pepper.
- Pour the egg mixture into the frying pan that has the pasta and vegetables, and cook over a low heat for 4 to 5 minutes, without stirring, to set the base. Meanwhile, preheat the grill to medium-high.
- Put the frying pan under the grill and cook for 4 to 5 minutes until the surface has set and is golden brown.
- Remove from under the grill and leave to cool for a minute. Cut into 4 slices and serve with a side of vegetables or a salad.

DONT FORGET TO SHARE PHOTOS ON TAPESTRY IF YOU MAKE THIS RECIPE!



PARENT PARTNERSHIP

updates and important information

Since February, we have enjoyed a wonderful range of celebrations and special events here at nursery, creating lots of memorable experiences for the children.

We began with Valentine's Day, where the children took part in a variety of activities focused on kindness, friendships, and sharing, helping to encourage positive relationships with one another.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year, exploring the festival through themed activities, colours, and cultural experiences, giving the children an opportunity to learn about different traditions from around the world.

We marked Oral Health Day with fun, hands-on activities, including helping our dinosaurs keep their teeth nice and clean! This introduced the importance of good dental hygiene in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

World Book Day was a fantastic success, with both children and staff coming dressed as their favourite characters. It was wonderful to see so much creativity, and the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing stories and celebrating their love of books.

We also celebrated St Patrick's Day, taking part in themed activities - the nursery was filled with green and shamrocks!

To end the term, we hosted a special Mother's Day stay and play session, which was a lovely opportunity for families to join us in the setting and spend quality time together.

It has been a busy and exciting few months, full of learning, celebration, and fun. We look forward to many more special events in the coming term!





STAFF SHOUT OUT'S

from parents and fellow staff



DAKOTA

Today was my first day doing the bus run with both kiddies and on the way home everything that could go wrong did go wrong. The bus was late, pouring with rain, baby needed feeding and no space on the bus! Dakota kindly offered to sit with the pram so that i could settle and feed baby and sit with my eldest. She held the pram the whole way home - it was really kind after a day at work



MARIA

For completeing her SENDCo course whilst supporting the staff and children with their speech and language! She has also encouraged a love of reading throughout th setting



ELLI

For her work on the decking it looks beautiful!



GRANDAD JOHN

For always lending a helping hand! Even when the job is tedious or tricky - he always gets it done! and with a smile on his face. The children just adore him and always love watching him fix things!

