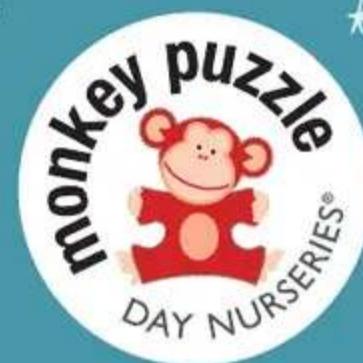


Astwick Newsletter

Proud to be a
Top 20 Nursery

daynurseries.co.uk



January 2026

Nursery Updates:

Throughout December:

- We raised £64 for Christmas Jumper day towards their charity, Thank you very much.
- The rooms have enjoyed sharing Christmas activities with you for the Christmas stay and plays.
- We had lots of fun during Christmas party day and Christmas dinner day!
- We hope you all have the best Christmas break and we can not wait to hear all about what you have got up to.

See you all in 2026!!



Throughout January:

- We look forward to starting our new menu's
- The rooms are ready to welcome you all back after your holiday celebrations
- Please share with the rooms any Christmas celebration/Holiday photos you have so we can print them off and create tuff trays to help settle the children back into the nursery

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.

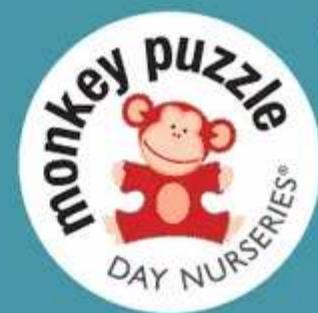
important!

Inset days 2026

- 23rd April
- 30th October



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 the children have super busy in activities all to do with Christmas. They have enjoyed lots of messy play activities in gloop, painting, play dough and water play. They have enjoyed walks to forest school and a lot of outdoor play. We have had our Christmas party, Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner as well. The children have all been super excited for Christmas and they loved having Elvis the Elf come to visit from the North Pole. They have enjoyed seeing all of the silly things he has been up to.

The children have enjoyed creating their Christmas crafts to take home for Christmas. They all made a Christmas card, calendar, ornaments for their trees at home and many other things. They enjoyed playing in some gloop which was a melted snowman and the children all enjoyed exploring the texture on the gloop/adding different things into it to make it look like a snowman.

They have enjoyed playing with playdough, where they had to create it to look like candy cane. They have been practicing their wrapping skills where they have been wrapping presents like they do at Santa's work shop and they even got to write a letter to Santa.

The children enjoyed their Christmas party where they played a game of pass the parcel and each time a child won a toy. They enjoyed some dancing to Christmas songs and for their tea they had party food.

The children enjoyed Christmas dinner, where they wore their Christmas jumpers and had their dinner whilst listening to Christmas music. They have also enjoyed taking part in a polar express experience where they created a train out of their trains and they had their golden tickets. They enjoyed some hot chocolate too!. They have also enjoyed some Christmas face painting.

We hope you all have an amazing Christmas and we will see you all in 2026

(2years 6months -3 years 6months)

Lilies

We have had such a fun Christmassy month of December!

We have been practicing our scissor skills with helping to cut Santa beard out of curled paper and spaghetti. We then done some Christmas colour mixing with Clingfilm painting, some paper chains (that are now hanging across our room). We all made lots of reindeer food (which you can put out on Christmas Eve for the reindeer), The children loved adding all of the different sequins and sparkles and helping us to mix it all!

We also have been exploring recipes and the children really enjoyed hot chocolate making! They helped scoop up the powder into their cups and then help the adult add the cold water! We then added cream and sprinkles for a yummy taste!

On our walks this month we have been exploring the back field! This has been so much fun as it's such a bigger space with lots of trees and sticks to explore! We have been doing lots of going on a bear hunt where the children have started leading it now in little child led groups! We have also been playing hide and seek behind the trees which is always very funny!

Next month in January there are lots of exciting things happening! It's recycling month where we can explore litter and how we pick it all up! It's world religion day on the 19th of Jan, where we would love to hear about any of the children's different backgrounds and religions! We will discuss it during our circle times and do some activities around different countries and cultures! On the 29th of January is Chinese new year where we will be making some lanterns to hang around the room!

We hope everyone has the best break over Christmas and we can't wait to hear what the children do over the break!



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 we have been focusing on Fire and learning all about how to safely make one with Michela.

The children started off the month collecting sticks for the base. The children learnt about what sticks would work best and how to position them.

Next Michela demonstrated and taught the children how to light the fire, They then all discussed fire safety rules. One by One they had a turn at creating the fire with hand over hand support from Michela.

The children were able to gather around the fire and watch it as it grew. They then learnt how to put the fire out safely.

Throughout the month each fire that they made got slightly bigger and they were very proud of what they had created!

(2 - 2yr 6 months)

Buttercups

This month we have been creating different Christmas crafts. The Buttercups used pompoms to create a stained window inspired picture of a tree with lights.

They decorated their own gingerbread men using Christmas confetti. We used playdough cutters to mark make with using Christmas coloured crafts.

On frosty walks we discussed our surroundings and exercised some senses, as we stood on the grass it crunched and was very cold to touch!

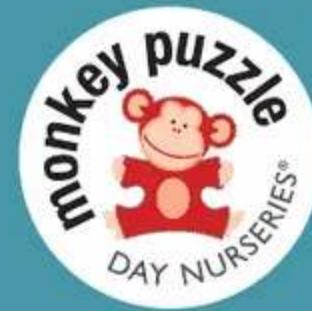
We used fine motor skills to thread pipe cleaners through hole punched trees to create a look a like image of lights.

We had our first ever stay and play. The Buttercups were able to show the parents around their new room and created gingerbread play dough together.

We focused a bit more on emotions through stories and discussed what makes us feel these emotions. The Buttercups really enjoyed their new emotion station.



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 have had lots of fun exploring and enjoying our Christmas activities.

We have looked into lots of winter based activities, during this introducing different textures. Weather types have been explored such as snow and ice. We have looked into different Christmas stories and have had so much fun spreading happy spirit and Christmas cheer.

The Daisies have been focusing on the importance of health and hygiene practise this month. Alongside this we have been practising wiping our faces/noses, washing our hands and continued to support this through cleaning babies activities.

At the beginning of the month we learnt some of our basic signs again, getting ready for the new year and supporting the new children in the room.

We have really enjoyed our arts and crafts where we have been very creative making cards, ornaments, Christmas decorations and paperchains. They have all been practising their fine motor skills and colour identification.

We look forward to going into the new year and coming back to lots of fun and creative activities.



(3 - 15 months)

Tulips

Over the month of December Tulips have been getting well and truly into the Christmas spirit!

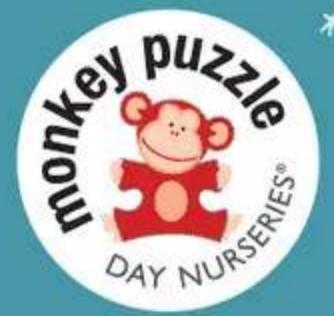
We had a lovely Christmas stay and play and welcomed parents to see our new room and explore our areas and activities with their little ones. We enjoyed our Christmas party day and decorated our own party hats to wear during some dancing, bubble popping and a party tea. We wore our Christmas jumpers as we celebrated Christmas jumper day and decorated lots of paper jumpers with paint and our dabber pens. On top of this we also had a yummy Christmas dinner together too!

We have been exploring so many activities throughout the month to explore the sights, sounds, textures and scents of Christmas. We had lots of messy fun in the tuff tray feeling the textures of a gloop snowman and rolling pinecones through play doughs of Christmas colours. We have been making lots of special crafts and even made our own Christmas shortbread biscuits which smelt very yummy! Throughout our song times we have been exploring the sounds of jingle bells and learning some new actions to Christmas songs.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!🎅



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.



New years day – 1st January

Happy New Year! It's the first day of the year, so it is time to look ahead to the new year. 1st January is a Bank Holiday in the UK and many countries across the world.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd and hearing all about your exciting Christmas celebrations!

Big garden bird watch – 23rd to 25th January

Organised by the RSPB, just spend an hour watching the birds in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park, and tell them what you've seen.

Look out for our bird activity's sheet in reception to get involved throughout January

National hug day - 21st January

Created by Kevin Zaborney, the purpose of the day is to encourage everyone to hug family and friends more often. Always ask permission of course, before hugging someone.

We will be speaking to the children about how a hug makes you feel and when to hug your friends.

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.

important!

Stay and Play's 230-330pm

Tulips - 20th January



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.

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

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!

January -

The NHS Food Scanner app is a free app which can be used to scan the barcodes of food and drink to check their nutrition. It can show you the quantity of sugar, saturated fat and salt within products and offers food swap recommendations to make healthier choices. There's also lots of recipes, children's games and helpful information to support building a healthy lifestyle.



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.



January

This month we are focusing on Oral Health! Below are some ideas of activities you can do with your child to help develop their knowledge of this...

- using a laminated sheet and a print out of some teeth, give your child an old toothbrush and encourage them to brush the sheet until it's clean!
- Using mirrors and toothbrushes, role play being at the dentist and take turns with your child being the patient and the dentist. Mimic the noises you may hear too!

If toothbrushing isn't something that your child particularly enjoys, here re some strategies that may help...

- using 2 minute videos or music from characters such as hey dugee who have some fun oral health resources.
- Brushing teeth together with your child.
- Reward charts for brushing using stickers linked to your child's interests.

Communication champion - Navreet

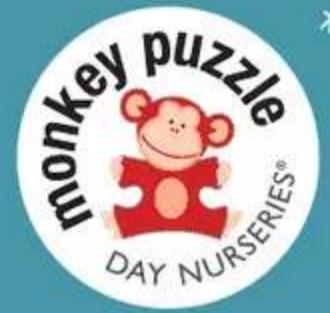
Meet Navreet our Nursery communication champion.



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.

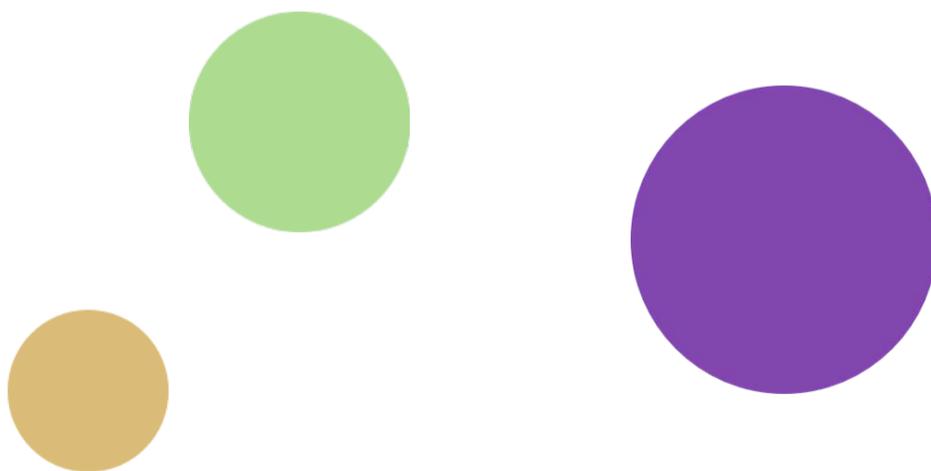


Thank you



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

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



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

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