

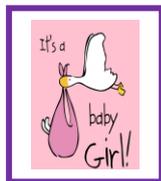
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OUR NEWSLETTER

Congratulations

We send our congratulations to Tina and her partner Sam on the arrival of their baby girl Ava Betty who was born on the 7th February weighing 7lb 15oz.



Strensall News

First of all, we'd like to thank you for your continuing support as we have worked through a busy few months of maternity leave and changes. You may not know this but 5 of our staff became pregnant and went on maternity leave over the past year. That's a significant part of our small and close community of staff here.

We're really glad that some are now back, although as we all know, becoming parents can change our outlook and sadly Georgina and Livi have had to make tough decisions to change their working life to suit their families. Georgina has moved back to where her parents live for some extra support and Livi and her twin boys all need a bit of time. Livi will be leaving us early March. We will all miss them.

You'll see a familiar face over the next few weeks as Naomi settles back in with her lovely daughter! Naomi returns as our Deputy Manager and will support the team on our work to develop continuously our practice here and what we offer you.

As we have settled in new staff and I have spent time working with the room teams, we will make some changes to our room teams which strengthen our work with your children. Stacey who has joined us recently will move to the Baby Room as its Leader. Stacey was formerly a midwife and has raised her own family too, so has plenty of experience to offer to the youngest of our children here! Beckie will be taking on a new role for us, as Outdoor Education Leader.

This marks a really exciting time for us at the nursery, as we extend our education - and sheer enjoyment - of the outdoors with a specific role to look at how all rooms can improve the learning and experience on offer, by incorporating the outdoor environment. We want to inspire your children with awe and wonder about our planet, showing them how to enjoy it, learn from it and, very importantly, take care of it! We'll keep you updated as we go.

Beckie and Stacey will take up their new roles from April, and we'll use the remaining weeks to transition gradually these significant roles for the baby room. We want you and your children to adapt steadily to their voices and comfort, even their smells and touch! Maya in Toddlers moves to a 'Trainee Room Supervisor' position, being supported by Naomi and myself, as we train the next generation of leaders in good practice and team management.

I'll be around regularly keeping in touch with you all at drop-offs and pick-ups, working with the team in their rooms so that our ethos is constant and benefits all our children. Come and talk to me at any time.
Thank you again
Nicola

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Nursery Topics

Babies – The babies have moved onto their story topic, following on from the children's current interests. The children have been particularly interested at looking at the pictures, lifting flaps & creating representations of characters from the books we have looked at. We have explored different textures supported by "That's not my" books and had the experience of tasting different fruits and vegetable's following on from "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". It's been lovely to get outdoors more in the garden and trips to the local park enjoying the lovely days we've been having recently. We will be moving onto Spring over March. We are starting to introduce "In the Moment Planning" so we will be planning activities following the children's interests. We would like to encourage you to share with us your children's interests using our "Spark" board which is situated on the wall on the right as soon as you enter the baby room. Please can all parents ensure the babies have appropriate clothing & Footwear for outdoor activities.



Toddlers – We have been continuing learning about bugs and recently moved onto Spring. We have celebrated Valentine's day and provided sensory play activities for the children. The children enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year by making Chinese lanterns, dragons and pigs and we all enjoyed our Chinese Lunch made by Lisa. We have also been on the bus to the local Library we listened to stories and did some colouring and choose some new books to bring back to nursery. Following Children's interest's, we will be looking at People who love us. We would like to know if parents could bring in a family photo to nursery to support this. May we please ask that whenever possible children do not bring toys

in to the nursery from home, it can lead to upset if their toys get lost or broken.



Preschool – Following on from our construction topic, we have been looking at buildings from all over the world. We had a look at the Eifel Tower in Paris, which you can climb to the very top! Some of the children told us that they had been to the top themselves. Next, we had a look at Big Ben in London, which also seemed to be a big hit with the pre-schoolers. Some of the children said that their Daddies go to work in London and that they have seen Big Ben for themselves. The children were intrigued to learn that the bell itself is called 'Big Ben' rather than the building and that you must not stand in the tower when the bell strikes, otherwise you will lose your hearing. The last building, we looked at was the Taj Mahal which had lots of different shapes in all sorts of sizes. To extend our learning, we went outside to build the buildings we had looked at using lots of recycling materials most of the children wanted to make Big Ben, which consisted of using lots of boxes to make the tall shape. The children came up with a great idea of getting the clock from inside to place on top of the boxes. We also discussed the importance of recycling materials and how it helps towards keeping our environment clean. But most of all, the children had masses amount of fun, which is of most importance.

World Book Day

During the week of World Book Day (w/c 4th March) we would also love to welcome parents, carers or other family members to come into nursery and read the children a story. If you would like to come into nursery to read a story could you contact nursery to arrange a suitable time to do so. We would also like to invite children to come into nursery throughout next week dressed as

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their favourite book character! We would also like to encourage children to bring in their favourite books and stories to share with their friends that we could read together as a group.



Upcoming Events

Pancake Day/Strove Tuesday - 5th March

World Book Day - 7th March

Comic Relief/Red Nose Day - Stay and Play
15th March

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Party - 29th
March

Home Learning Activities

Babies-During the nicer weather, why not bring fun activities you would usually do indoors to the great outdoors. Getting outside with your baby is a mood enhancer for both yourself and baby. The outdoors is also a great way to stimulate your baby and boost her brain power. Now sure where to start? Here are five ways to introduce your baby to the great outdoors. You could create a garden treasure basket, Babies need sensory experiences and the outdoors is a great place to explore. Have your baby sit on a mat with a pinecone, smooth rock and rough rock and a twig. Encourage them to touch and explore the different textures. On warmer, dry days seat your baby on the grass with bare feet. It's great for baby to pull at the grass and look at things on their level. Read stories on the grass or in a popup tent. Bring push toys outside and encourage your new walker to explore different surfaces. It will help with balance and coordination.

Toddler's-The toddlers have really enjoyed trips to the library and choosing books to take back to nursery. Most libraries have story time sessions that you can attend with your children. Strensall Library have had a mini makeover in the children's Library, there are new prints up & they have had a little move around to make life easier for little ones choosing books!



Pre School's- Following on from our previous topic A simple activity with a load of old junk has a wealth of benefits for growing minds and the pre-schooler's imagination. It's a very tactile activity that depends on touch and texture. By selecting individual items from a large collection and using those items to create a personal object, a child is enjoying free expression, using lateral thought and specialised design skills. The ability to model random shapes and materials into meaningful 3D objects gives pre-schoolers an immense amount of self-confidence and a real sense of achievement. They will need to visualize the result and make the transition from rubbish to model using a whole range of fine and large motor skills. We would love to see your creations on Tapestry that you make at home.

SAFE PARKING AT NURSERY: -

We all need to show some patience and perhaps plan a bit of extra time if needed for drop-offs and pick-ups, our busiest times of the day here! We want to accommodate everyone, so here are our guidelines.

For those who want to get away quickly, roadside access is the option, safely putting children into cars by using the car doors on the path side.

Parking on site can cause some delays as different parents take different lengths of times to pick up their child, or children. But

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we always operate an 'in and out' route, coming in at the car park side and out by the office window. Two or three smaller cars will see this area at its limit, so please be mindful of that.

The car park is only for staff parking and we always need to leave clear access to the gate for preschool and the garden. Obeying laws of the road, may we kindly remind you that, when parking roadside, you need to have all wheels on the road without parking partly on the pavement. We thank you for your consideration and help at all times.

Funding

30 hours funding

If you currently have 30 hours funding, you need to revalidate your current code with HMRC to continue to get the funding from January.

If your child has their third birthday between January and March 2019 you can apply for 30 hours funding to begin on 1st April 2019. You can check that you are eligible via Childcare Choices at: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>, please do so as soon as possible and bring in your code, National Insurance number and Child's Birth Certificate. We must keep a record of attendance of all children, with funded children this is doubly important should we be audited by the council. They will check that you are accessing the hours you have claimed for. Sickness and holidays are not an issue but arriving late or leaving in the middle of the afternoon regularly may result in the council looking to recoup the cost of the claimed for, but unused hours.

Illness

We ask that you please respect our policy to reduce illness spreading and keep children out of nursery for 48 hrs after their last bout of sickness or diarrhea. This is to help prevent everyone else from catching it, including staff who offer the continual care valued by your child. If antibiotics are being used, you are asked to keep you child away from nursery for the first 48 hours following initial medication.

Invoices and Payments

Could you please ensure that all New Government Tax Free Childcare, Voucher and Bacs Payments are made by the 1st of the month at the latest please, in line with our Terms and Conditions. If you are changing the way you pay, including starting vouchers and paying by the new Government Tax Free payments, please let Head Office know by the 15th of the month on headoffice@yorkshiremontessorinursery

Twitter/Facebook

If you'd like to follow us on twitter and Facebook, we'll keep you up to date with lots of activities here and other related interests too. Photos follow our strict guidelines and we never identify a child by name or photo.

Nursery Holidays for 2019

19th April - Good Friday
22nd April - Easter Monday
6th May - Bank Holiday
27th May - Bank Holiday
26th August - Bank Holiday

Best Wishes, Nicola

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