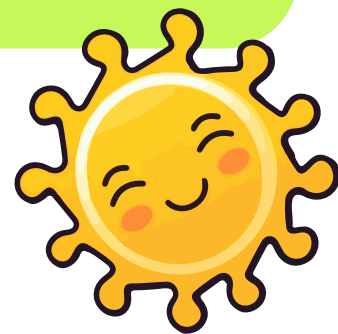


# Summer 2025 Newsletter





# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS AND NEXT STEPS!

## Under 2s



### April: Spring and Easter

In April, the children celebrated Easter by decorating polystyrene eggs and taking part in Easter egg hunts in themed tuff trays. With the arrival of spring, our activities also focused on signs of the season, such as flowers and butterflies, using sponges and cotton buds to make colourful art.

### May: People Who Help Us & Jobs

In May, we explored the theme People Who Help Us & Jobs. The children had fun washing baby dolls in the tuff tray and making wheel marks with ambulance and fire engine toys. We also enjoyed music time with songs like 'The Wheels on the Bus.'

### June: Construction and Things That Move

In June, the children explored construction and movement. They particularly enjoyed playing with boats in the water tuff tray, which helped keep them cool in the warm weather. The children also explored a construction-themed tray with tractors, sand, and Rice Krispies.

### July: Summer Holidays and Weather

This month, our focus is on Summer Holidays and Weather. The children are enjoying outdoor play and have been exploring sliced oranges in water. They've also been busy with small world tuff trays that represent the beach and seaside life, using their senses to explore new textures.

### August: Animal World and Dinosaurs

Looking ahead to August, our theme will be Animal World & Dinosaurs. We'll focus on animal sounds during music time, create animal footprints on large paper in the tuff tray, and enjoy outdoor water play as we wash toy animals in the sunshine.



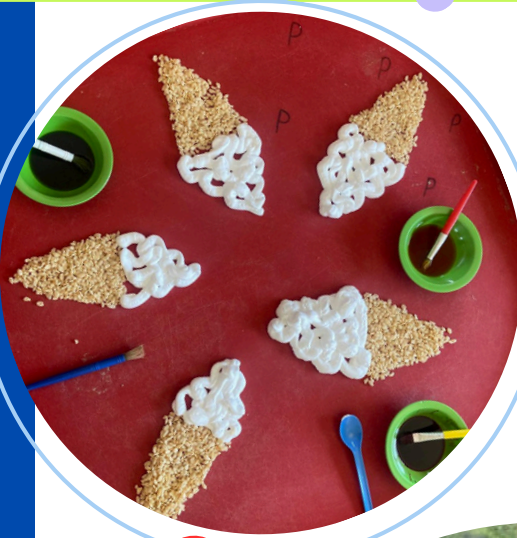


# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS AND NEXT STEPS!

## 2-3s

### April: Signs of Spring

Children planted seeds, trimmed real grass, and made sandwiches. For Easter, they decorated eggs and baked flower- and egg-shaped biscuits while learning about growth and seasonal changes.



### May: People Who Help Us

We explored different jobs through themed tuff trays, made fire playdough, and transformed toy cars into ambulances, which the children cleaned with soap and sponges in the sunshine.



### June: Things That Go & Construction

The children built their own vehicles with bricks and boxes, explored transport with flashcards and circle time games, and enjoyed climbing inside a giant cardboard aeroplane in the garden.

### July: Summer Holidays & Weather

This month, we've been making fruit lollies, rainbow trays, and beach-themed sensory play. The children loved using Play-Doh to make ice lollies and exploring new textures and tastes.

### August: Animal World & Dinosaurs

Next month, we'll explore animals and their habitats. Children will help build nature trays, make Arctic scenes with shaving foam and ice, and learn through sensory and role play.





## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS AND NEXT STEPS!

## Pre-school

**April: Life Cycles & Easter**

In April, the preschoolers were busy discovering the life cycles of plants and animals, as well as celebrating Easter. We got creative with a variety of crafts and enjoyed hands-on exploration. The Bug Hotel became a favourite spot for bug hunts and nature observations.

**May: People Who Help Us**

In May, we dove into role play and learned about the jobs of people who help us every day. The children enjoyed pretending to be doctors, firefighters, and more—and we even talked about what we'd like to be when we grow up!

**June: Construction & Transport**

June was all about construction and transport. The children developed their fine and gross motor skills through building activities and learned new vocabulary around different types of transport. A big highlight was our Sports Day, filled with fun and movement! At the Bug Hotel, we used natural materials to build our own little structures.

**July: Summer Holidays & Saying Goodbye**

This month, our focus is Summer Holidays. The children have been looking at world maps to explore holiday destinations, and they've loved splashing around in water trays. July is also a time of transition—we've been saying goodbye to our friends heading off to school and celebrating their time with us.

**August: Animals & Dinosaurs**

Looking ahead to August, we'll be exploring the animal kingdom and the world of dinosaurs. The children will enjoy crafts, books, and discussions about different species. We'll also keep a close eye on our Bug Hotel visitors, taking photos for our nature album.



# FOREST SCHOOL

## NEWS

Acorn to Oak  
Grow. Explore. Discover.



### Did You Know...?

Even on sunny days and in dry weather, we love to create mud for the children to play with! Messy play is a big part of how children learn and explore the world around them using all their senses. Please keep this in mind when choosing your child's outfits, as they're likely to get messy while having fun!



# DATES FOR THE DIARY

25 August 2025 - Summer Bank Holiday - Nursery  
Closed for all children

27 - 31 October 2025 - Half Term for Term time  
children only

17 November 2025 - Parents' Evening - 6pm

11 December 2025 - Christmas Carols

15 December 2025 - Father Christmas Visit & Christmas  
Lunch

19 December 2025 - Last day of the Autumn term for  
Time only children

24 December 2025 - Nursery closed for staff holidays  
for all children

25 December 2025 - Christmas Day - Nursery Closed  
for all children

26 December 2025 - Boxing Day - Nursery Closed for all  
children

01 January 2026 - New Year's Day - Nursery Closed  
for all children

02 January 2026 - Nursery closed for staff holidays  
for all children



A big thank you to all the families participating in the Enjoy Benefits scheme! Your generous support has recently allowed us to host a Staff Appreciation Breakfast, as well as invest in exciting new outdoor toys and educational resources. These contributions not only boost team morale but also enhance the nursery experience for all our children. If your employer offers a similar scheme, we'd love for you to get involved—every bit truly makes a difference! Thank you to those participating in the Enjoy Benefits scheme! Your support has helped us purchase new outdoor toys, resources, and even host a staff breakfast, enhancing the nursery experience for all. If your employer offers similar benefits, we encourage you to take part—every contribution makes a difference in improving our nursery for the children.

# STAFF UPDATES

We're excited to share some team news! Chloe and Issy have now officially joined our 2-3s team. We're also pleased to announce that Chloe has been appointed as Senior Room Leader for the 2-3s, working jointly alongside Lucy, our current Room Leader. In addition, Chloe has also been appointed as our 4th in charge. We're confident their partnership will continue to provide a warm, engaging, and supportive environment for the children.

## GENTLE

## REMINDERS

Label Belongings - Please name all your children's clothing and belongings.

Buggy Park - We are happy to store small buggies only if you're unable to take it back with you, but it has to be collapsed.

Policies - If you would like to view our policies these are available on our website or alternatively please [click here](#).

Weather-Appropriate Dress - Ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Preschool Forest School - Please make sure that your child is wearing appropriate shoes. No flip flops, sandals, or Crocs, as they do not offer the right support and coverage for your child's feet.

Early drop offs and late pick-ups - will be charged as per the nursery policy. So please drop and collect your child on time.

Food/Drink - Please don't send your child/ren to the nursery with any food or drink from home. This is to ensure the safety of all children.

Extra sessions required - Please email:  
[office@acorntooaknurseryandpreschool.co.uk](mailto:office@acorntooaknurseryandpreschool.co.uk)

Please ensure that your contact information on Famly is up to date. If there have been any recent changes to your address, telephone number or emergency contacts, do let us know. Keeping this information current helps us stay connected and ensures your child's safety at all times.



# MESSAGE FROM OUR SENCO

Did You Know...?

Our SEN children benefit from personalised 1:1 sessions tailored to their individual needs. Our SENCO works closely with the borough's Inclusion Officer and arranges regular visits to ensure we provide the best possible environment and support for every child.

## POTTY TRAINING

Potty training is an important and exciting step for both children and parents. To help you along this journey, we recommend visiting <https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/> for a range of helpful resources. The site provides practical tips and expert advice to support a smoother, more confident transition.

## DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

For more information about Development Matters, please [click here](#).

## THE LULLABY TRUST

The Lullaby Trust website is an excellent resource for parents seeking guidance on safer sleep for babies. It provides trusted, evidence-based advice aimed at reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), covering topics such as sleep positions, room temperature, and creating a safe sleep environment. The site also offers compassionate support for bereaved families, helpful tips for new parents, and details on ongoing campaigns and research. Visit [lullabytrust.org.uk](http://lullabytrust.org.uk) to explore a wide range of information designed to help keep your baby safe and healthy.

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

The Speech and Language UK website is a valuable resource for families supporting children with speech, language, and communication needs. It offers practical advice, expert guidance, and useful tools to help children build essential communication skills. Parents can learn how to identify early signs of difficulties, find strategies to encourage development at home, and access information on professional support. The site also provides helpful materials for educators and therapists, promoting a comprehensive approach to communication support. For more details, visit [speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/](http://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/).

# Sport Day

We had a fantastic time at our Sports Day! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and energetic little athletes taking part in races and games. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to cheer and support the children—it made the day even more special.

The excitement, encouragement, and team spirit truly shone through, and the children were so proud to show off their skills. Whether it was running, jumping, balancing, or just having fun with friends, every child gave it their all—and that's what made it such a memorable day!



## PETTING ZOO FARM VISIT

The children were bursting with excitement during our recent petting zoo visit! They loved getting up close to a range of animals — from gentle farmyard favourites to some more unusual creatures.

One of the most talked-about visitors was Rosie the dragon. She might look a little scary at first, but the children quickly learned that Rosie is a friendly bearded dragon — and definitely not the kind that breathes fire!

It was a fantastic hands-on experience that sparked lots of curiosity, conversation, and learning.



## PRESCHOOL LEAVERS GRADUATION

Our preschool graduation was a truly heart-warming celebration. It was such a joy to hear each child share what they want to be when they grow up—from policemen and dentists to doctors, princesses, and even hearts! Their dreams were as unique and imaginative as they are.

Many of these children have been with us since their early days, and watching them grow into confident, curious individuals has been such a joy. While it's always a little emotional to say goodbye, we do so with full hearts and so much pride.

We wish all of our leavers the very best as they begin their school journey. They will be missed dearly—but we know they're ready for their next adventure.



ACORN TO OAK NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

# CLUBS

**MONDAY  
FOOTBALL**

with  
Adam



**TAG  
RUGBY**

with  
Adam



**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
SPORTS AND  
YOGA**  
with Tracy



**FRIDAY  
STREET DANCE**  
with Cleo



**COOKING CLUB**  
with Chef Tom





# HEALTHY TEETH



## *Tips for parents/carers and guardians*

### 1. Avoid Putting Babies to Bed with Bottles

Letting babies fall asleep while sucking on milk or juice can lead to bottle caries (tooth decay caused by prolonged exposure to sugar). Always remove the bottle once they've finished feeding and clean their gums or teeth.

### 2. Introduce Open Cups Early

Start transitioning from bottles to open cups from around 6 months. This helps support oral motor development and reduces the risk of tooth decay compared to sipping from bottles or sippy cups throughout the day.

### 3. Be Mindful of Hidden Sugars

Even snacks marketed as 'healthy' (like fruit pouches, raisins, or flavoured yoghurts) can be high in natural sugars. Stick to sugar-free snacks like cheese cubes, veggie sticks, and plain rice cakes.

### 4. Avoid Grazing

Frequent snacking—even on healthy food—can lead to constant exposure to sugars. Aim for regular mealtimes and limit snacks to just once or twice a day, encouraging water between meals.

### 5. Use Fluoride Varnish (Ask Your Dentist)

Children over the age of 3 can receive fluoride varnish treatment at the dentist, which strengthens tooth enamel and helps prevent decay. It's quick, safe, and effective—ask your dentist if your child is eligible.

### 6. Don't Share Spoons

To avoid transferring bacteria that cause tooth decay, avoid sharing utensils.



### 7. Talk About 'Tooth-Friendly' Foods

Start simple conversations about which foods are 'good for teeth' (like crunchy veg, cheese, and water) and which we have as 'treats' (sweets, juices). This helps children form a positive, balanced relationship with food and health early on.

### 8. Book Dental Visits Every 6 Months

Even if your child has only a few teeth, regular check-ups every six months are recommended. These visits help build confidence, routine, and allow the dentist to catch any issues early.

To find an NHS dentist near you, visit the link below or scan the QR code.



<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>

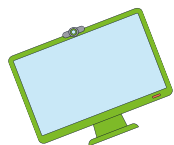




# ONLINE SAFETY



## TIPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN 0-5 YEAR OLDS



### Regularly Update Software and Apps

Keep all devices and apps up to date to protect against security vulnerabilities. Most devices offer automatic updates—make sure these are turned on.

### Teach Early Digital Literacy

Even young children can start learning basic rules, like not clicking on pop-ups or links from unknown sources. Use simple language to explain what's safe and what's not.



### Use Parental Control Apps

Beyond broadband controls, consider apps like Google Family Link or Apple Screen Time, which allow you to monitor and set limits remotely.

### Monitor Screen Time Quality, Not Just Quantity

Focus on the quality of what your child is accessing, choosing educational and age-appropriate content rather than just limiting screen time.



### Be a Role Model

Children learn a lot by watching adults. Model positive device habits by limiting your own screen use when spending time together.

### Encourage Open Conversations

Make sure your child feels comfortable talking to you about anything confusing or upsetting they might encounter online—even at this young age, open dialogue helps build trust and safety.

