



# Next Steps @ St Johns



Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring

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## This week at Nursery . . .



This week, our learning has been inspired by the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, linking with our theme of Spring and Growth.

The children have enjoyed retelling the story using a story sack, helping them to build confidence, develop their language skills, and remember key events from the story, with props to help.

We have also explored the life cycle of a caterpillar, learning how it grows and changes into a butterfly. The children talked about each stage of the process, and found it funny to think of a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, some of them commented that it was like a "magic trick!"

In our maths learning, we explored symmetry by creating simple butterfly prints. The children painted one side of a butterfly's wings, then folded the paper to print the same pattern on the other side - it was a fun and hands-on way to introduce a mathematical concept.

In the sensory room, the children created butterfly shadow puppets and enjoyed making them 'fly', encouraging imaginative play and exploration of light and movement (a link to last week's British Science Week).

At Forest School, we planted cress seeds, giving the children the opportunity to learn about how plants grow and what they need to thrive. We are looking forward to watching them grow! We also used the garden to dance to music with fabric scarves, moving like butterflies and flapping our wings!

We hope that you have been enjoying your Next Steps Library books! Don't forget to swap them over once you have finished. Please speak to a member of staff if you need some help with this.



### STAR OF THE WEEK

Hattie



For showing creativity and becoming confident and talkative in and out of play

**Well done!**



## Easter Church Service - Thursday 2nd April

As part of our up-coming Easter celebrations, we will be taking our pre-school children to the St John's Church service on Thursday 2nd April.

After consideration, we have decided that this year, our visit will be for pre-school-aged children only. The service involves sitting for an extended period of time, and we feel that this would be challenging for our younger children at this stage of their development.

All children will take part in Easter-themed activities over the next couple of weeks, where they will be able to engage in a way that is more appropriate, active, and enjoyable for them.

As outlined in this week's home learning challenge, we are launching an Easter bonnet competition. We would like pre-school children to wear their bonnets to Church for the service, but want to reassure you that the competition is open to all children. We encourage as many as possible to be involved and cannot wait to see their special creations!

If your pre-school child attends nursery on a Thursday and you are able to support us in walking the children to and from Church, please speak to a member of staff. The church service starts at 9am, so we would require help from drop off time, until approximately 10:30/11am.



## Nursery Rhyme of the Week

### The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round  
Round and round, round and round  
The wheels on the bus go round and round  
All day long

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish  
Swish swish swish, swish swish swish  
The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish  
All day long

The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep  
Beep beep beep, beep beep beep  
The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep  
All day long

The children on the bus go up and down  
Up and down, up and down  
The children on the bus go up and down  
All day long

The bell on the bus goes ding, ding, ding  
Ding ding ding, ding ding ding  
The bell on the bus goes ding, ding, ding  
All day long!



### **Funded Hours**

If you wish to claim any funded hours at nursery next term, please complete and return the parent declaration form as soon as possible. Please note all applications and revalidations of working family codes should be made in line with grace periods and before March 31st for the Summer Term. If you have any queries, please contact the School Office as soon as possible.

### **Outstanding invoices**

Please check your Arbor Parent Portal account which will show if you have any outstanding invoices to pay. Please ensure these are paid as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Thursday 2nd April: School Easter Service at St. John's Church with pre-school children

Easter Break: Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) - Monday 13th April.

The Nursery will re-open Tuesday 14th April.

Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday. The Nursery will be closed.

Monday 25th May: Bank Holiday. The Nursery will be closed.

26th - 28th May The school kitchen will be closed for the half-term. Please bring packed lunches.  
Summer Closure: The Nursery will be closed from Monday 3rd August to Friday 14th August inclusive.



## Home Learning Challenge

### Easter Bonnet Competition

Create an Easter bonnet using materials you can find at home. Your bonnet can be as colourful, fun, or imaginative as you like!

Deadline for competition entries: Thursday 2nd April

