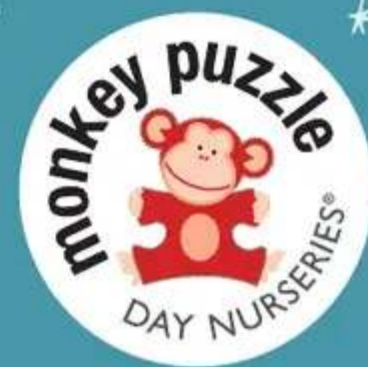


# Astwick Newsletter

Proud to be a  
**Top 20 Nursery**

daynurseries.co.uk



## May 2026

### Nursery Updates:

#### Throughout April:

- We looked after our duck eggs and helped the little ducklings grow. The children enjoyed watching the ducks bathing, running around and having cuddles.
- New piglets arrived on the farm. The children have enjoyed visiting them and learning about what they need to eat and drink to help them grow.
- The cows are back and they have brought along their calf's with them!. It has been very exciting for the children and they have managed to see them closer up whilst being in the front field.
- Inset day the staff were split into two groups. One group did training on Outdoor risky play and learning. The other group had training on self regulations and emotions to support children. After the courses, the rooms were set a task to adapt and rearrange their gardens ready for summer activities to start. They had new equipment to add to the environment and we have more on the way too!

#### Throughout May:

- We have bluebells caterpillars yet to turn into butterfly's! The children are looking forward to watching them during their release into nature.
- Lilies will be getting ladybirds! There will be a post out shortly to explain the lifecycle and process they will experience.
- The rooms have lots of exciting celebration's to explore and learn about throughout May.
- Lilies have thier stay and play session. Dont forget to email the office to book your space and join in the fun.

#### 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

- 30th October

Three of our ducks got adopted by a staff members family friend.  
Meet Willow, Dory and Mable.  
They have grown so much already and now have their own "quack shack" home to move into the garden.



*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 the children have enjoyed lots of different activities all to do with occupations, life cycle of a butterfly and earth day. The children have enjoyed learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly this month, as we currently have caterpillars. The children have enjoyed watching the caterpillars grow and turn into butterflies, which we are still currently waiting to happen. They created the life cycle on a paper plate by adding dry indecent to represent each part of the butterfly, starting with the egg up to when they turn to butterflies. The children have also really enjoyed the ducks this month which we had for Easter. They watched them when they were just in the eggs and then they got to experience the ducks daily when they come into their room. We created a bath and they splashed in the water! As well as getting the chance to hold them.

The children have enjoyed learning about different occupations where they watched a little clip about what different occupations there are. We asked the children what they would like to be when they are older. Some of the children said teachers, dentist and doctors. We have also had the opportunity for some of our parents to come into the room to talk to us about what they do for their jobs and the children have absolutely loved listening to them. We have parents who work in comedy and theatre, marketing and children classes such as Hartbeeps.

For earth day the children have been doing lots of different activities around this. They have created a paper plate earth where they placed green and blue tissue paper in the areas that they need to. Some of the children haven been playing with play dough to create the earth with green and blue play dough. We have watched a clip about earth day and why earth is important.

(2years 6months -3 years 6months)

### Lilies

This month we have been enjoying the warmer weather lots! We started our month of with lots of water crafts! Making little paper chicks and paper plate flowers! We then had a brilliant Easter egg hunt on the field! The children were so amazing at finding them and were very kind making sure all of their friends had an egg each!

We have had lots of new friends arriving on the farm! We started exploring out towards Forrest school and we found piglets! There not even two months old yet and they are so cheeky, running around and teasing each other! Next to the pigs there are sheep and last week all of the cows and calf's arrived!

In signing Sam Becky has been teaching us about different animal signs. We have been using these and practising when visiting the animals!!

While it's been getting warmer we have been playing with lots of ice and water! We even did some ice painting pictures!

For earth day we made little earths with blue and green play dough and spoke about where different animals live! We also celebrated the sikh festival vaisakhi with bright colours of orange yellow and blue, and exploring different textures in play dough!

Next month we will look at topics such as space week, endangered species day, and national smile month! May is also outdoor play so we will be sending out some home learning for lots of fun and easy ideas to play outside!



# 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 the children have been exploring more around animals and what the farmers do to take care of them.

We have piglets on the farm and also now cows and calf's! The children have been very excited to visit the piglets each week to see how much they are growing, changing and their living environment.

During our adventures of forest school the children have been making their own medals by drilling holes in the wood for them to thread the ribbon through. After they had me one, they would go around the field to add pretty things and decorate it.

They also made a lions Mane, the children worked together to collect flowers and leaves. They then stuck them onto their Maine to create a bushy, fluffy affect before wearing them and laughing with each other.

This month we have been working on our physical skills. The bluebells children have been building rope obstacle courses. Using the tree's and rope, the walk lines were created and the children used their upper body strength to make their way across the line



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

### Buttercups

Buttercups have enjoyed adventuring out on their walks. During this time they have explored our new cows and calf's, talking about what they like to eat and drink. The children have also discussed sizes and started to name them.

Outside we have introduced more water play. There has been sea animal tuff trays, cups and transporting tools, as well as bathing baby's. The children have enjoyed their new sand and water tray that we got them on inset day. They have been able to explore different textures and objects throughout.

Over April we have been focusing on numbers and letters. During this we had our mirrored numbers to identify in messy play and draw around them on paper.

During arts and crafts we have been mixing colours together using a variety of tools to make new colours. The children discussed what they could see happening, the new colour created and we also talked about the process of mixing it together with either water or paint.

For Earth day, we used a large clingfilm table and added blue and green paint to create our own Earth with other planets too. We then covered it up and used our hands to move the paint around and explore the sensory side of this.

We have had lots of Easter fun, exploring textures and colours. The buttercups loved having easter egg hunts and decorating their own easter 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

This month in daisies we've been getting creative with the nature around us whilst in the garden and on our walks! We've enjoyed using the different things we can see outside to paint and discover what textures and marks they make, as well as adding this to our play dough to discover what prints they make too!

Also on our walks we have been bug hunters, using our magnifying glasses to look and tick off the different bugs we could find on our checklist. Of course, we've all enjoyed having the cows back! We've said hello to these and spoken about what they look like too.

There have been multiple celebrations this month. We enjoyed celebrating Earth day, where we enjoyed using natural resources to stick onto our own 'Earth', discussing that we have land and sea. The Daisies enjoyed talking about where they've been on holiday to link to this!

We've enjoyed climbing, both inside and outside on our climbing frames, practising our football skills in the garden and playing lots of games of roll the ball!



### (3 - 15 months)

#### Tulips

We began April in Tulips celebrating Easter with so many fun activities! We explored egg shapes and played hide and seek with these within lots of different textures including hay, sand and colourful paper. We also used the little Easter eggs for our mark making activities, experimenting with rolling these through paint and printing with the egg halves on paper to practice our fine motor skills.

We have been on many adventures to the garden where we have been busy exploring some fun new resources. We have been practicing our scooping skills as we explored taste safe pretend mud and flowers in a gardening tuff tray. We have also been investigating our new sensory bottles too exploring how the fillings move and each create different sounds.

We have enjoyed keeping cool in the warmer weather with lots of water play activities. During these we have been exploring different sea creatures and practicing filling and emptying with a variety of pots and containers. Of course lots of fun has been had splashing too!

We also celebrated Earth Day through exploring green and blue play dough. We used rolling pins and nature shaped cutters to make marks within the play dough along with using our hands to feel and squish the texture 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.

### May Day – 1st May

May Day, celebrated on the 1st of May, is an ancient festival that marks the arrival of spring. It is an opportunity to teach young children about the changing seasons, new life, and various traditions associated with the day. May day is also celebrated with the traditional may pole dancing which you may see in your area. We will be talking to the children about this dance and how to do it.

### World bee day – 20th May

The purpose of World Bee Day is to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development. The children will learn all about how we can help bees around us in the natural environment and what bees provide.

### Sun awareness week– 11th to 17th May

Organised by the British Association of Dermatologists, the aim of this day is raising awareness of the dangers of excessive sun exposure and how to avoid sunburn and skin cancers.

### World turtle day - 23rd May

World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people. As the children love sea animals, we will be going into detail about turtles and creating our own crafts around them.

### International nurses day – 12th May

Held on the birthday of Florence Nightingale to mark the contributions that nurses make to society. It is a day to recognise the important role of nurses around the world. We will be talking with the children about the importance of a nurses role and when you would see a nurse.

### Elmer day – 23rd May

A celebration of reading, of elephants and of accepting yourself and others, just like Elmer the Patchwork Elephant, star of the Elmer books by David McKee. The children will also make their own Elmer to choose what they would like it to look like.

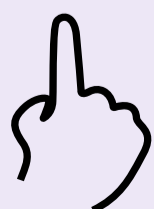
# *important!*

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

**Lilies - 26th May**



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

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!

## May -

Between 11 May and 11 June 2026 is Smile month, a campaign led by the Oral Health Foundation. This is the nation's biggest oral health campaign to raise awareness of important oral health issues and how our oral health can affect our everyday life.

This year they are celebrating 50 years of smiles and would love for as many people as possible to get involved! You can add your smile to their Smile Wall and join the campaign to help bring a smile to millions of people.

They are also running a competition for all ages to craft a monster using oral health products to make. Here are the details below of how to enter:

\* Create a smiley monster using oral health products and craft materials. The monster must be made entirely or partially of oral health products and must have a distinctive smile.

\* Send us photos of your smiley monster by:

\* Uploading it to social media, tagging Smile Month, and using the hashtag #SmileyMonster

\* Emailing [pr@dentalhealth.org](mailto:pr@dentalhealth.org)

\* All entries must include photos of the monster, a name, and the age category.

For more information about the campaign and oral health advice please visit

*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.

## May

As the weather begins to change and the experiences on our walks begin to change, the children across the nursery have enjoyed exploring the different natural resources on the farm!

This month, why not create sensory bottles with your child? You will need a plastic bottle, oil or water and then any materials you'd like to make these. To further extend this, you could link this to a story, for example the gruffalo or "we're going on a bear hunt".

## 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



We are delighted to announce that we are **WINNERS** Of the 2025 daynurseries.co.uk award



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

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



## Why Children's Attendance in Early Years is so Important

**Good Early Years Attendance = Best Chances of Success**

Although attendance in Early Years is not statutory, it plays a vital role in children's learning, development, and wellbeing.

<h4>How Regular Attendance Helps Your Child</h4> <p>When children attend every planned session, they have more opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop social skills, make friends, and learn to play alongside others</li><li>• Take part in important learning experiences and activities</li><li>• Build confidence, self-esteem, and have a sense of belonging</li><li>• Feel secure through familiar routines</li><li>• Develop good habits that prepare them for school and future learning</li></ul> <p>Children who attend regularly are more settled and find it easier to understand what is happening in their setting.</p> <h4>Why Being On Time Matters?</h4> <p>Children who miss sessions or arrive late can sometimes feel confused or left behind, as they may miss key parts of learning or group time. Being on time helps children settle calmly and confidently into their day.</p>	<h4>How Attendance Supports Families</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Through your relationship with the setting, you can discuss things that may impact on your child's learning and development, and to be able to celebrate moments of achievement together.</li><li>• To find out where you can gain support for yourself or your child. Our settings have access to information where we can signpost parents to appropriate services when needed.</li><li>• Understand your child's development and identify any additional support early.</li><li>• Gain ideas to support your child's learning at home, and different places or activities you could take them to.</li></ul>  <p>If you have difficulties in attending regularly, or on time, please speak to your keyperson as they will be happy to offer ideas and support to help give your child the best start in life.</p>
--	--