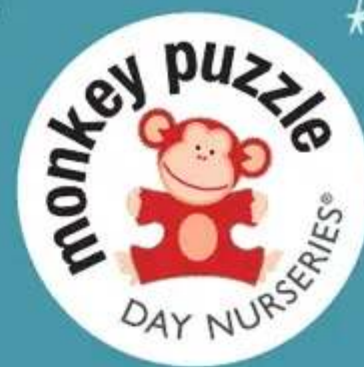


Astwick Newsletter

Proud to be a
Top 20 Nursery

daynurseries.co.uk



August 2026

Nursery Updates:

Throughout July:

- Bluebells had their stay and play session, which was a last for some of the class before they head off to school.
- Bluebells had their graduation. It was an emotional evening for many and the staff had created such a beautiful celebration for them.
- The cows escaped into the front field which the children loved. We could visit to see them at the fence up close and ended up with many discussions about the baby cows.
- Lilies children "went on holiday" and created their own aeroplane with boarding passes and adventures that followed.
- As the nursery continues to expand, we have some new staff joining team Astwick.
- Chelsea gave birth to a gorgeous little boy and Hugo is such a loving big brother already.

Throughout August:

- We say our final goodbyes to the school leavers as they set off on their next adventure.
- There is quite a few children excited for their holidays. With this in mind, please share your beautiful holiday pictures with us so the rooms can use them in activities and your child can share holiday experiences with their peers
- Lets have some summer newsletter fun! Throughout the news letter are some hidden beach items. Message Zoe on Family with the number of items you can see. Correct number will win you a prize!!
- On the 12th August there will be a solar eclipse! We cant wait to teach the children all about it

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

Our newest team members



Meet Emily - Daisies room new apprentice



Meet Jess - Bluebells room new apprentice



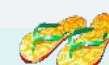
Meet Ali - Level 3 early years practitioner joining Lilies

Congratulations to Chelsea and Family on Little mans arrival



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

Over the past month in Bluebells, we have been focusing on 2 themes. These were Music and movement and life cycles.

We have looked at different festivals all around the world and how they celebrate it. The children learnt about all the different instruments that are played in different area around the world. We also had our very own parade, where the Bluebells played their instruments as they walked around the nursery and surrounding area. The local business enjoyed hearing our tunes. We extended this by getting the children to create their own musical instruments. We had a handful of musically inclined parents come in to show the children how they play their instruments.

With life cycles, we began by talking about the different paths of life each animal lives and development they have as they grow. This started from them being born, to what they eat as they grow and how they find somewhere to live. Some of our activities involved making frog spawn and the children created their own frogs. When it came to the lifecycle of butterflies, the children also briefly looked at symmetry. We discussed colours and patterns whilst making butterfly paintings. With the cows in the field, the children focused on the lifecycle of calf's and growing into a cow. We discussed food they eat and food they produce.



(2years 6months -3 years 6months)

Lilies

This month in Lilies we looked into the Luna moon. During this we explored different sensory tuff trays, milky way painting and colour mixing.

There has been lots of talk about ice cream during this hot weather. The children then wanted to create their own ice cream play. We used coloured gloop and crazy foam to create ice cream flavours, then scoop into our pretend cones.

Football was a big interest this and the children came into nursery so excited for each England game. During the month we made our own flags and used finger painting to decorate them.

We have been exploring the jungle and the different types of animals you can find there. The children then listened to the animals sounds and we discussed why some are high pitch for callings. Around the jungle, the children noticed the different leaves. From this interest, we created a craft activity where they could make their own jungle leaf and decorate it.

When the weather got too hot, we decided to make our own obstacle courses from the different room resources we could find. It was very creative and lots of giggles between them.



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!

(2 - 2yr 6 months)

Buttercups

This month the buttercups children have been exploring more science experiments. The favourite was our expanding balloon! For this we used flat balloons, vinegar and bicarbonate soda. The children would then splat the balloon, when all of a sudden it would start to expand and blow itself up slightly.

To keep cool we have had a lot of ice play throughout activities. There has been frozen atlantic play, making smoothing role play in the kitchen area and much more.

During arts and crafts we have been focusing on exploring patterns. This has included shapes in a pattern, lines and squiggles.

We have been looking into space and the different planets. The children mixed/marbled colours together to decorate their own planet. We are looking forward to learning about the eclipse next month.

With all the football around us and England in the world cup, We have been creative with our craft and got stuck in making our own flags, t-shirts and footballs! The children also had lots of fun practising their ball skills in the garden with our football net.



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 enjoyed looking into all the celebrations and events July had to offer. This included the world cup, Wimbledon, the big butterfly count and shark week!

The Daisies enjoyed practising their physical development in the garden in aid of the world cup this month. We enjoyed exploring the different ways we can play with a ball - including rolling, kicking and throwing to one another!

Inside, we enjoyed lots of messy play crafts, creating our own England flags and banners on small and larger scales.

The Daisies also enjoyed some activities surrounding Wimbledon. We created our own tennis rackets and enjoyed some painting activities surrounding this too!

For the big butterfly count, we explored symmetry with a painting activity focused on identifying colours. We enjoyed watching as the colours transferred to the other wing of the butterfly and then spent time helping them to 'fly'.

We look forward to August, which holds celebrations including a solar eclipse, international owl awareness day, world lion day and international dog day!



(3 - 15 months)

Tulips

In the month of July, Tulips have been exploring lots of sensory activities.

They have explored pat mats, using them to support their physical development by stomping, walking and patting the mat.

They have also explored a variety of sensory bags and different projections with torches. We used the torches to make shadows on the wall and lots of waving movements too.

With England being in the world cup, we have been exploring activities based around this. We done some flag painting and a tray with the England flag made out of flour and sensory scarfs.

One activity Tulips have shown a big interest in is our bear hunt senses. In this activity we had tubs with snow, grass, water and mud. Tulips explored these by climbing inside and exploring with their hands and feet.

A few other celebrations this month were, world shark day. For this day we explored a shark sensory tray and sang baby shark alongside too. We also explored world cousins day, In this we had a 'all about me' tray. We incorporated family photos of Tulips and spoke about our own and others physical characteristics.

We look forward to sharing August activities with you all!



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.



Sisters day - 2nd August

Sisters Day is held on the first Sunday of August each year. It celebrates the unique bond between sisters - whether biological, adoptive, step, or chosen.

World Elephant day – 12th August

A day to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. World Elephant Day asks you to experience elephants in non-exploitive and sustainable environments where elephants can thrive under care and protection. We will be holding an elephant decorating home competition... keep your eyes on Famly.

International Owl awareness day – 4th August

International Owl Awareness Day aims to celebrate one of the most iconic bird species and raise awareness to their plight in the wild and what we can all do to help protect them.

International dog day - 26th August

A day to celebrate man's best friend. The day intends to highlight the condition of dogs and to encourage the adoption of dogs from shelters. Zoe's dog will be in for her annual visit to see the children. They will be taking her for a walk and discussing the foods she likes to eat.

World lion day – 10th August

Founded by Big Cat Rescue to highlight the importance of the lion globally and to raise lion conservation awareness worldwide.

International bat day - 29th to 30th August

A night to celebrate bats and learn about the way bats live and their needs with presentations, exhibitions and bat walks. It is also a chance to go out and look for bats in their natural habitat.

important!

**Stay and Play's
2.30-3.30pm**

Tulips 20th August



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 Famly 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.

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!

August-

Weaning is an exciting milestone for babies and helps to develop essential chewing and swallowing reflexes. The early stages are all about letting your baby enjoy new flavours and sensations! It is also completely normal to worry about introducing your baby to lots of new foods, tastes and textures. Within the Tulips room we work closely with parents following each individual babies weaning journey. Please do let a member of our team know if there is anything we can do to support this stage. Below is a helpful guide to introducing solid food.

<https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/sections/baby/starting-solid-foods/>

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.

This month, why not use items from around the house to create the bear hunt story? This is great for children of all ages to experience the textures of each part of the story, either with their hands or even their feet! As your child explores each texture, read (there are also online options available) each part of the story. For older children, encourage them to name the texture they are feeling.



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....



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.

How Regular Attendance Helps Your Child

When children attend every planned session, they have more opportunities to:

- Develop social skills, make friends, and learn to play alongside others
- Take part in important learning experiences and activities
- Build confidence, self-esteem, and have a sense of belonging
- Feel secure through familiar routines
- Develop good habits that prepare them for school and future learning

Children who attend regularly are more settled and find it easier to understand what is happening in their setting.

How Attendance Supports Families

- 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.
- 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.
- Understand your child's development and identify any additional support early.
- Gain ideas to support your child's learning at home, and different places or activities you could take them to.

Why Being On Time Matters?

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.



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.