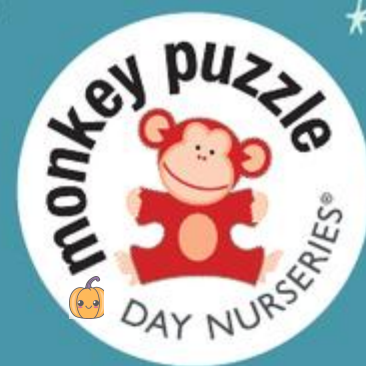


Astwick Newsletter



October 2024

Nursery Updates:

Throughout September:

- We welcomed back our Forest school leader Harriet, who returned from maternity leave.
- All the rooms enjoyed their grandparents stay and play sessions.
- We planned and prepped for the nursery's 5th Birthday! We look forward to the celebrations beginning
- The children learnt about Autumn and will continue to explore the changes for this season now its in full swing.

Throughout October:

- We have a photographer coming into nursery on the 10th October. If your child is not due in on this day and you would like to bring them to have their photo taken we are booking in timeslots between 10am-2pm for this. Please email manager@monkeypuzzleastwick.co.uk to book in and we will check for the available slots.
- The front garden will become our pumpkin patch! The week before Halloween we will be sending out a post about our annual pumpkin decorating/carving competition.
- The nursery turns 5! We can't wait to celebrate with you all
- New nursery roles section has been added to our newsletter! Make sure to read it each month and see what activities we have going on for you to get involved in.

I am not included in the competition!



→ **Pumpkin competition - How many smiley pumpkins like me can you find throughout the newsletter? Please message Zoe on Family with the total amount of Pumpkins by the 4th October for your chance to win a prize!**

Fees

As we have so many new parents at the nursery, this is just a polite reminder that fees are due on 1st of each month. We are aware that tax free childcare payments can take a couple of days to get to us, we ask that you try and transfer these before the 1st to ensure they are in our bank on time but will give leeway by a couple of days due to this for these payments. Any payments not received by the 7th of each month will receive a reminder and may then incur a late payment charge.

important!

Just a reminder that we have our 2nd inset day on *1st November 2024* where the nursery is closed to children for staff training.

We will also be closing at *330pm* on 24th December 2024 (Christmas Eve) and then reopen on 2nd January 2025.

Jenner Mackay James

Monkey Puzzle PHOTO DAY:

Thursday 10th October 2024



Prices start from just £8.99! Both prints and downloads available to purchase online



info@jennermackayjames.com 07966200280 @jennermackayjames



We continue to strive to give your child the best experience at nursery. If you have any questions or suggestions, please send us an email/give us a call!

If you and your children are having a positive nursery experience please support us by leaving a review on Facebook, Google or DayNurseries.co.uk. These are really valued by us and give us feedback on what we are doing well.



Take a look at what the rooms have been up to:



Over Two's

Please send over any interests your child has at home, along with some beautiful pictures and we can plan some special activities for them throughout the month!

(3-5years)

Bluebells

During the month of September we have been exploring changes within the weather and our environment as we come into the Autumn season. We are lucky enough to have a giant conker tree beside one of our walk locations so the Bluebells have been excited to collect conkers and to compare their shapes and sizes!

We have been busy with our health and wellbeing activities throughout the month. We explored the farm fields to see where different fruits grow and discovered apples and blackberries on our journey. We later baked a yummy apple and blackberry crumble together!

Bluebells have also been decorating healthy snack wraps and making smoothies too. We have been practicing mindfulness through breathing exercises including rainbow and bubble breathing. We will be continuing our mindful Monday and Thoughtful Thursday activities which we look forward to sharing with you.

We welcomed back our French and super star sports sessions after the summer break on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Bluebells have been learning lots of new words in French focusing on animal names and numbers through songs. In our sports sessions we have been practicing new skills to promote balance and coordination.

We have also enjoyed marking many celebrations including litter collecting and comparing recycled materials for zero waste day and practicing some key signs and songs as we learnt about international day of sign language. Bluebells also celebrated read a book day as they shared their favourite stories with each other and engaged in lots of story themed activities. We also welcomed Bluebells lovely Grandparents for a stay and play as we celebrated Grandparents day.



(2-3 years)

Lilies

Lilies have had a lovely introduction to Autumn. We have really enjoyed our autumnal walks around the farm collecting conkers, leaves and sticks from our wet and wonderful walks.

Across the month we have explored a range of activities around all of the celebrations! Lilies wrote their very own letters and created a post box too. They then posted their letters into their post box, they had so much fun doing this for letter writing day.

Lilies enjoyed lots of recycled activities during zero waste week, as they made so many different creations with different materials. We had running races with our friends for world fitness day, read lots of stories too for read a book day. And one of our favourite activities of the month was creating a treasure chest and making eye patches. We went on a huge adventure across the field to find the hidden treasure, which contained lots of golden coins.

Next month during October Lilies have a wonderful array of celebrations in which we look forward to sharing with you. Those being, lots of monthly celebrations such as black history month & breast cancer awareness month (plus many more). There is also, harvest festival, world space week, world smile day, recycle week, world singing day, world mental health day and of course Halloween!

There are so many celebrations during October, it's such a busy month full of exciting activities that we look forward to you all seeing.



Take a look at what the rooms have been up to:



Under Two's

Please send over any interests your child has at home, along with some beautiful pictures and we can plan some special activities for them throughout the month!

(15 months - 2 years)

Daisies

This month the Daisies room have been super excited for the return of Jo Jingles! They enjoyed some spider fun, dancing, bubbles and singing. We also had Karen back for some signing where we have been learning different signs for the weather.

We took a couple of trips to the horse field where the children had soe snack, watched the horses together and even gave them a stroke We discussed what they like to eat and where they sleep.

The Daisies enjoyed pirate day! We made eye patches, walked the plank and joined in with some pirate dancing. The children have enjoyed learning how to say "argh" like a pirate and drive the boat in the garden.

We have started to look at autumn and discovered different autumn crafts. So far we have used conkers to roll down a slide with paint and paper. These made great patterns and mixed new colours for us to talk about.

Grandparents day was so much fun! The children enjoyed showing them around the room, interacting together and showing off their singing skills.

Next month we look forward to lots of Autumn fun to continue and Halloween activities!

(3 - 15 months)

Tulips

September has been great, filled with lots of fun activities. 😊

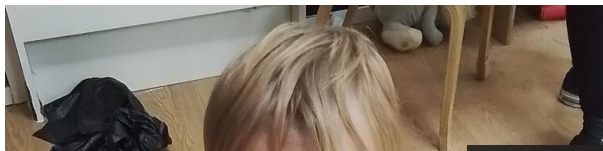
We have been busy exploring different resources! Lots of sensory play and discovering what we can do with them. Treasure basket's were a brilliant opportunity to explore.

We all love getting messy. Our favourite has got to be gloop play and foam play. During this we learnt how to use different things for Filling and emptying containers. The children found this lots of fun.

We are all happy that Jo Jingles has returned after the summer break! We have been learning new songs and have been joining in with actions. 😊

We have spent a lot of time outside too! Whilst the weather is still on our side, we loved playing in the garden whilst climbing on the soft play and playing with the cars.

October will be fun. We have Halloween to look forward to and Lots of craft planned for this. We are also looking forward to space week and what things are going to be set out to explore....



Friendly reminders and upcoming events



Parent Observations Parent/home observations are a great tool for us to be able to see your child's interests at home. It is also lovely to see the things that they are achieving whilst with you!

To add an observation for the key worker to see it :

- Go to journey - Go to new - New observation

It should then pop up as a parent observation on the screen and you can add your observation along with photos and videos by clicking the camera icon. It would also be great if you could share your input into our home activities by uploading photos of your child completing these at home.

New starters:

Please can all new families make sure you have returned your registration forms to us along with a copy of your child's birth certificate and bring their red book with you to their first settle. If you have any questions about your child's room, the way we plan, assessments and more please do not hesitate to contact us by giving us a call!

Autumn/Winter:

As we slowly approach the colder weather, we ask that you start to plan ahead for your child's day at nursery. We will start to need wellies for our walks (if they are not already at nursery) and a thicker coat. Please make sure there are enough changes of clothes in your child's bag so we can change them when needed.

Clothing:

Please can you make sure all clothing items are labelled with your child's name or initials so we can make sure they are returned to the correct family at the end of each session.



The big draw festival - 1st to 31st October

The Big Draw is a month-long festival of drawing activities for young and old alike. During the month-long event there are a whole host of events organised to encourage people to get drawing.

National poetry day - 3rd October

National Poetry Day is day for celebrating poetry's power to bring people together. Celebrated across the UK, it encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends.

World space week - 4th to 10th October

A UN organised week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.

Recycling week - 16th to 22nd October

A week organised by Recycle Now, devoted to encouraging all of us to increase the amount of waste which we recycle.

World singing day - 19th October

World Singing Day is a global sing-along held annually on the 3rd Saturday in October. As a catalyst for positive human connection, this one day each year serves as an opportunity to celebrate our global family through the international language of music.

Halloween - 31st October

The world wide celebration of all things spooky and scary. Halloween is thought to have its roots in the pagan festival of Samhain which was a type of harvest festival. It is celebrated with trick or treating, dressing up and decorations.





important!

Stay and Play for October 230-330pm

Tulips room - 17th October



Lilies room - 21st October

Please email Manager@monkeypuzzleastwick.co.uk to book in



your space





Upcoming Nursery events



Stay and Plays for 2024

October - Tulips Thursday 17th - Lilies Monday 21st

November - Daisies Wednesday 6th - Bluebells Tuesday 19th

December - Tulips Wednesday 4th - Daisies Tuesday 10th - Lilies Tuesday 17th - Bluebells Monday 2nd

Please note we are releasing these dates in advance following the recent feedback from our questionnaire. We will not be taking bookings for your child's room in advance and will be waiting until we release the dates on Famly via a post.

Nursery's Birthday!

To mark the occasion we will be having birthday celebrations on the 2nd October! The office's next door have kindly allowed us to use their space to help celebrate the nursery's 5th birthday together. We are putting on drop in party sessions for each age group next door where you can come and join in even if it is not your child's usual day.

Under 2's 10-1130am
Lilies 1-230pm
Bluebells 3-430pm

We will have soft play, activities for the children to do, Photo Booth and tea, coffee, soft drinks, nibbles & cake! We will also have a donation pot to raise money for SANDS which is a charity very close to our hearts.

We'd love as many of you as possible to be able to join us. Please can you inform us via email at manager@monkeypuzzleastwick.co.uk by 18th September so that we can make sure we have catered for the correct number of people and any dietary requirements.

Thank you!☺

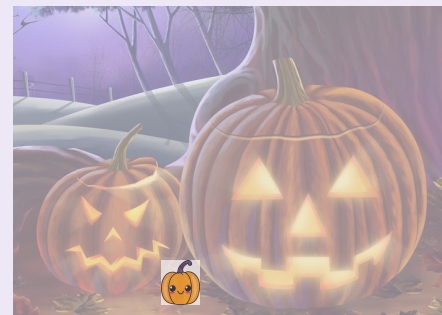


Photographer

10th October - Please see post on Famly to book your child in if they do not attend that date

Halloween

Each room will be holding a Halloween party and the dates are to be confirmed. We will be doing our annual pumpkin patch in the front garden during the week of the 28th October. We cant wait to see all your decorated pumpkins (post on famly to follow in October)



Inset days

Our next inset day will be on the 1st November 2024. On this date the nursery will be closed for staff training and reopen Monday 4th November 2024.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Jumper and party day - 12th December
Christmas dinner day - 18th December

Christmas Holidays

The nursery will be breaking up for Christmas on the 24th December and we will be closing at 3.30 on this date.

We will then be returning in the new year and see you all on the 2nd January 2025!



NEW



PANCO - Katie

Meet Katie our nursery PANCO

What is a PANCO? - The Physical Activity and Nutrition Coordinator (PANCo) is a named and qualified member of staff. They lead on health and wellbeing throughout the nursery and champions the best practice within an early years setting. Katie supports all the rooms with activity ideas and nutrition.

Katie is going to be providing activities, quotes and advice in this section of the newsletter for you all to get involved with too!

Octobers activity -

Autumn is well truly on its way and what better way to celebrate than going for an Autumn scavenger hunt! Walking is a great way to get the whole family out and about and has so many benefits to both physical and mental health. Checklists will be available to take beside the garden gate during drop off and pick ups. If they have gone, please ask a staff member for one. Children are welcome to bring in and show the Autumn treasures they have collected and we would also love for you to share any pictures from your adventures too.

Happy walking! Love Katie ☐

SENCO - Nadia and Carrie

Meet Nadia and Carrie our Nursery SENCO's. Nadia works in our 2-3's room and Carrie works in our 3-5's room.



What is a SENCO? - A special educational needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is a qualified member of staff who is there to support children and families at the early stages of an educational challenge in a child's development.

We have noticed recently that sensory exploration is something that some of the children shy away from. Here is something that you could work on at home alongside the nursery to support them with this...
Play dough making - Mix together some flour, water and paint in a bowl. Encourage them to mix the ingredients with their hands alongside you and explain the textures to them, reassuring them throughout so they feel secure. Then you can use some bits from your nature walks to make autumn playdough pictures, or autumn playdough characters!

Communication champion - Navreet

Meet Navreet our Nursery communication champion.

What is a Communication champion? - A Communication Champion is a key advocate for the development of speech, language and communication for all children within an early years setting. Navreet supports all the rooms with different ways to work on the children's communication and inputs ideas into their routines when noticing a gap in an age group.

Alongside Katie's nature hunt, take the time to communicate with your children about the colour and texture of each item you find. Sound out the first letter and maintain eye contact when pronouncing the word to them. Then encourage them to say it back.



Physical activity for early years (birth – 5 years)

Active children are healthy, happy,
school ready and sleep better



BUILDS
RELATIONSHIPS
& SOCIAL SKILLS



MAINTAINS
HEALTH &
WEIGHT



CONTRIBUTES TO
BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
& LEARNING



IMPROVES
SLEEP



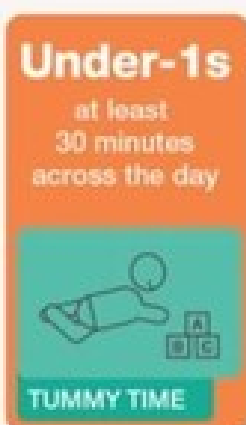
DEVELOPS
MUSCLES
& BONES



ENCOURAGES
MOVEMENT
& CO-ORDINATION

Every movement counts

Aim for at least
180
Minutes
per day
for children 1-5 years



Get Strong. Move More. Break up inactivity

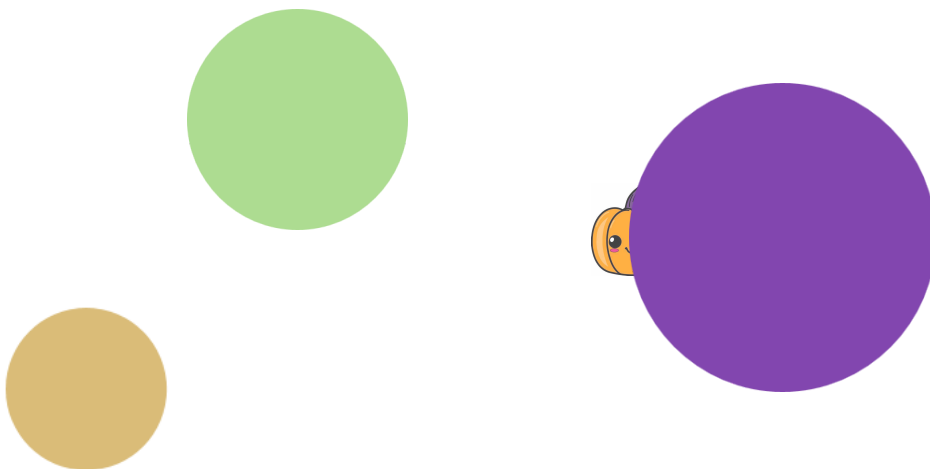
UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines, 2019

Thank you 🍌



Thank you all for your continuous support and participation within the nursery!

Follow our social media pages!
Tap on the Icon below to explore....



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
**Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery
Astwick**

HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AS A
Top 20 Rated
Nursery in
East of England

Huge thank you to those who have taken the time to review us. We are so grateful to be voted as a top nursery in East of England. →



