



THORPEDENE NURSERY SPRING NEWSLETTER

ACHIEVING, CARING AND RESPECTING WITH CONFIDENCE

MARCH 2026

Welcome to our Nursery newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the exciting activities, learning adventures, and events happening in our Nursery. We wish you all a lovely Easter Break.

Spring 2 - What your Child has been Learning this term

As we encourage the children to notice signs of spring all around us, with trees starting to blossom and bright daffodils appearing, we are excited to welcome the children into a new half term full of discovery and hands-on learning. Our theme this half term is **Farm, Minibeasts, and Growing**. We will start by exploring life on the farm, including setting up our very own pretend farm shop where children can role play buying and selling fresh produce. As the weeks go on, we will move into the fascinating world of minibeasts and learn about the tiny creatures we might spot outside. We will also explore how things grow, planting our own seeds as a class and watching them change over time. We hope the children will enjoy caring for their plants and eventually take them home to continue nurturing them. With their families.

Stay & Play, Wednesday 11th March

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our *Spring Two Stay and Play* session on Wednesday 11th March. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to spend time with their children in the Nursery setting, explore the activities, and see the fun learning taking place. We really enjoyed welcoming you into Nursery and sharing this special time together.

Tapestry

We love capturing all the amazing things the children are learning and exploring! Photos, videos, and observations will be added to their very own secure online Learning Journal on Tapestry. You will receive an email with instructions to set up your account so you can dive in, see your child's progress, and even add your own photos and comments to share special moments from home. We especially love it when Parents share their children's amazing adventures, these help us celebrate learning both at Nursery and beyond! If you ever have any trouble logging in, our Nursery team are here to help. Explore your child's learning adventures on the following link, <https://tapestryjournal.com/>

WHAT WILL MY CHILD NEED IN NURSERY?

- Nappies and wipes (if applicable)
- Spare clothes in a bag (these don't have to be school uniform)
- Labelled water bottle
- Wellies (to be kept in the Nursery for daily use)
- Appropriate coat/shoes for the weather (labelled)
- A healthy snack (Optional) / lunch if your child is attending all day.

We encourage Parents to label all their children's belongings.

Nursery Gate

We would like to kindly remind Parents to always close the gate behind them for the safety of the children.

The gates will be open at 8.20am for the morning drop off and 12.20pm for afternoon drop offs.





WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

How can I support my child at home?

In Phonics, we continue to use the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme to help children learn and practice letter sounds. In Ducklings room, we are focusing on Phase Two sounds (N, M, D, G, O). Each week, the children will learn a new sound, which will help them recognise sounds and begin blending them together to form words as they start to read. To support their learning, the children are playing listening games that focus on identifying the first sound in words, which strengthens their understanding. We would love for Parents/Carers to be involved in supporting their child's Phonics development at home. You can use the following link to a helpful YouTube video to reinforce the sounds: [Little Wandle Phonics YouTube Video](#)

We encourage you to share stories together at home and enjoy reading as part of your daily routine. This half term, our focus books will include What the Ladybird Heard, The Three Little Pigs, Hugless Douglas, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Superworm. These stories will inspire many of our activities, helping children develop their imagination, language, and love of reading. We will also be celebrating World Book Day and look forward to all the excitement and adventures these wonderful stories will bring.

At Thorpedene Nursery, we believe that reading is the key to success. We encourage Parents/Carers to read with their children at least three to five times a week to nurture their love of books. This term, why not explore different Spring themed books with your child? You can talk about the changes in the weather, search for minibeasts in the garden or at the park and observe the blossoms on trees together. Discuss where their food comes from and how it reaches the supermarkets or encourage them to help with planting and tidying up the garden at home, to extend their learning about our current topic. Please share any new interests your child develops with us on Tapestry so we can incorporate them into our planning.

This term, the children are making great progress in their early learning skills. In maths, they are exploring *one more* and *one less*, comparing numbers, and using *big*, *medium*, and *small* to describe objects. They are also developing their understanding of *positional language* and beginning to read and create simple *maps*, enhancing both their numerical and spatial awareness. In addition, the children are continuing to explore shapes in their environment, learning to identify different shapes and their unique properties. To support independence, they are encouraged to pour their own drinks during snack time and practise putting on their coats and zipping them up, building confidence in managing everyday tasks on their own.

Nursery Staff

Louise (Mrs Kennedy)
Suzanne (Mrs Foster)
Jade (Miss Murfitt)
Anna (Miss Ferola)
Emma (Mrs Lawrence)
Chloe (Miss Cosker)
Rachel (Miss Waysome)
Meg (Ms Darrington)





WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

The Importance of Attendance

Regular attendance helps children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn. Each day at Nursery supports your child's social development, routines, and learning through play, so being present as often as possible really makes a difference. If your child is unable to attend for any reason, please remember to call the office as soon as you can to let us know. This helps us keep all Nursery children safe, keep accurate records, and plan for staffing. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child get the most out of their Nursery experience. We truly appreciate your cooperation in keeping us informed.

Changes to your Child's hours!

If you wish to change your child's hours, please be aware that we require six weeks' notice. This helps us plan staffing and sessions effectively. We will always try our best to accommodate requests where possible, subject to availability. If you're considering a change, please speak to the office team who will be happy to help. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Smiles Start Small: The Importance of Tooth Brushing

Helping children build healthy habits early makes a big difference and tooth brushing is one of the most important! Brushing twice a day helps remove sugar and bacteria that can cause cavities and sore gums. Even baby teeth matter, as they support speech development, chewing, and make space for adult teeth later on. At Nursery, we love encouraging independence and good routines, and tooth brushing is a great way for children to practise caring for themselves. At home, you can help by brushing together morning and night using a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste, and making it fun with songs, timers, or letting your child choose their own toothbrush. Regular brushing, a healthy diet, and routine dental check ups all work together to keep little smiles bright and confident. Thank you for supporting these habits at home, every brush counts!

World Book Day

We had such a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day at Nursery! The children loved getting involved in our special story focus, The Three Little Pigs. Together we read the story, acted it out, and explored lots of fun activities inspired by the characters. The children especially enjoyed building their own houses using different materials and seeing which ones were strong enough to stand up to the "big bad wolf"! It was fantastic to see their imagination, teamwork, and storytelling skills in action. It was a joyful day filled of stories, laughter, and learning!

Parent Consolations, can be books via BromCom.

Chicks: Monday 16th March. **Times:** 9am-11.00am & 1:00pm-3:00:pm.

Chicks & Ducklings: Wednesday 18th March. **Times:** 3:45pm-5:00:pm

Ducklings: Thursday 19th March. **Times:** 9am-11.00am & 1:00pm-3:00:pm.





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WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

Over the past few weeks, we've had a wonderful time filled with learning, adventures and fun. Here are a few of our highlights from World book day!



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SECAT

Southend East Community Academy Trust