

# Astwick Newsletter

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**Top 20 Nursery**

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## December 2025

### Nursery Updates:

#### Throughout November:

- We raised £196.80 for children in need. Thank you for all your contributions and still supporting us during the awful weather for our cake stool.
- The children have seen some snow and started to investigate frozen things they can see around the farm such as leaves and icicles.
- There has been lots of tractors working around the farm this month. The children have enjoyed talking about the different colours, what they are doing and why they are doing it.

#### Throughout December:

- The countdown to Christmas begins! We are all ready for the fun festive activities this month.
- We will be holding our room Christmas stay and plays so make sure you get booked on before the spaces run out.
- The nursery will be taking part in Christmas jumper day. On the 11th December your child is welcome to come into nursery wearing a Christmas jumper and we kindly ask for a £1 donation towards the charity.
- The children will learn about new years eve and the Chinese new year celebrations/animal.
- Our Christmas party will be held on Wednesday 10th December. The rooms will be organising lots of festive fun
- Our Christmas dinner will be happening on Friday 19th December.

#### 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.

*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.*

## important!

#### Inset days 2026

- 23rd April
- 30th October

Here is our donation page ☞



# 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!

### (3years 6months -5years)

#### Bluebells

It's been a busy month for us in Bluebells! We've been learning about different occupations, having fun exploring seasons in forest school and enjoying talking about emotions, why we may feel these, as well as enjoying the different celebrations of this month too...

The big topic has been about different occupations and what they each do. We've enjoyed exploring these in different ways and have all had a chance to role play some of the roles out too. (This has included being a vet, doctor or nurse, artist, firefighter, police person and teacher to name a few!)

Linking to this, we have really enjoyed talking about people who help us - mainly about emergency services and what they do. We've been discussing who we should call in an emergency and what they may do when they arrive to help us!

As the weather begins to change along with the leaves falling off the trees, we have enjoyed talking and engaging in activities to do with seasons and how they change. This has included on our forest school walks where we have enjoyed using the fallen leaves and sticks to create hedgehogs, insect houses and other creations too!

Of course, we've really enjoyed exploring our new room this month as we engaged in activities using our new toys and room layout. We have all really enjoyed our new emotion station where we have some new stories and emotion buddies to help us explore why we feel different emotions and what we can do to resolve any 'negative' ones.

This month we have celebrated fireworks night, science day, remembrance day, children in need and world kindness day to name a few. We have been busy making pictures using different materials (for example our salt firework paintings!) to talk about during circle times. We have also been talking briefly about why we have Remembrance Day and helped to make Poppy pictures too. We very much enjoyed raising money for children in need, dressing up in spots and having lots of activities out in the room to match this also!

### (2years 6months -3 years 6months)

#### Lilies

Lilies have had a lovely November. Firstly I want to say how amazing the children have been with all the translations of moving the room around! They all play so lovely in our new room and have been looking after it well!

For bonfire night we explored chalk and how to smudges to make some fire works! We also spared paint with some Clingfilm painting too, to make more fireworks!

On children in need day we had an arts and craft morning where we made some yellow headbands with coloured spots all over, and decorated our own Pudsey!

During our walks we have been exploring different textures on the trees and leaves. When it has been frosty we have been working out how it all melts and using our hands to melt it all!

For remembrance Sunday we used cork to stamp out some poppies.

Coming up in December we are getting ready for Christmas! We will also be looking at human rights day on the 10th of December, where we will look at different countries and how they all live! On the 11th of December it's world jumper day so come in your best festive clothing ! And on the 21st of December it's national robin day!



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



## Two Years / Forest school

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 years to 5 years)**

### Forest school this month

This month in forest school we have been looking at Winter and how the weather is changing our environment around us now it is getting colder.

The children have had fun making hedgehogs using clay and sticks. They couldn't wait to show all the practitioners their hedgehogs.

We have been looking into how the trees are changing and what the animals need more throughout winter approaching. The children have shown a real interest in making sure the birds will have enough food and how they can make bird feeders for their gardens.

One of our favourite activities has been the new aeroplane. The children have been learning how to use the trigger to fire the plane into the sky. There has been different techniques used and the children have worked together to figure out different approaches each time to see if they can get it to go higher. Once up in the air, they enjoyed running to catch it.

We have also explored fire! The children learnt how to make a fire with Michela and discussed the safety of the tools used during this.

The last few weeks we have been using the saws to cut up bits of wood and create our own Christmas decorations!

**(2 - 2yr 6 months)**

### Buttercups

This month we have started our Buttercups room!

Throughout the month of November we have enjoyed exploring our new room and going out on adventures to the field. The cows have even come over to say hello. We also collected natural resources to bring back to the nursery and used them for painting!

The children have been learning how to make their own playdough and added the ingredients step by step with Darci and Ellie.

There has been lots of water play, using the new science tubes and tools to pour/transport it around.

During our circle times we have used a variety of musical instruments to have our own dance party and create new friendships together.

During story time we have been reading all the "that's not my books" and discussing the textures of each animal on each page. Alongside this we discussed colours and identified the colours of each animal.

To get into the wintery spirit, we started some Christmas tuff trays. We started off with making our own ice skating rink and pretended to skate around inside.



# 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 in Daisies we have been focusing on road safety and teaching the children some basic rules. Alongside this we made our own traffic lights! We then used these in play whilst on the bike in the garden. The traffic lights were also used for colour recognition where we matched our colour pom poms to the traffic light dots.

Whilst out on our adventures we explored the change in nurture and all the different textures of items eg: icicles, frozen leaves, tree bark etc. We have also been discussing different animals and bug that are more common around this season. The children then explored hedgehogs and worked on their fine motor skills to make their own hedgehogs with threading and apple with spaghetti to make the spikes.

We have enjoyed signing and exploring signs for Family, as well as signs for our needs to help communicate what we are after.

We have been getting creative with different crafts - using water colours for painting, making 3D crafts with our hand prints and exploring Christmas crafts ready for Christmas bags.

We have worked on our emotions and different ways to express this rather than using our hands. This has included the colour monster book, mini group activities to take turns and Jo Jingles games to encourage communication to our peers.



### (3 - 15 months)

#### Tulips

We began November in Tulips celebrating firework night. We explored a bonfire tuff tray through feeling the textures of natural sticks and leaves and exploring the colours of red, yellow and orange sensory scarves. The babies made their own amazing firework pictures through stamping texture brushes in colourful paints, each of these creating a different effect. As we painted we listened to some of the crackling and whizzing sounds of real fireworks!

We marked Remembrance Day exploring poppies through creating hand print poppies and printing with apples to create a poppy effect.

Nursery rhymes are always a favourite in Tulips and we had a great time celebrating these! We have been exploring the different sounds we can create with musical instruments through tapping and shaking movements as we developed these skills. We have been exploring our nursery rhyme puppets to accompany familiar songs and of course practicing many actions too.

We have also focused on cars and transport as we explored road safety week. We have been using vehicles within our mark making activities such as rolling them through flour to make tracks.

We look forward to sharing all of our festive activities with you next month!



# 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 Wellie's, coats and hats for our walks and garden time (if they are not already at nursery) and warmer, long sleeve 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.

### Advent begins – 1st December

Advent is the 24 days leading up to Christmas, when Christians prepare for Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting Advent Candles and opening the doors of Advent calendars.

### Christmas party day – 10th December

The rooms will be having a mini Christmas party full of dancing, bubbles, lights and party games!

### Christmas Jumper day – 11th December

Christmas Jumper Day is organised by Save The Children to raise money to help children around the world. You can join in by wearing a Christmas Jumper and making a £1 donation.

### Hanukkah – 14th to 22nd December

The Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire.

### Christmas dinner day – 19th December

Our annual Christmas dinner day!! Where a roast dinner replaces our normal lunch menu. The children make decorations for the table, party hats and enjoy Christmas dinner together.

### National Robin Day – 21st December

An annual nationwide event raising awareness of small birds and other wildlife in winter and how you can help them through this tough time of year.

### Christmas eve – 24th December

On the day before Christmas, it is your last chance to buy presents and get them wrapped, or just sit back, relax and anticipate the big day!

### New years eve – 31st December

It is the last day of the year, so let's look forward to 2026 and celebrate the coming year.

# *important!*

**Christmas Stay and Play's 230-330pm**

Tulips 3rd

Daisies 5th

Buttercups 16th

Lilies 9th

Bluebells 17th



Please email [Manager@monkeypuzzleastwick.co.uk](mailto: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:**

December - (Christmas) Tulips 3rd, Daisies 5th, Buttercups 16th, Lilies 9th, Bluebells 17th

## Inset days 2026

- Thursday 23rd April
- Friday 30th October

## Stay and Plays - 2026

**Please note, following feedback we are releasing these dates in advance so you can try to attend at least one session throughout the year (should you choose to) around your working schedules with enough time to make arrangements.**

**We will not be posting on Family for stay and play sessions each month going forwards, you can email and book in for your child's rooms stay and play as and when is convenient for you. Each month they will remain in the newsletter for you to keep checking. Each session will still be for the children who attend the setting on the dates below and with limited spaces per room.**

January 20th - Tulips

February 11th - Daisies

Mothers day special in March - Tulips 2nd, Daisies 19th, Bluebells 25th, Lilies 6th, Bluebells 23rd

April 27th - Buttercups

May 26th - Lilies

Fathers day special in June - Tulips 12th, Daisies 8th, Buttercups 16th, Lilies 29th, Bluebells 4th

July 22nd - Bluebells

August 20th - Tulips

September 14th - Daisies

Grandparents day special in October - Tulips 8th, Daisies 20th, Buttercups 19th, Lilies 28th, Bluebells 26th

November 17th - Buttercups

Christmas special in December - Tulips 14th, Daisies 3rd, Buttercups 18th, Lilies 15th, Bluebells 10th



## Christmas Lights Switch On

### Schedule

Sat Nov 29 2025 at 04:00 pm to 07:00 pm  
UTC+00:00

### Location

The High Street, Stotfold | Hitchin, EN



Friday 12th December 2025 - Sunday 14th December 2025

### The Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival 2025

 Holy Saviour Church, Radcliffe Road, Hitchin, SG5 1QG

 N/A

 <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Held every year since 1997 in Holy Saviour Church during the second weekend in December, the **Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival** is believed to be the oldest established Christmas Tree Festival in Britain.

Around 50 trees are displayed, each decorated by an individual, school, family, local group or business to illustrate a theme of their choice. The effect in this beautiful Butterfield church is magical. Live music is featured throughout the weekend, and hot and cold lunches and teas are served in the adjacent hall. We expect to welcome over 2,000 visitors over the Festival weekend.

#### Times of Opening:

12th December 2.30pm - 6pm

13th and 14th December 12noon - 6pm


Admission £5.00 (Children free)

## Christmas Tractor Run 2025 - Baldock, Letchworth, Hitchin

 Sunday 21 December 2025

 [St Marys Car Park, Queen Street, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 9TN](#)

**Time:** 18:00 - 20:00

 **The Tractors... Are Coming back this on Sunday 21st December 2025! In aid of Garden House Hospice Care. Hertfordshire's biggest FREE community event!**

### EVENT DETAILS

Join us for a magical evening as festively decorated tractors light up the streets in support of a great cause! Expect twinkling lights, holiday cheer, and a joyful community atmosphere!

### TIMES & LOCATIONS

- **6:00pm - Baldock:** Convoy begins in Clothall Road, Baldock, making its way through the High Street.
- **6:45pm - Letchworth:** Arrives in Letchworth via Pixmore Way, into Norton Way South and up Gernon Road before making its way down Eastcheap, Leys Avenue and Broadway Gardens.
- **7:30pm - Hitchin:** Leads into Hitchin via Hitchin Road, ending at St Marys Car Park for the perfect finale of fairground rides, treats and all the thank yous we can offer!



## 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!

## December -

Here are some physical games and activities to keep children active throughout Christmas time!

Christmas yoga- Try some Christmas themed yoga poses. Yoga is brilliant to support children with balance and coordination and enhances mental wellbeing. For some inspiration here is a Christmas yoga video below.

*tap  
here*

Christmas hunt- Hide a Christmas decoration in the garden or indoors and have a race to see who can find it first. This is a great way to stay both mentally and physically active. With older children this could be adapted to add clues and involve their problem solving skills!

Christmas dance party- Put on your favourite Christmas songs to have a dance to. You can include party games such as musical statues/bumps to encourage listening and attention skills too.

Here are also some healthy Christmas treats which can be made out of different fruits and vegetables.

*tap  
here*



## SENCO - Nadia

### Meet Nadia 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.

## December

As Christmas approaches and activities start to become more festive, there is going to be chance for your child to experience textures of materials that they may not have explored before! Modelling the language of how it feels and encouraging children to explore textures is a brilliant thing to do at home also, and can be done with many things you may already have at home!

To create some sensory bags with your child, grab a ziplock bag and grab some household items that can imitate Christmassy things, such as snow or scents you may have too! With your child, explore this before putting these in a ziplock bag to explore some more! For older children, get their fine motor skills working by making these bags have a mini activity to do, for example "can you push all the cotton wool into the middle of the snowman outline?". (For this you may need some oil!)

## 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.



# Thank you



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

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We would really appreciate it if you get the time to leave us a review... →

 [daynurseries.co.uk](http://daynurseries.co.uk)

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