

Astwick Newsletter

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Top 20 Nursery



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July 2026

Nursery Updates:

Throughout June:

- Our Fathers day stay and plays took place. The rooms enjoyed sharing the afternoon of activities with you all.
- The preschool children have been talking about the world cup and football. They have their own leadership board taking place in the room.
- Michela held a muddy challenge for you all to get involved with as well as the rooms having a competition. Tulips and Daises won! and the winners of the home activity will receive their prize next week.
- The photographer came by and your children done amazingly!

Throughout July:

- We will be talking about friendships and how important it is to be kind to our friends alongside some friendship activities for National friendship day.
- If you have photo's you are happy to share with your child's room of them and their cousins, the rooms would love to incorporate them into an activity alongside National cousins day.
- Bluebells have their stay and play session, don't forget to book your space.
- Bluebells also have their gradutaion celebrations and some of the children leave us ready for a holiday before starting school.

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



Home mud competition



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 around different musical instruments and turtle day. We have also been learning about the World Cup. The children have enjoyed listening to stories about turtles for world turtle day and then they created their own turtle out of paper plates and stuck down the different body parts of the turtle. The children also tried to create their own playdough turtle by watching the demonstration made and they used their fine motor skills to roll the play dough into balls for the body and the head and for the different parts of the body.

The children have been learning all about music and musical instruments which is part of our topic this month. The children got a chance to play with the different musical instruments and follow the beat that the practitioner shows them. They will also create a beat of their own for their friends and adults copy. They explore looking at different music notes and exploring which ones mean. We have had the chance for a parent to come in with their violins and she spoke to the children all about the different parts of the violin and she gave the children chance to have a go with the children ones they brought in.

The children have enjoyed learning all about the World Cup. The children are joining in with a sweep and the children got to choose their own teams and they are keeping an eye on all of the scores of each team. They are also learning all about the different flags and how each one looks different from one another. The children got chance to decorate their own flag for their football team to.

(2years 6months -3 years 6months)

Lilies

This month in Lilies we have continued exploring our topic of under the sea. We have been making little jelly fish tentacles by threading rainbow beads. The children sat so calmly and were so focused it was lovely!

We have also been practicing acting like different animals, such as how fish move compared to a crab.

This month we introduced our special helpers! This is where 2 friends a day can help with adult jobs, such as putting cups and placemats out. This is also helping prepare them for this task when they start in Bluebells.

There has been many crafts in the garden, like ribbon rings and bunting making. The children have also been painting the fabric to dye it.

We used our new recycling lids to make a wind chime! While it has been hot we have done some lovely activities such as indoor climbing frame, messy hands and feet painting and foot spas!

This month we had some yummy cooking that took place too. We made some GF pizza's and some fruit smoothies. The children are then given the opportunity to eat it at snack time.



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 due to the hot weather and then the rainy days, Forest school has been adapted.

The children took short trips to see the pigs and discuss what they eat, drink and do throughout the day.

They collected flowers and nature items to bring back to nursery and use within the potion/purpume making water tuff tray.

Michela also created a rope swing with them in the garden for the children to take turns on. They discussed safety and balance.

The children explored the difference in grass from the fresh grass to the cut grass. They discussed the texture, colour and what each animals prefers to eat.

(2 - 2yr 6 months)

Buttercups

This month the buttercups children have shown a real interest in the Gruffalo and his appearance. There has been lots of discussion around colours and body parts of the Gruffalo. Each week we read the Gruffalo story sack to extend their interest and talk about our own body features and differences such as hair colour and our teeth compared to the Gruffalo's.

As the weather got warmer, we started to take early morning visits to the field before it go too hot. During this time, we have enjoyed animal treasure hunts, searching for them in the cut grass and trees. The children have also learnt about colour matching whilst using ball pit balls and hoops. Together they would find all the colour balls and group them into the correct hoop!

In our Tuff trays we explored different temperatures of water. There was warm water for our volcano activity and then cold water for our sea animals. We discussed why the temperature is different.

For Wimbledon, we made our own tennis rackets. The children enjoyed this and attempted to use them to learn how to play tennis. There was lots of giggles every time the ball ran away from them.

Painting is always a favourite in Buttercups. This month they really enjoyed making their own ladybirds using cotton buds and paint. They created spots whilst counting and learning numbers. The children then helped Ellie attach the string for legs and ears.



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 continuing to enjoy being outside and as the weather's gotten warmer have enjoyed lots of forms of waterplay. We've been splashing, scooping and pouring and enjoying some ice play with the animals too.

Inside, we've been getting very messy with lots of sensory play including gloop, playdough and paint! We've used lots of different materials including our own feet!

For world environment day, we spoke about our earth and how to look after it, including putting rubbish into the bin. We then enjoyed working together to paint an earth!

The Daisies thoroughly enjoyed healthy eating week. We enjoyed completing paintings made from fruit and vegetables, having picnics in the home corner and reading lots of stories linked to this - our favourite being the hungry caterpillar! We also enjoyed making some ice coolers out of healthy fruit to cool us down during the heat wave.

We look forwards to what July has to bring, including celebrations such as sports day, national ice cream day and international tiger day!



(3 - 15 months)

Tulips

In the month of June, with the weather getting warmer Tulips have been exploring the garden lots! We have been focusing on our physical development through using our walker, rocking horse and soft play.

We have created activities around nature and gardening. Tulips explored a garden tuff tray and was filling different pots with soil and tissue paper. We demonstrated sniffing the flowers and Tulips did this too! They also explored a muddy cupcake tray.

Tulips have engaged in lots of baking this month. During this they have explored different textures and experimenting mixing different textures together. They have baked raspberries weetabix slices, banana and blueberry bread, banana oat cookies and fruit cakes.

We have celebrated world dinosaur and turtle day. Tulips enjoyed exploring different crafts and sensory trays.

We also celebrated Father's day this month. We had our stay and play where we did tie decorating, pat sensory mat and construction tray. Tulips decorated a medal and a handprint father's day cards for our father's. Thank you to all of you that came!

We look forward to showing you all of our July activities!



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!



Tour De France – 4th to 26th July

The Tour de France is an annual men's multiple-stage bicycle race held primarily in France. In 2026 it begins in Barcelona, Spain. The children will be learning about the sport and importance of exercise alongside this.

World snake day – 16th July

World Snake Day is a global awareness day dedicated to appreciating the diversity, beauty, and ecological importance of snakes. Conservationists, wildlife organisations, and animal lovers from across the world come together to celebrate these reptiles. If anyone has a pet snake at home that they are able to bring in for a show and tell, this would be great!

Shark awareness day – 14th July

Celebrates this amazing and misunderstood creature and to raise awareness of threatened shark species and the importance of their conservation. Following the rooms love for sea animals, we will be taking part in shark awareness day with lots of water fun!

National cousins day - 24th July

Celebrate your relationship with the offspring of your aunts and uncles today. We would love for you to share pictures of your child and their cousins so we can incorporate them into our activities and circle times.

St Swithuns Day – 15th July

According to legend, if it rains on Saint Swithun's bridge in Winchester UK today, it will continue to rain for 40 days and 40 nights. The older rooms will be learning about this celebration and why it takes place.

International friendship day - 30th July

A day to promote and encourage the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. We will be teaching the children about the importance of friendships and what we can do to make our friends happy.

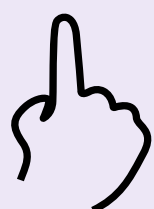
important!

Fathers Day Stay and Play's 2.30-4.00pm

Bluebells 22nd July



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.

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!

July-

Here are Joe Wicks 5 top tips for getting children active and moving-

1. Make movement fun indoors

Turn everyday tasks into games – race to tidy up, dance in the kitchen while dinner's cooking, or try a quick online workout like 'Activate'. Movement doesn't need to look like 'exercise', it just needs to be fun!

2. Get outside, whatever the weather

A brisk game of tag or a trip to the park can warm everyone up and kids see it as play, not a chore. So, wrap up and get out there!

3. Turn the school run into an adventure

Walk, scoot or cycle when you can. Make it playful – count dogs, race to lampposts, or invent your own challenges. It's sneaky exercise that they'll love.

4. Keep it relaxed and role model it

There are so many different types of sport to try out, and remember that not every child loves competitive activities, and that's OK! Try things like frisbee, swimming or cycling. Most importantly, show them how you enjoy being active – they'll follow your lead.

5. Explore local activities

Look out for free or low-cost events. A change of scene can spark new interests and keep things exciting.

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.

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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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.

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.

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.



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.

