



## Highwood Day Nursery- Summer Term News

Dear Parent /Carers,

We hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying all the joys that the Summer brings. Here at Highwood Day Nursery, we're buzzing with excitement about all the fun activities and events planned for the children this term.

**Please make a note of these key dates for your diary:**

**Bank Holidays:** Highwood Day Nursery will be closed on the upcoming Bank Holidays. Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

**Early May Bank Holiday** 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Photograph Day** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May

**Wit Week May Bank Holiday** 26<sup>th</sup> May  
No Nursery Education funding this week.

**Summer Term funding end date-** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

### **Funding**

From September 2025 you may be entitled to claim 30 Hours Nursery Education Funding. This is designed to give your little ones the best start in life, offering extra hours of quality early years education and care.

With the 30 hours funding, your child is set to receive more time to explore, learn, and grow in Highwood's nurturing environment. Our dedicated and caring educators will be there to guide and engage, ensuring every moment is filled with fun learning adventures!

Parents will find the funding is not just beneficial for their child's development, but it will also provide more flexibility in balancing family and work commitments. You will have peace of mind knowing your child is in a safe and supportive learning environment, where they will build essential social and cognitive skills.

For more information, please visit

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/15-and-30-hours-childcare-support/faqs](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/15-and-30-hours-childcare-support/faqs)

[www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working](http://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

If your child is in receipt of 15 hours and you would like them to increase to 30 hours, please email your request to [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk)



### **Summer Time Activities**

We're thrilled to announce a variety of outdoor activities and learning experiences this summer. From nature activities to splashy water play, it's all about exploration and enjoying the wonders of the great outdoors. Please make sure your little ones have sun hats and sun cream ready so we can make the most of these sunny days!

**Celebrating Easter-** Spring brings us the joy of Easter, along with lots of laughter during our Easter egg hunt. The children love to be creative and express their artistic skills through colourful Easter crafts and sharing stories about the Easter bunny.

**May Day-** Coming up next, we're all set to celebrate May Day with some lively dancing and traditional fun! We hope your children will enjoy the festivities as much as we do.

**Polite Reminder-** Highwoods nursery car park is a bustling hub centre each morning and evening!

Let's work together to ensure it's safe and efficient for everyone!

Here are a few friendly reminders:

1. Park considerately: Leave enough space for others.
2. Stay mindful of little ones: They can be hard to spot.
3. Please do not wait in your car when dropping off or after collecting your child. This is causing a back log of parents waiting to get onto the drive and more cars left queuing onto the busy Stanton Road.
4. Be patient: A little patience goes a long way.

**Our goal is a smooth, stress-free drop-off and pick-up experience for all.**

### **Notices and Reminders**

Please remember to check your Blossom app regularly for updates and to stay connected with your child's experiences and achievements at nursery. As always, feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have.

We are looking forward to a brilliant summer term filled with learning and laughter. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. If you need to get in touch, here's how:

Blossom app – News / Billing and for daily updates

Phone- 01283 565069

Email- [info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@highwooddaynursery.co.uk)

Warm regards,  
The Highwood Team

## News from the rooms



### Fox Cubs

Our little Fox Cubs have had endless opportunities for sensory exploration, where little ones embark on their first adventures in learning.

Our dedicated baby room practitioners, Sam, Abigail, Shannon, Katie and Amelia ensure every child's needs are met, from TLC- soothing moments to a variety of age-appropriate toys that has sparked their individual minds with curiosity and imagination. Allowing them to engage and thrive in a space that feels like a home away from home.

The Baby Room is not just about play; it is about nurturing the foundation of lifelong learning. Our baby room practitioners incorporate daily playful activities that subtly introduced concepts of counting, language, and social interaction, all while ensuring that the safety and comfort of the children are at the forefront of everything we do.



Circle Time is designed to encourage early development in a nurturing environment, in line with the 'Development Matters' guidance from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. During these sessions, your child will participate in a variety of activities that support their communication, language, and personal, social, and emotional development.



Thank you to all of our parents who put their trust in us with the first chapter of their child's educational journey. We are thrilled to be a part of their remarkable beginnings

Our activities have included singing songs, sharing simple stories, and engaging in fun, interactive games that encourage the babies and help them to learn how to express themselves and build understanding of the world around them. These interactions are important stepping stones in your child's learning journey.



To support your child's growth and learning, here are some next steps you can take at home:

**Sing Together:** Singing nursery rhymes and songs helps develop your child's listening skills and ability to follow along with a rhythm.

**Read Simple Stories** Spend a few minutes each day sharing a story. Encourage your child to look at the pictures and repeat simple words.

**Talk and Listen:** Engage your little one in simple conversations, listen to their sounds, and respond with enthusiasm to support their growing communication skills.

Gross motor skills are essential for children's overall development.

Activities Include:

**Climbing and Balancing:** Children will be encouraged to climb on soft play equipment, improving their balance and coordination.

**Jumping and Landing:** Fun jumping activities will help children develop muscles and body awareness.

**Crawling and Rolling:** These movements are great for building strength and flexibility.

**Throwing and Catching:** Using soft balls, children will practice hand-eye coordination and social skills working with their peers or practitioner.

**Supporting Your Child at Home Can be lots of Fun...**

**Encourage Outdoor Play:** Visits to the park or garden play can enhance their gross motor skills.

**Create a Mini Obstacle Course:** Use cushions or pillows to create a safe and fun obstacle course at home.

**Join In When You Can:** Playing together not only supports skill development but also a exciting way to interact with your little one.

**This term we have been having fun learning all about:**

**Valentines Day**





St  
Patricks  
Day



St  
Davids  
Day



Learning through Fun!



World Book Day – Fun in our PJ's for daytime stories



Look at our little book worms- Celebrating our love for books



**Our learning journey this term will continue with:**

### **Down on The Farm**

To enhance sensory awareness with our babies through engaging and interactive farm-related activities We would love to see family photographs to display if you have visited a farm with your little one.

### **Music and Movement**

We will be diving into the magical world of music and movement to bring joy and excitement into our Fox Cub Room.

First, we will introduce musical instruments. When the drum goes "boom, boom," we can march to the beat Or, listen to the gentle sound of the rainmaker, making us sway around the room

Dance is amazing because it allows self-expression. When the babies hear their favourite tunes, it is lovely to see lots of jiggles and wiggles.

### **Transport – Rolling into Fun**

Developing Fine Motor Skills by Incorporate Special Interest of vehicles.

Using small world vehicles for fun activities that require picking up, holding, and moving them from one place to another Encourage grasping and releasing activities using the vehicles.



## Bunnies

Our little bunnies embarked on enchanting adventures through playful learning during the Spring term! From getting crafty to planting tiny seeds to help our garden blossom. Their curiosity has been nurtured every day by the practitioners in their room – Laura, Hannah and Meah. Stay tuned for more delightful adventures on our learning journeys! #SpringAdventures #LittleBunnieLearners #EarlyYearsMagic



The children showed understanding of the world – discovering all about Chinese New Year by reading Peppa’s Chinese New Year book to help to learn about other celebrations.



We used paint brushes and good hand eye coordination to paint lanterns and the children loved getting messy when exploring the noodles with the chop sticks and tweezers.





**Valentine's**, the little ones discovered the joy of creativity, friendship, and love through a series of thoughtfully designed activities. From crafting heart-shaped art pieces to sharing stories about kindness, our young explorers experienced the true spirit of Valentine's Day. Each child participated in making special handmade cards, which became treasured gifts for their families.



Our activities aimed to not only celebrate Valentine's Day but also to nurture important social and emotional skills.

### Spring Celebrations

Recently, our little learners embarked on a delightful journey to discover the wonders of spring and its ever-changing weather. We celebrated St David's Day with joy and learning! Children engaged in delightful activities that brought Welsh culture to life. They crafted daffodils and listened to enchanting stories about St David's kindness and courage.

**Shrove Tuesday**- what a treat exploring our all our senses, not only did we taste and smell delicious pancakes we discovered different textures from the pancake ingredients too!

To help develop our counting skills we used props to sing "Five Crispy Pancakes" (to the tune of "Five Currant Buns in a Bakers Shop)



St Patrick's day was lots of fun! We looked at shamrocks and organised them into groups based on the sizes big and small and using other size related vocabulary such as tiny and huge. Exploring rainbows gave us the perfect opportunity to work on our colours. We extended our learning through taking part in painting activities and colour sorting



What a lovely time was had when the Bunny room made Mother's Day cards! With their little hands and big hearts, they created their masterpieces.

These cards are not just paper and colours; they are heartfelt treasures filled with love.

### **Summer Term- Exciting Learning- our little bunnies will be hopping into their next stage of development through exploration and play**

As spring turns to summer, the children will discover the magic of blossoming flowers, playful animals, and the excitement of new beginnings

Let's get ready for a fantastic journey into the wonderful world of families! Our upcoming activities will introduce toddlers to the concept of family in the most engaging and delightful way. Each activity will be designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and understanding.

Explore Different Families: Children will discover that families come in all shapes and sizes. Through interactive storytelling and role-playing, they will learn that every family is unique and special in its own way.

**Family Craft Projects:** Get ready for some arty fun! Bunnies will have the opportunity to create "My Family" picture frames using colourful materials. It's a great way for them to express what family means to them.

**Family Songs and Rhymes:** Music time will include catchy tunes about families that will have your child singing and clapping along. These songs will help reinforce what they are learning while having tons of fun.

**Story Time:** Our book corner will feature heartwarming stories about families from around the world. This will be a lovely way for your child to see different family dynamics and traditions.

This would be the perfect opportunity for you to send in family photos via the Blossom App, so we can add them to our family board.



## Squirrels

In January we will be exploring and learning about winter.

We have been experimenting leaving water filled balloons outside during freezing temperatures and observe happenings. When the water in the balloons frozen, we removed the balloon to reveal the frozen water and observed patterns in the ICE.

We have been creating our own winter designs using blue, silver and white loose parts using both the cork boards and picture frames to decorate developing our creativity and imagination.

The children enjoyed decorating their own snowman biscuit. Using icing and sprinkles to design their individual artistic creations developing their hand eye co-ordination to use tools and using them for a purpose.

## Chinese New Year

We celebrated Chinese New Year and the year of the " Snake" and gained knowledge of the animals of the zodiac and showed understanding as we researched which Animal was celebrated on the year we were born.

The children used black marker pens to create red envelopes which we created using Chinese symbols to represent "Luck" and enclosed a gold coin inside. The children decorated a large box and created their own Chinese dragon, we watched a short video to support our learning about Chinese New Year and used our bodies to copy some dragon dancing ourselves.







The children used tweezers and had a try using chop sticks to try and find letters of personal significance.



We set up a Chinese restaurant taking on the roles of the customer and a chef taking orders from our friends. This was enhanced when the children enjoyed a delicious Chinese chicken curry which was made by our cook Sue at lunchtime, and had tasting opportunities to try prawn crackers, spring rolls and crispy won tons becoming aware of their own likes and dislikes as we enjoyed trying new foods. We had a vote to see which one was our favourite and prawn crackers was the winner!



## Valentines Day

We have been discussing people who are special to us in group time conversation-Linking to Valentines Day.

We decorated cards to share with our loved ones.



Working together- measuring ingredients to make heart shaped biscuits- observe and noticing changes as we created a dough, rolling it out, cutting out the heart shape and discovering the magic of what happens after they are cooked in the oven.



We were very excited to have a Pancake Café- role play area with opportunities to imitate and use imagination to create pancakes and discuss our favourite toppings.

Our link to literacy was the story “Mr. Wolf’s Pancakes”.



We enjoyed manipulating the lemon scented playdough using rollers to strengthen our hands to create our own pancakes.



## Science

We set up our own science lab by taking part in daily planned science activities. Using vocabulary to question how and why?

Becoming little scientist creating fizzing reactions using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.

Magic melting skittles-observing the changes that happen when skittles are arrange around a plate and water is added.

Strengthening hands to improve our fine motor skills when spraying the ice to create magic fizzing ice



## St. Patricks Day

We developed our hand eye co-ordination to print Leprechauns using different shades of green



Decorating biscuits using green icing and sprinkles developing our hand eye co-ordination





## Ramadan

This past month, preschoolers embarked on an exciting journey to learn about Ramadan, a special time for many families around the world. Through a series of engaging activities, the children discovered the beauty and meaning behind this holy month.

The children listened to stories that explained the significance of Ramadan. These stories helped them understand the values of kindness, patience, and gratitude. Our little ones were eager to learn and ask questions, enriching their understanding and respect for diverse traditions.

To make the learning experience even more memorable, the children participated in creative art and craft projects. They made stunning crescent moon and star shapes, which are symbols of Ramadan, using colourful paper and sparkles. Their creations decorated our room, reminding us all of the light and hope that Ramadan brings.

In addition, the children enjoyed preparing and tasting a variety of traditional treats that are often eaten during Iftar, the meal that breaks the fast at sunset. They enjoyed trying new flavours and sharing their thoughts about the delicious foods with one another.

These activities provided a wonderful opportunity to develop empathy, cultural awareness, and a deeper sense of community.

We are so proud of our children's curiosity and enthusiasm in embracing new cultures and traditions. By nurturing these values from a young age, we hope to build a foundation of understanding and harmony in our diverse community.

Look at our lovely photos. Let's continue to celebrate learning and diversity together!



## Mummy and Me – Crafty Afternoon Tea

What a lovely afternoon in the sunshine.

Thank-you to our Mummy's/Grandparents that joined us for a Thursday afternoon full of Crafty Activities-Perfume making, loose part portraits, pressed flower bookmarks and bracelet making to celebrate Mother's Day. –We all joined in with the Hokey-Cokey to finish the afternoon,

We hope that you enjoyed your Mummy & Me Afternoon Tea box, full of treats to share at home together.





## French- learning about Animals

This term we have been busy learning about Animals and their names in French.

Le vache-cow, mouton-sheep, canard-duck, cheval-horse, Chein-dog, chat-cat and couchon-pig



## Wake up shake up- active mornings- Mr Move it- cosmic yoga





### Next steps:

We will be Changing our role play area into a Farm Shop- using counting skills, labelling fruits and vegetables and using imagination in role play experiences- enhancing in using fruits and vegetables to print and using our senses to taste and vote which is their favourite.

Explore and investigate Lifecycles of a frog and caterpillar this will follow on to our new Story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"



### School Readiness

**April 16th- school offer day, please let us know which school your child will be attending reception in September, so that we can help your child to have a smooth transition.**

As we prepare to say a sad farewell to our older children, as they continue on their learning journey at school. Highwood Day Nursery will promote your child's independence within our supportive caring environment.

Your child will be encouraged to think and act for themselves and through a variety of carefully planned activities and every day opportunities. This should help to enable the children to have the appropriate skills to be champions in school readiness.

In 2025, the EYFS framework emphasizes "school readiness" as providing children with a broad range of knowledge and skills for future success, with concerns raised about social, emotional, and communication skills, as well as toilet training and screen time.

#### Key Aspects of School Readiness in the EYFS (2025):

##### Definition:

The EYFS defines "school readiness" as equipping children with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in school and beyond.

##### Areas of Focus:

**Social and Emotional Development:** Children need to be able to take turns, share, play with others, and understand their own and others' emotions.

**Communication and Language:** Children should be able to listen, follow instructions, and express their needs and ideas.

**Self-Care Skills:** Basic skills like using the toilet, dressing themselves, and managing belongings are important.

**Cognitive Skills:** Children need to be able to pay attention, concentrate, and learn new things.

**Physical Development:** Being active and having good motor skills are crucial.

**Below are the focused areas that the Government highlighted in 2025:**

A lack of toilet training is a recurring concern.

Increased screen time may be impacting children's readiness.

Challenges with social and emotional skills, such as playing and sharing, are also being highlighted.

Some children struggle with communication skills, such as listening and following instructions.