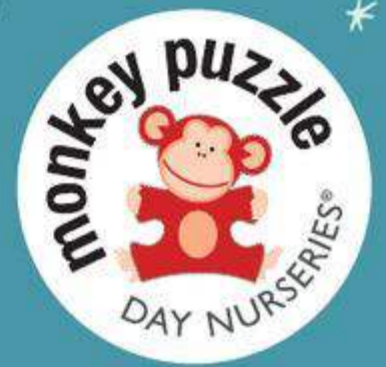


Astwick Newsletter



April 2025

Nursery Updates:

Throughout March:

- We took part in celebrating our staff alongside international women's day. We are grateful for all their hard work and care they give the children everyday.
- The Mother's day stay and plays went well and the children loved spending that time with you all, showing you their nursery setting and what they get up to.
- We raised £291 for comic relief with our two day bake sale and wearing red. There was lots of baking activities and fun had in the rooms to make some goodies to sell. Thank you for the parent donations of cakes to sell to!
- The rooms all took part in world book day, there was lots of amazing costumes ☺

Throughout April:

- Parents evenings month!! Please see page 6 for dates. These have also been posted on Famly and the clip boards are out the front of the nursery.
- We start our Easter activities and crafts, which we are all very excited about. We would love for you to share some pictures with us on Famly of what you get up to during the Easter weekend ☺
- As the weather starts to warm up, we look forward to planting in the front garden. If you have any gardening tips please do share them with us.
- We are holding an easter bonnet competition. Send in a picture or come in wearing your decorated Easter bonnet on 17th April for an Easter party. We will announce a winner on the 24th April ☺☺



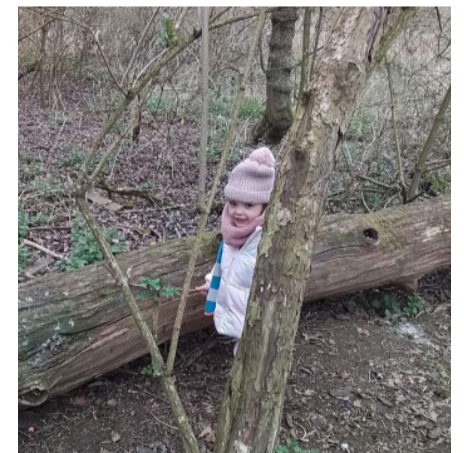
Fees -

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!

Inset days

Tuesday 28th October 2025



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!

(3-5 years)

Bluebells

We have had such a busy month of activities in Bluebells! We finally welcomed some sunshine and all of Bluebells have been enjoying spending lots of time outdoors and exploring the farm on our walks. Bluebells have been especially excited to see the new baby lambs in the fields!

We have had lots of lovely celebrations including St David's day and St Patrick's day. Bluebells have been creating many crafts to celebrate these including making play dough daffodils and painting shamrocks.

Bluebells enjoyed pancake day as we explored the ingredients needed to make pancakes and shared our favourite toppings! We created our own pancake batter and of course enjoyed some yummy pancakes at tea time.

World book day was excitedly anticipated by all the children! Bluebells enjoyed sharing with each other their favourite books and characters and showed their amazing costumes down our world book day red carpet walk!

Science has continued to be a strong interest throughout the room so it was perfect timing to celebrate British science week. We created our own volcano and designed new planets for the solar system. We also explored how materials and colours can change when combined together.

Bluebells were brilliant bakers to help with our comic relief bake sale too. We baked some sprinkle cupcakes and chocolate fridge cakes and delivered some leaflets to our local businesses during our walks to invite them along.

We can't wait to get started with our April and Easter activities. We will be sharing these with you soon!☺



(2-3 years)

Lilies

During the month of March, Lilies have explored lots of different activities. They have really enjoyed our walks where they have been on lots of nature hunts discovering new flowers and birds.

During the celebrations we have created daffodils for Saint David's day and for pancake day, Lilies made their own pancake with Play-Doh, adding their own toppings to decorate it.

Lilies really enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book character and reading the books they bought in from home. During brain awareness this week, Lilies added different colours and textures when we creating their own brain. We discussed how they think with their brains and what may look like.

This month we also loved helping with our bake sale. For this they created their own treats to sell. We made biscuits and cakes!

There are a few celebrations coming up in April, which we will look forward to discovering together such as sibling day. If you are able to send over pictures of your child and their sibling for us to explore and look at that would be great. This is the same for international pet day, please send us pictures of your pets. We will be looking at animals and which ones are pets and which ones aren't.

There is also other celebrations such as unicorn day, Earth Day and penguin day, which we will be exploring activities based around these. As well as going on an Easter egg hunt over the field to see if the Easter bunny has left us any eggs.



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

The Daisies have enjoyed lots of celebrations throughout the month, learning new skills along the way.

We have been busy with lots of arts and crafts around St Patrick's day and Mother's day. For St Patrick's day the Daisies focused on colours and making rainbows together. We also danced to some Irish music, learning how to move our feet quickly.

There has been lots of creativity whilst making some little gifts for our mummy's for Mother's day too.

World Book Day was lots of fun, there was lots of great outfits too! The children enjoyed tuff trays based on their favourite books. We had some new stories delivered which we listened to and pointed out some of the familiar characters.

There has been some visits to the park, enjoying the swing and slide. The Daisies are getting very good at climbing up the steps to access the slide independently!

We also went to visit the horses at the church. The owner brought the horse over to see us and talked to the children about what he likes to eat and do in the day.

Our Mother's day stay and play was lots of fun, thank you all for joining us. We hope you enjoyed it too.

For Red Nose Day the children enjoyed baking some yummy cakes to sell. They used the spoons to mix the ingredients and also helped decorate them with sprinkles.

We are really looking forward to Easter crafts and the fun to come in April. We would also love to see what you get up to over the Easter weekend so please do share pictures with us.



(3 - 15 months)

Tulips

This month in Tulips we have had lots of fun in the garden and on trips to the park, where we have enjoyed playing on the swings and the slide.

We celebrated St David's day by making handprint daffodils. We enjoyed getting creative for World Wildlife Day, colouring in some bugs using paint sticks. We also created butterflies with our footprints. We looked out for wildlife when going on our trips out and about, such as bird watching, seeing the sheep and spotting the horses in the field.

We enjoyed Pancake Day by exploring the playdough, making our own shaped pancakes and also got to eat some yummy pancakes at tea time with fruit and ice cream. What a lovely treat!

We have celebrated World Book Day and had lots of fun dressing up as our favourite characters. Staff and children all joined in. We listened to stories and explored theme-related tuff trays to our favourite books.

We also celebrated British Science Week by exploring gloop, this is a fun consistency to play with when wet and then different again when it dries. It's one of our favourites to have out to play.

We enjoyed participating in lots of arts and crafts for St Patrick's day. This involved painting shamrocks, singing songs about rainbows and also learnt some sign language for the colours.

Alongside all this we also celebrated Red Nose Day, dressing up in red and baking to raise money for Comic Relief.

Our favourite this month has to be our Mother's day stay and play. We enjoyed spending time with you all and also making some surprises for you all too.



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!

Spring/Summer:

As we slowly approach the warmer weather, we ask that you start to plan ahead for your child's day at nursery. We will start to need sun hats for our walks and garden time (if they are not already at nursery) and lighter spare clothing in their bags. 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.



April fools day – 1st April

Celebrated all over the world as a morning of jokes and tricks. But don't play a trick after noon - or you are the fool!

World Autism day - 2nd April

Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all through the month of April to increase understanding and acceptance and foster worldwide support.

Siblings Day – 10th April

Based on traditional Indian festival of Rakshabandhan, which is hundreds of years old, honouring the relationships of siblings.

Easter day - 20th April

Easter is the Christian celebration of Christ's resurrection. It has been adopted across the world as a secular spring festival, celebrated by exchanging chocolate eggs and eating family meals and focusing on symbols such as eggs, rabbits and chicks.

Earth day –22nd April

Worldwide event to raise awareness of the environmental issues which face the whole of planet Earth. The Earth Day organisation campaigns on environmental issues worldwide and promotes sustainability and reducing pollution.

St Georges day – 23rd April

The annual celebration of England's patron saint is not a national holiday in England, however it is celebrated by flying the English flag and by taking part in traditional English activities such as morris dancing.

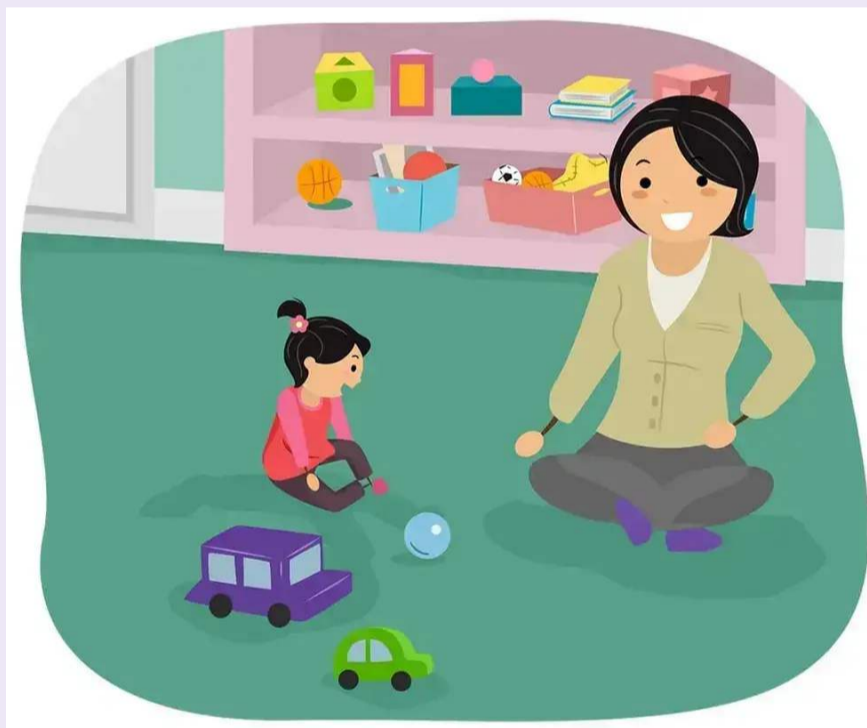
World dance day – 29th April

A celebration day for those who can see the value and importance of the art form "dance", and acts as a wake-up-call for governments, politicians and institutions which have not yet recognised its value.

important!

Stay and Play 230-330pm

Lilies - 9th April



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



your space



Upcoming Nursery events

Stay and Plays for 2025

Following on from your parent survey results, Our stay and play sessions are now one room a month. Please see below for the first 6months:

April - Lilies 9th
May - Bluebells 20th
June - Tulips 6th, Daisies 11th, Lilies 23rd, Bluebells 20th
July - Tulips 1st
August - Daisies 7th
September (Grandparents day) - Tulips 25th, Daisies 17th, Lilies 15th, Bluebells 9th
October - Lilies 14th
November - Bluebells 14th
December - Tulips 3rd, Daisies 5th, Lilies 9th, Bluebells 17th

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.

Inset days 2025

- Tuesday 28th October 2025

On this date the nursery will be closed for staff training and reopen the following day.



Parents evening



8th April - Daisies & Lilies (Darci in Daisies will be doing hers on 16th April)
16th April - Tulips and Bluebells



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!

April -

Easter Bunny Bark

Here is a fun and healthy snack to make and enjoy between Easter activities!

- Spread natural yoghurt over a baking tray or the bottom of a Tupperware in a flat layer. You can use any other type of yoghurt such as coconut or soya.

- Top with your favourite fruits. Berries always work well! You could even make a carrot cake version topping the yoghurt layer with grated carrot, low sugar granola, banana slices and raisins.

- Add some Easter cake sprinkles and pop in the freezer. Once frozen break the bark into small pieces and enjoy!

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.

April - This month we are trying to encourage the children to try different foods. This can also be done at home, just by starting to talk about the different food groups and understanding what could be healthy or unhealthy. At nursery we will start by doing fun activities such as healthy food plates by sticking and gluing pictures of fruit or vegetables and a variety of healthy foods to see which ones they would pick. Then discussing the health benefits of the healthy foods and exploring the taste later in the month.



**Picky Eaters Vs. Problem Feeders**

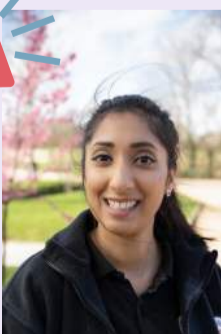
What is a picky eater?	What is a problem feeder?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eats at least one food from most texture groups e.g crunchy, chewy, mushy, but may not like a variety of food in each groupCan manage new food on their plate and will try a new food with encouragementIf a child gets tired of a particular food, it can eventually be reintroduced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eats less than 20 foodsProgressively phases out foods until their diet becomes extremely limitedGags or vomits when eating certain foodsRefuses particular food textures or colorsCan't tolerate being around people eating foods they don't like

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.

Something to support communication for April - As it's Mother's day and they all enjoyed baking for our comic relief bake sale, it would be nice for you to do some baking with your child to make some Mother's day cup cakes. Let them talk about ingredients with you, the process of what needs adding. And for the younger ones use repetitive words such as "mix mix". Enjoy decorating them together and exploring all the colours of the decorations you can add.

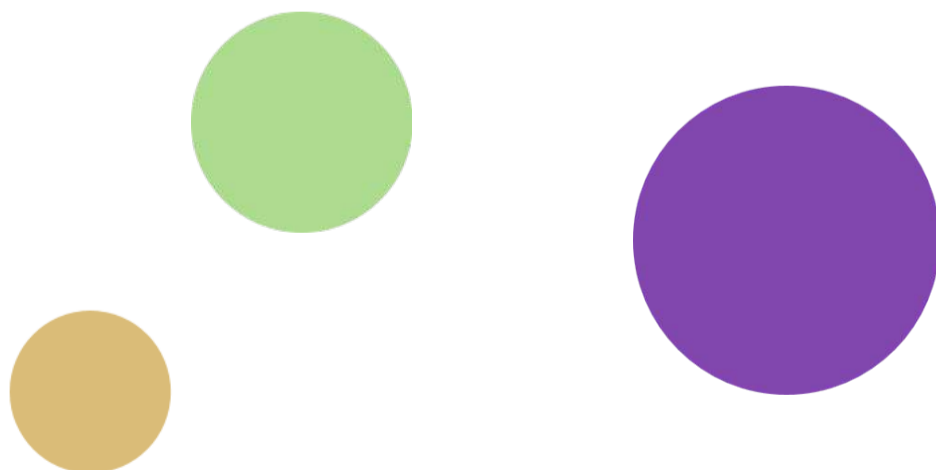


Thank you



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

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



Over the next few days we would really appreciate if you can leave us some reviews via the QR code.
Last year we were named in the top 20 nurseries in the East of the England and we would love to retain this but need you to share your experiences to do so!



 daynurseries.co.uk

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO
REVIEW US**

Scan the QR code below and enter your review on daynurseries.co.uk for Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery Astwick



Alternatively, visit daynurseries.co.uk/submitreview or pick up a daynurseries.co.uk review card