

The child who
concentrates is
immensely happy.

-Maria Montessori

Dear Parents and Carers,
We are finally back to bright mornings and even brighter evenings, and we are making the most of it here at nursery! We had a fun filled March with lots of Easter celebrations and we had a fantastic World Book Day celebration and loved the mix of character outfits for the day! The children have been even more interested in books since and are 'reading' to each other and wanting stories to be read to them. Thank you to all who attended our Mother's Day stay and play event, we love having you in the nursery to share activities with your children.

We are delighted to announce that Kaysie and Ty are now parents! Baby Maeva arrived on 21st March, slightly earlier than planned and has already completed a full day of training at the nursery. Congratulations from us all.

Nursery Events

15th April - World Art Day

22nd April - Earth Day

Nursery Holidays/Closures

04.5.2026 – May Day Bank Holiday

25.05.2026 – Spring Bank Holiday

31.08.2026 – Late Summer Bank Holiday

23.12.2026 – Nursery Closes for the Christmas

Reopen – 4th January 2027

Staff Training Days 2026 –

Friday 28th August 2026

Funding for Childcare...

It is important that you go on to the Best Start in Life website to check your eligibility - you can use the link:- beststartinlife.gov.uk

If your child attends another setting or childminder in addition to our nursery, please let us know and fill in their details on the Parent Declaration form.

Everyone needs to revalidate their eligibility every three months to ensure funding continues.

Safeguarding

As part of our Safeguarding Policy, we ask that you do not use your phones when on nursery premises. You will be asked to put your phone away or step out of the gate to complete any calls. Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our children safe.

Ursula, Ty and I are the Designated Safeguarding Leads at the nursery, If you have any questions, worries, concerns or need help and support please come and talk to us.

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 diarrhoea. This is to help prevent everyone else catching it, including staff who offer the continual care valued by your child. If antibiotics are being used, we kindly ask that you keep your child away from nursery for the first 48 hrs following initial medication

Events happening in Leeds

Celebrate cinema this Easter at Leeds Young Film Festival

Leeds Young Film Festival (LYFF) returns from 28 March to 19 April with a packed programme of affordable family films and movie clubs; hands-on workshops created in collaboration with Screen Yorkshire and a free VR cinema at Leeds City Museum. To find out more, visit <https://leedsfilm.com/LYFF>

Story Explorers

Take a fantastical trip to the far reaches of outer space, the depths of the jungle and the bottom of the ocean floor with [Story Explorers](#), a free family experience created with the British Library, 9 February – 30 May at Leeds Central Library.

Babies - we have had a fabulous March. As the weather has started to improve the babies have spent a lot more time exploring outside in the garden and going on trips to the park and taking our snack to have outside in the fresh air. The babies have been fascinated with spring flowers, so we created lots of activities to include them - smelling them, using them to make marks with paint and exploring them in sensory trays.

The babies really enjoyed Word Book Day, and it was lovely to see them in their character outfits, the children have enjoyed looking at books independently and turning pages themselves. They really enjoyed doing all things Easter crafts, stories, baking and going on an egg hunt. A big interest of the children at the moment is large scale painting, especially on the floor - very messy but lots of fun and great for their physical development.



Toddlers - This month we have had several toddlers starting their transitions up to preschool, which has been lovely to see. They are settling in well and enjoying getting to know their new environment and routines. We also had lots of fun celebrating World Book Day! The toddlers loved dressing up as their favourite characters and taking part in all the themed activities. It was wonderful to see their excitement and enthusiasm for stories and imaginative play throughout the day.

Everyone enjoyed lots of Easter-themed sensory activities, along with plenty of arts and crafts. The children have really enjoyed exploring different textures and getting creative. Now that the weather is getting warmer, we have also been making the most of it by taking trips to Forest School. The children have loved being outdoors, exploring nature, and learning about the different birds and insects.

We have also noticed a big interest in self-care activities. The children have been really engaged in things like washing, dressing up, and looking after themselves and our new dolls, which has been great to encourage their independence. We have been supporting this through the Montessori approach, giving the children opportunities to do things for themselves, build confidence, and develop their independence at their own pace.



Preschool - we have been so busy in pre-school during March! The children have explored a range of different themes and crafting opportunities to fuel their curiosity. They used skills such as colour mixing, cutting and manipulating different materials to get the effect they were looking for.

We have been discussing caring for the world around us, thinking about recycling and the harm discarded rubbish can do, particularly to sea creatures. The children used tweezers to pick up rubbish out of 'the sea'.

On our walks to the park and in Forest School we have been looking for signs of spring, the children have pointed out blossom and green leaves appearing on the trees and hedgerows and were keen to create their own blossom trees back at nursery.

We have also been scientists! We enjoyed experimenting with cause and effect with different experiments such as dancing milk and bubble making.



Home Learning

The children across the nursery have enjoyed sharing stories with staff and each other. There are definitely favourite stories at the moment - The Gruffalo and Elmer are two examples. We take stories outside to read both in the garden and at the park. Do you have favourite stories and places to read? Do let us know! There are events that happen at the main library in Leeds and at the local ones, please let us know if you go to any.

Tips for Reading in Early Years

- **Make it Interactive:** Ask questions, discuss pictures, and encourage children to predict what happens next.
- **Be Consistent:** Try to read daily to build routine and familiarity.

Use Vocal Variety: Use different voices, sounds, and songs to make stories engaging.

- **Follow Interests:** Let children choose books based on their interests to make it enjoyable.

Reading regularly with a child is one of the most powerful tools for their overall development.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/library-lifeline-part-23-the-importance-of-sharing-stories-and-reading-time-with-younger-children>

You can contact us at the nursery on -

TEL: 0113 2686141











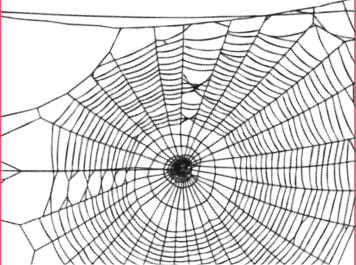



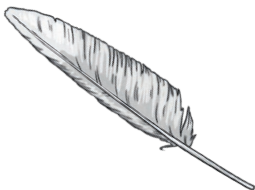

moortown@yorkshiremontessorinursery.co.uk

Best wishes
Christine

SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

Look around for these spring items and animals. When you spot one, take a photograph and tick it off your list.

Who can find them all?

<p>Something Yellow</p> 	<p>A spring flower</p> 	<p>A bird</p> 	<p>Something red</p> 
<p>A flying insect</p> 	<p>A nest</p> 	<p>3 different shaped leaves</p> 	<p>Buds on a tree</p> 
<p>A new plant poking through the soil</p> 	<p>Something that crawls</p> 	<p>A spider web</p> 	<p>Something that smells nice</p> 
<p>Something bumpy</p> 	<p>A puddle</p> 	<p>A feather</p> 	<p>Animal tracks or footprints</p> 

Spring Hunt Checklist



nest



bird



blossom



insect



buds



flowers



daffodil



seedlings



**green
leaf**

Can you draw any other spring items that you see on your walk?