



Next Steps @ St Johns



Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring

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21st March 2025

This week at Nursery . . .

We have really enjoyed seeing the glorious sunshine this week. The children have loved being outside and making the most of the spring weather. We have made some observational paintings where the children carefully looked at a bunch of daffodils, noted the colours and carefully painted what could be seen. We talked about the different parts of the daffodil, and the story 'That's Not a Daffodil' helped the children to understand the life cycle of the flower.



On Tuesday, we visited St John's Church. We were welcomed by Father Guy and Father Phillip. They talked to the children about what a Church is and what it is used for. They set us a treasure hunt and helped us to explore the Church to find various items and objects. We found a big wooden bird, some small prayer candles, pretty stained glass windows and a large cross hanging from the ceiling. The children also had the opportunity to listen to the Church bells and then had the opportunity to ring one with Father Guy's help.

Father Philip showed us the special robes that are worn during Church services and we also enjoyed singing lots of nursery rhymes and songs together. We had a fabulous time and we were so proud of the children who walked beautifully to and from the Church and were so well behaved throughout. We look forward to spending more time with Philip and Guy at Easter.



STAR OF THE WEEK

Mila



for always trying hard to complete tasks and taking pride in all that she does.

Well done!





During our Forest School session this week, we went on a Gruffalo hunt! The children loved searching the woodland space to find clues and they worked well together as a team to solve the mystery of the missing characters! The children also spent time climbing trees, listening to the birds and noticing spring time insects such as bumblebees.



Easter Bonnet Competition

We are thrilled to invite you to join our 2025 Easter Bonnet competition! As part of our celebrations, we would love the children to create and make their own special hats which reflect springtime and the Easter festival.

The closing date will be Friday 4th April and there will be a prize for the winning entry! Please feel free to send in entries from next week onwards.

Easter Service

On Wednesday 2nd April, we have been invited to join the school Easter service at St. John's Church. In order to commit to this, we need to ask for four parent helpers to walk us to and from the Church. Timings for this will be approximately 8:30am - 10:30am. If you are able to help, please inform a member of the team. Thank you.

Some of you may be aware that Lou is going to be away from Nursery as of next Wednesday. This is due to her having an operation. Lou will not return to work until after the Easter holidays. You may notice some different adults around who will be covering in her absence - these are members of staff who would normally be based in school. Please be aware that any queries regarding additional hours/changes to days or sessions etc. may take longer to be responded to.

Funding forms are also due to be updated whilst Lou is away. Whilst staff are happy to help where they can, there is a nursery administrator based in the school office who will also be able to assist with any queries. She works term time only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and can be contacted via e-mail office@stjohns.mnsp.org.uk or phone 1761412019

We all wish Lou the best of luck with her operation. We hope she has a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back soon.



Arbor

As you will be aware the school is changing the system it uses to communicate to parents and carers. This will also include all e-mails and texts for those at Next Steps Nursery.

Thank you to everyone who has already downloaded the Parent Portal App. If you have not yet done so, it is really important that you do so as soon as possible.

Please note:

- Future newsletters will be sent out using Arbor,
- This will also be the new system used for booking Parents Evenings,
- The system will provide you with the opportunity to view information held regarding your child and instantly inform us of any changes,
- In due course, this will also be the system used for booking school meals.

All parents and carers will have received log-in details via e-mail. If you have not yet received this e-mail or have any questions regarding how to set this up, please contact the school office: office@stjohns.mnsp.org.uk

September 2025 Sessions

If you are hoping to increase hours or change sessions from September, please e-mail us with details so we can make arrangements.

Please note there is no guarantee that all preferences will be available so we do need to receive your requirements by the end of March please.

E-mail: nextstepsnursery@stjohns.mnsp.org.uk

Easter

Please can you inform us if your child is not going to be attending nursery during the school Easter holidays.

Due to staffing ratios, it is really helpful to know how many children we can expect to be in. These dates are as follows: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th April. Nursery will be closed on 11th April, re-opening on 22nd April.

REMINDER

Parents who are entitled to the Working Families Early Years Entitlement need to have applied for their code or reconfirmed their eligibility by Monday 31st March 2025, in order to access the funding from 1st April 2025.

In order to not miss any e-mail reminders sent to you from the DFE regarding this, please ensure you check spam or junk folders and ensure contact details are up to date in the system.

Dates for the Diary

2nd April: Easter Service at St. John's Church, 9am

7th - 10th April: The school kitchen will be closed, please bring packed lunches.

11th April - 21st April: The Nursery will be closed for the Easter break.

5th May: Bank Holiday. The Nursery will be closed.

26th May: Bank Holiday. The Nursery will be closed.

