Little Explorers

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2026

Gosh, we are nearly at the end of Spring term already! Daffodils are blooming and spring is popping up everywhere.

First of all, we'd like to take you back to the end of Autumn term and give a big "thank you" to everyone who joined us for the children's Christmas fun afternoon. The children love having you join them for stories, crafting, singing and fun!

Thank you to all of you who were able to come along to our Christmas fair and for also donating items for the raffle, selling raffle tickets to friends and family and to our amazing staff team and committee for giving up time to come and help us organise and run the day. As always, our amazing Santa and his two jolly helpers were a huge hit with children and grownups and really brought true magic to the event. With all of our combined efforts the fayre raised a fantastic total of just under £2k!! That's an amazing amount of money that went a long way in helping us get our new room for babies up and running. It also helped towards equipment and experiences for our older children too.

The fabulous "Letters from Santa" fundraiser which was organised and run by committee member (William's Mum) Nicola was a huge success even catching the attention of the Shropshire Star. It was so heartwarming knowing that we were spreading Christmas cheer across the country and even into Wales, Scotland and Ireland! This event raised us just under £900, which is just amazing. Thank you!

Staff News: We are so proud to announce that Jasmine completed her Level 3 Early Years Educator Apprenticeship. She has worked tirelessly, going above and beyond in each of her assignments and impressed her tutor with each assignment submitted. We are so lucky she decided to stay with us and share all her knowledge and enthusiasm with us all!

Last term the children enjoyed our topics on Light & dark, Space, Nursery Rhymes Week, Road Safety and of course Christmas! The children loved ending the term with a Christmas party with Zoe from Jiggy Wrigglers. This was made even more fun with our school leavers from July joining us for the fun!

This term we started with our topic "It's Cold Outside". We looked at how to keep warm and what animals live in colder climates. We are continuing with "Bird watch", "Dinosaurs" and "National Story Telling Week" and ending the half term with "Children's Mental Health Week". We then continued after half term looking at Chinese new year, traditional stories (including World Book Day), Construction and transport, mother's day, and will end the term looking at Spring and new Life and of course, Easter.

As we open Little Explorers to children from 9 months old we are implementing a new Slippers/indoor shoes Policy. We kindly ask for children to have with them a pair of slippers or inside crocs to wear when here. When children and staff arrive each morning we will change into indoor slippers/shoes to minimise dirt and germs and keep our carpets clean for our crawlers, it also adds extra comfort to all children and helps with independence as we begin thinking about our road to school. This policy will be implemented from after Easter.

We are so excited to have started to slowly welcome our newest and youngest ever Little Explorers. It has been a very busy spring term getting into the new routine of having under 2s join us. Thanks to everyone's hard work the room is looking great and from Easter when the room is open the full 5 days a week, and we are already full. This is great news!! We invite you all to the official opening of the baby room on Saturday 16th May 11am-2pm where we will cut the red ribbon and enjoy fun and refreshments with you all. We are hoping the Shropshire Star are able to do an article on us so spread the word!

We hope our lovely Mums enjoyed their Mother's Day afternoon tea last week. We would like to invite all the Dad's in to celebrate Father's day on Friday 19th June at 2pm.

Our fabulous committee are continuing to plan lots of great events and family fun. Our Pottery Painting morning at the weekend raised a fantastic £380 to go towards our greenhouse. Our next event will be the annual Summer Fayre event with Brown Clee Primary School. Save the date (Saturday 27th June) and we will give you more details soon. If you would like to be a part of organising this event, please let us know! The more hands (and brain!) the better!

As always we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a fun filled end of spring and full summer term!

Laura, Jordan, Jasmine, Ruth, Katie and Claire

Diary Dates

End of spring term: Friday 27th March
Easter holidays: March 30th- April 10th
Summer term starts: Monday April 13th
May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May
End of half term: Friday 22nd May
May half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May
Second half Summer term starts: Monday 1st June
End of term: Friday 17th July

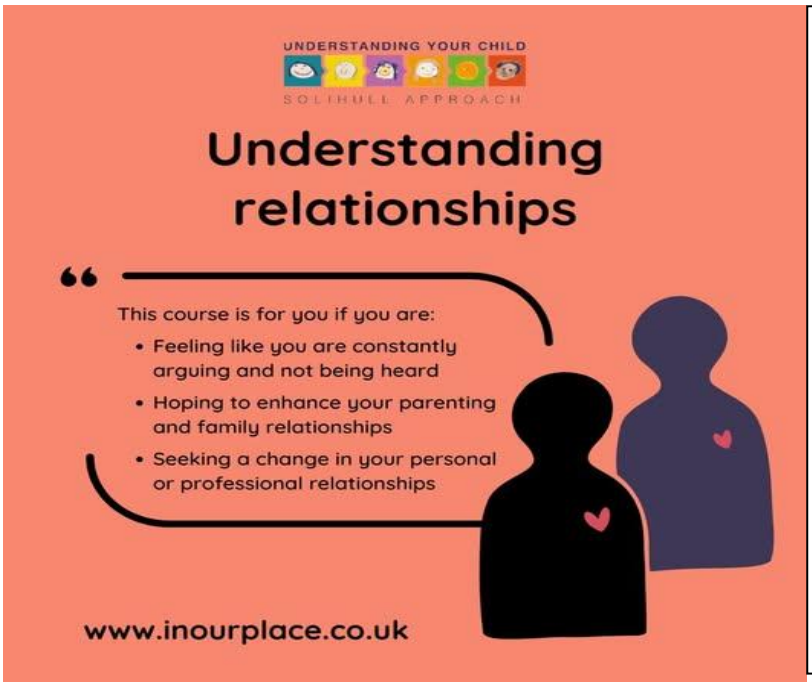
Father's day afternoon tea: Friday 19th June 2pm
Sports day: Tuesday 1st July 2pm -3pm
Graduation ceremony: Friday 17th July 2pm-3pm

Grand opening and fun day: Saturday 16th May 11am-2pm
Summer Fayre: Saturday 27th June
Little explorers AGM: Tuesday 7th July 7pm

Drop offs and Pickups polite reminder: Please remember that unless prebooked, children should not arrive before 8.55am each morning and should be picked up at 3pm.

Staffing is organised around prebooked breakfast and afterschool club places. Please make sure we are given as much notice as possible if you need your child in for one of these sessions. For last minute emergencies, please call.

Change to collection: Our routine is fitted around finishing the day at 3pm, picking up before this time can disrupt our routine. To avoid these disruptions to our end of day routines, we are now asking parents to wait at the door for 3pm collections. We will then bring the children out one by one for you to take home. If you do need to pick up early for an appointment etc, please phone and let us know beforehand.



A FREE online course for Shropshire residents. This virtual course covers feelings, communication, conflict in relationships, anger, repair and more.
Why would anyone want to do a course on understanding their relationships? Well, you may want to celebrate it, you may want to give it a bit of an MOT or you may feel your relationship is in need of some attention. Maybe you feel you're drifting, or perhaps things have been difficult lately. You're looking for a way forward.
Relationships can be difficult, complicated, fun, satisfying, exciting, annoying, bring out the best in us, bring out the worst in us. We're often in one, but we don't often spend much time on them. So here's the chance!
You can complete the course at a time and pace to suit you. Use the access code DARWIN18 to do the course for free. Find out more about the 'Understanding your relationship' course and enrol now.
https://orlo.uk/SywF0





What to Pack Each Day

Starting nursery and Preschool is an exciting milestone! To help your child feel comfortable and settled, here's a helpful guide to what to bring on their first day, and for each day thereafter.

Packed Lunch

Please provide a healthy packed lunch each day that meets expectations set out in our Healthy Eating and Nutrition Policy (unless your child is booked to have school dinners). Examples of what to pack are also found in our Healthy Packed Lunch Guide.

We kindly ask that:

- Lunchboxes are clearly labelled with your child's name
- Food is nut-free
- An ice pack is included
- Grapes and similar foods are cut lengthways
- Fresh drinking water will always be available.

Water Bottle

Please supply a named water bottle each day that is filled with water only.

Clothes

Please bring:

- 2–3 full changes of clothes - little accidents and messy play are all part of learning and growing so we often need a change!
- Socks and underwear
- Weather-appropriate items (coat, jumper, sun hat, etc.)
- Shoes for indoors (slippers or indoor croc style shoes)

Please label everything clearly with your child's name.

Nappies & Changing Essentials

- Enough nappies for the day
- We provide Aldi sensitive wipes but if you would like us to use your own, preferred wipes, please supply these.
- Preferred Nappy cream (labelled)

Outdoor Clothing

We spend a lot of time outdoors in all seasons, so please provide:

- Waterproof suit
- Coat (waterproof in wet weather, warm for the cold weather)
- Wellies or waterproof booties
- Sun hat and sun cream (summer)
- Warm hat and gloves (winter)

Please label everything clearly with your child's name.

Comfort Items

If your child has a comforter, blanket, small soft toy, or familiar item, please feel free to send it in. These can be very helpful during settling in. As you child settles and becomes more confident, we will encourage your child to put their comforter in their bag once happily playing.

Toys from Home

We understand that children often want to bring their own toys in from home. We kindly ask that unless it is for a "show and tell" where it will go away in their bag afterwards, toys from home are left at home. It can cause upset for all children, and we have plenty of toys to occupy your child here at Preschool. This also stops the possibility of home toys getting broken or lost.

For Babies

If your child is in our baby room, please provide extra to the above:

- Bottles (2–3 bottles, sterilised if under the age of 1)
- Formula or expressed breast milk (clearly labelled)
- Dummies (if used)
- Comforter or special blanket (if needed)
- All in one bib if preferred
- Indoor booties

Please refer to our Formula Milk and Breast Milk policy for more information on what milk feeding products to bring.