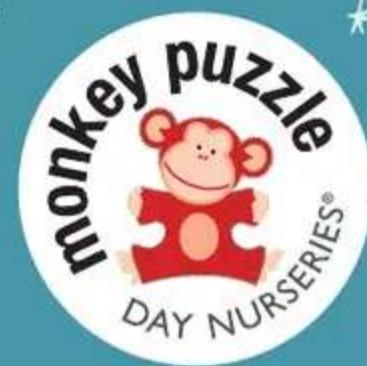


Astwick Newsletter

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Top 20 Nursery

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February 2026

Nursery Updates:

Throughout January:

- Our amazing chef Kelly got 5* from her EHO inspection!
- The children have got stuck back into routine and exploring the new activities provided in their rooms.
- We started trialling the new menu within the rooms. These will be sent out for you all to see over the next coming week.
- Our Forest school children have continued to build fires and added the addition of toasting a marshmallow!
- We have changed the additional classes being held for under two's. Each room has one additional class held throughout - Tulips and Daisies have Jo Jingles with Karen, Buttercups and Lilies have Signing with Becky, Bluebells have sports with coach Nick.

Throughout February:

- We are looking forward to pancake day activities!
- The children will learn about Valentines day and create some beautiful masterpieces to share with Family and Friends
- Children's mental health week is this month. A huge part of our everyday practise is supporting the children's emotions and wellbeing through routine and activities. We will be posting updates on Famly for you all on how we will be supporting and raising awareness of mental health in children throughout the rooms.
- Keep your eyes peeled on Famly for Katie's upcoming pancake competition! Prizes to be won....

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 2026

- 23rd April
- 30th October



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!

(3years 6months -5years)

Bluebells

This month in Bluebells we have been practising our writing skills and the control of holding tools during this. The children have explored this through many forms of messy play as well as using a pen and paper.

During the rain we created experiments inside. One of the children's favourites was our painting wheel. The children helped to add different coloured paint onto a roll of paper, before taking it in turns to roll a tyre along the paper. The colours would mix together and we would discuss what new colour's had been created. Alongside this the children would see how far they could get the paint to stretch along the paper, whilst creating tyre track marks. The different speeds of the wheel were also tested and discussed.

During our walks we have taken part in a nature scavenger hunt. During this we looked for woodland animals and discussed their homes. The children also spotted some animal tracks to which we investigated and discussed which animal it could be.

A big interest this month has been obstacle courses which the children have explored both inside and outside. They have taken part building these courses, discussing the risks and safety, as well as then independently completing the course.

During the cold weather, the children have discussed what else is cold. A lot of the children came up with ice cream. Following this they decided to create their own ice cream shop to which they would make ice creams from cloud dough and serve different flavours to each other.



(2years 6months -3 years 6months)

Lilies

Lilies have had a brilliant month. We celebrated the new year by making fire works, using glitter and glue with lots of patterns being explored. We also made some firework explosions with a science experiment. This involved using milk and washing up liquid, food colouring and mixing it all together for coloured explosions. For Burns night we created our own fire pictures and discussed how to put a Fire out.

We have also enjoyed some snowy adventures out on the farm! The children expressed how beautiful the farm looked and explored mark marking in the snow. We discussed textures, colours and temperatures of the snow too. The children learnt about the animals on the farm and how wildlife need to keep warm/hibernate.

In February we will be exploring Valentines and talking about who is special to us. There will of course be some lovely crafts alongside this too. As its shrove Tuesday, we will be exploring how to make pancakes. During this we will discuss healthy eating and what we can add to our pancakes that gives us energy and supports out immune systems.



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 continued to develop our skills with building and lighting mini fires.

Once the fire was ready, the children enjoyed taking it in turns to toast a marshmallow. They also discussed how the texture of the marshmallow had changed and what it felt like now. After each fire Michela would explain how to safely put the fire out.

On the adventures out to forest school, the children have also been collecting items that they could use to create our clay faces! The children moulded a face shape out of the clay alongside the practitioner and used their collection of resources (such as leaves, stones, branches, grass) - to create their own face in the clay, reflecting how they were feeling today.

The children have also enjoyed a wildlife hunt whilst walking to and from the forest school areas. They discovered some fox and rabbit holes, to which they then discussed why they create these holes and tunnels. They have also looked at birds nests and discussed where hedgehogs may rest in this cold winter time.



(2 - 2yr 6 months)

Buttercups

This month in buttercups we have been exploring science! The children have taken part in some science experiments, discussing the ingredients and equipment needed at the start to then create something and explore the outcome. One example is where we used pipets and mixed ingredients together into a test tube, practising our fine motor skills and showing excitement when the tube began to bubble over.

We also used fine motor skills development as a focus throughout the month. The children created their own fruit station. They learnt how to hold their knives carefully and properly, to then chop up some fruit with support. Next they fed the fruit onto a skewer to create their own fruit kebabs, which they later enjoyed for snack. Alongside this they also developed their skills by threading pasta shapes onto pipe cleaners and created their own bracelets at the end of it all.

At the start of the month the children enjoyed exploring lots of new year arts and crafts around fireworks and the Chinese new year animal.

Buttercups have shown a real interest in colour mixing which we continued to support them with in December and January. They used a variety of tools throughout the month to mix paint colours together and experience the colour change.



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've enjoyed exploring the cold weather through activities inside and exploring outside too! Daisies enjoyed exploring a habitat tuff tray where we learnt keywords such as "hot" and "cold" and used the animals to explore the textures of the different materials. Similarly, Daisies enjoyed exploring the snow in the garden, rolling it into balls and making footprints in this too!

We've embraced the outdoors lots this month, and have enjoyed going on walks to the fields on the farm, as well as going to the park to explore too! Here, we've enjoyed activities surrounding natural materials and lots of imaginative play also.

Inside, we've been busy practising our colour recognition using different mark making activities such as car rolling, beanbag throwing and fingerprint painting also.

Throughout the month, we have been enjoying talking about the colour monster story in our sensory room - beginning to recognise colours and talking about who makes us happy! We've enjoyed yoga and calming activities too, such as using the magic lights!



(3 - 15 months)

Tulips

We have had a lovely January in Tulips, welcoming everybody back after the Christmas break!

We began the month with some exciting snowy weather, which we continued to explore throughout our play and activities. We created our own snow paintings using brushes and sponges as we developed our mark making skills. We also explored snow dough in the tuff tray which we made into a snowman.

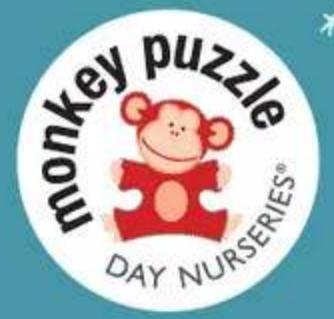
We have been exploring our kitchen and play foods within our home area, along with utensils to support our early imaginative play as we learn about the world. We have also investigated real food textures such as oats and flour in the tuff tray, which we practiced our transporting skills with to move these into different bowls and containers.

Animals have been a keen interest throughout the month and we have been learning the sounds they make through our stories and puppets! We even explored these with our sensory light torches as we projected the animal pictures onto the wall.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for February and look forward to sharing them with you.



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!



Winter/Spring:

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.

National storytelling week – 31st January to 8th February

A week for the promotion of the oral tradition of storytelling, the very first way of communicating life experiences and the creative imagination.

This week we will be focusing on your children's favourite stories. If you have any at home that your children absolutely love, feel free to bring them into nursery for the day so we can read them at circle time.

Child's mental health week – 9th to 15th February

Shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health, raises awareness and campaigns for all children to have access to mental health support.

We will be focusing on emotions and how important it is to speak to an adult when they are sad or worried.

National hedgehog day - 2nd February

This is the European version of Groundhog Day, dating back to Roman times. It is also a day to remember that UK hedgehog populations are shrinking, and to celebrate all things hedgehog.

The children will learn all about how we can help hedgehogs during this cold season and what we can create to help them in their natural habitat.

Safer Internet day – 10th February

A day to help raise awareness of online safety issues in your home, school, workplace or community, not just on Safer Internet Day but all year round.

The older rooms will be looking at internet safety and asking an adult to use devices.

Winter Olympics – 6th to 22nd February

The world's biggest winter sporting event, held every four years. In 2026 it will be held in Milano Cortina, Italy.

We will be learning about all the different sports and trialling these out in the rooms.

St Valentines day – 14th February

The annual celebration of love is the day when we take the opportunity to tell the people we love just how much they mean to us. Traditionally one should send a card and a gift such as chocolates or flowers to the one that you love.

The rooms will be talking all about people are special to them and making things to take home to their families.

important!

Stay and Play's 230-330pm

Daisies - 11th February



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



your space



Upcoming Nursery events

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.

February 11th - Daisies

Mothers day special in March - Tulips 2nd, Daisies 19th, Buttercups 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

2026

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!

February -

Making pancakes is a great opportunity for your little ones to try new flavours and textures! They are also very adaptable and ingredients can easily be substituted for others to suit dietary needs. Please see the link below with lots of recipes for sweet and savoury pancakes below.☑

tap
here



SENCO and Oral Health lead - 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.

February

Throughout the nursery this month, we have enjoyed the colour monster story and linking this to our own emotions. In the under 2s, we've enjoyed sensory toys and colour sorting as we begin to practise the signs and names for each emotion. We've enjoyed mark making to explore this also, paint dabbing a giant colour monster and enjoying sensory bags too.

In the over 2s, we've been exploring why we feel each emotion and talking about reasons for this also. We've discussed this whilst exploring activities such as gluing and sticking, science experiments and colour sorting with pom poms.

At home, why not try making some sensory bags or bottles of your own? Use materials from around the house such as oil, glitter or pom poms and explore the textures of these with your child. Then discuss the colours you can see and link this to the colour monster story!

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.

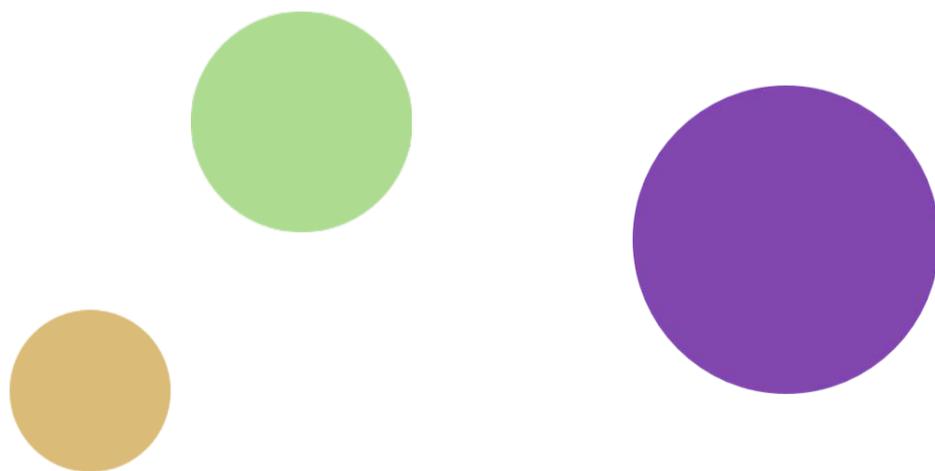


Thank you



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

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