



THORPEDENE NURSERY SPRING NEWSLETTER

ACHIEVING, CARING AND RESPECTING WITH CONFIDENCE

May 2026

We would like to welcome all our new children to the nursery, it's lovely to see you all settling and exploring the different resources on offer. As we head into the Summer Term, we're excited to explore the theme of healthy eating and learning all about our amazing bodies. This half term, the children have been discovering the importance of making healthy food choices and staying active. Through fun, hands-on activities, they are learning about different fruits and vegetables, where our food comes from, and how it helps our bodies grow strong. We'll also be talking about the ways we can take care of our bodies, from staying clean and getting enough rest, to moving our bodies through play and exercise. We can't wait to see the children become little health champions as they explore these important topics!

Summer 1 - What your Child has been Learning this Term

We will continue sharing some fun and engaging storybooks with the children, including *Daisy Eat Your Peas* by Kes Gray & Nick Sharratt, *Kitchen Disco* by Clare Foges & Al Murphy, and *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne, along with lots more wonderful books to explore together. We encourage you to enjoy these lovely stories at home too, many can be found as read-aloud on YouTube.

Stay & Play, Thursday 14th May 2 .00pm

We would like to invite you to attend our Stay and Play session on Thursday 14th May between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. We would like to thank you all in advance for attending.

Tapestry

Photos and observations of your child's learning will be added to a secure online Learning Journal platform called Tapestry. You will receive an email with instructions to set up your account using a password. This will allow you to access your child's Learning Journal and add your own photos and comments. If you're having trouble accessing Tapestry, please feel free to speak to any member of the Nursery staff for assistance. You can access the website using 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.

GET SOCIAL!

**CLICK ON ICONS TO ACCESS
OUR INSTAGRAM/TWITTER!**





WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

Maths is Everywhere

We believe that Maths plays a vital role in children's learning and development. While number activities are important, it's equally valuable for children to understand that Maths is all around them and not just during planned activities. Whether it's counting steps, comparing sizes, spotting shapes, or talking about numbers in the environment, children are constantly using mathematical skills to make sense of the world. From sharing snacks and measuring ingredients, to noticing patterns and using positional language, the opportunities to explore maths are endless. Many of the children have been enjoying practical, hands-on experiences that support their understanding of early maths concepts. We will continue to provide a range of engaging activities to help develop their confidence and curiosity in Maths as they learn through play.

Phonic and Early Reading

In our Phonics sessions, we continue to follow the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds* programme to help children learn and practise their letter sounds. In the **Ducklings** room, we're focusing on **Phase Two sounds** - including c, k, e, r, h, b, f. Each week, the children will explore a new sound, helping them to recognise letters and begin blending them together to form simple words as they take their first steps into reading. To support this, we've been playing fun listening games that help children identify the first sound in words, building a strong foundation for Phonics. We would love for parents and carers to support Phonics learning at home. You can follow this helpful video from Little Wandle to practise the sounds together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0J0NEzTQ2EQ>. Meanwhile, in the **Chicks** room, children are learning how to care for books and hold them correctly. They're beginning to use the pictures to tell their own stories and discovering just how exciting and magical books can be! While everyone continues to explore different rhymes, the children are also practising their listening skills and paying attention, along with using gestures and finger movements to join in with the rhymes they're learning. Reading is everywhere and an important skill for our children to embrace and enjoy!

Mathematical Learning in Nursery

This half term, the children have been exploring a variety of fun and engaging Maths activities. They are learning to sort resources, compare sizes and weights, and are beginning to use different language and gestures to describe what they see. These early Maths skills are helping to build their understanding of the world around them. In the **Ducklings** room, the focus is on counting to 20, linking numerals to quantities, and beginning to subitise (recognising small groups of objects without counting) up to 5.

In the **Chicks** room, children are comparing amounts, enjoying finger rhymes, and practising counting in everyday situations - like counting jumps, skips, or cars they see on their way to nursery.

Nursery Staff

Louise (Mrs Kennedy)

Suzanne (Mrs Richardson-Foster)

Jade (Miss Murfitt)

Anna (Miss Ferola)

Emma (Mrs Lawrence)

Chloe (Miss Cosker)

Rachel (Miss Waysome)





WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

The Importance of Attendance

As we move into the Summer Term, regular attendance continues to play a key role in helping children feel secure, confident, and ready to learn. Each day at Nursery provides valuable opportunities for social development, building routines, and learning through play. Being present as often as possible helps children make the most of these experiences and supports their ongoing progress. If your child is unable to attend, please remember to inform the office as soon as possible. This allows us to ensure the safety of all children, maintain accurate records, and plan staffing effectively. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child get the most out of their Nursery experience.

Changes to your Child's hours!

As we continue through the Summer Term, we would like to remind families that any changes to your child's hours require six weeks' notice. This enables us to plan sessions and staffing efficiently. We will always do our best to accommodate requests where possible, depending on availability. If you are considering a change, please speak to the office team, who will be happy to support you. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Smiles Start Small: The Importance of Tooth Brushing

As part of promoting healthy habits this term, we continue to encourage good oral hygiene. Brushing teeth twice a day helps to remove sugar and bacteria, reducing the risk of tooth decay and supporting healthy gums. Even baby teeth are important, as they play a key role in speech development, eating, and holding space for adult teeth. At Nursery, we support children in developing independence and positive routines, and tooth brushing is a great way to practise self-care skills. We will be starting our toothbrushing at Nursery this term and are very excited to be part of this new scheme. We would like to thank all parents for their support with granting us permission. This allows us to support a healthy oral routine. We will make brushing fun with songs, timers, within a clean environment. Thank you for continuing to support these important habits at home, every brush really does count!

A Big Thank you!

We have been very fortunate this term to receive a generous supply of fruit from Tesco, which has allowed the children to enjoy making their own fruit salads. Thank you very much to Tesco for this wonderful opportunity, without this, some children may not have had the chance to explore and taste such a variety of delicious fruits. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Able Kidz for their kind donation of resources. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring and engaging with these new resources, which have greatly enriched their learning environment, while providing new opportunities. Thank you!





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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!

CONTACT US



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Southend East Community Academy Trust