



Childrens House Newsletter

Summer Term 2026

A very big welcome to all our families. We hope you're ready for an action-packed
Summer Term at The Children's House!



It seems incredible that we're already at the start of this final term of the academic year!

This of course, is the final term for our Class of 2026 who will be leaving to start school in September. We'll be supporting our children (and parents!) with this important transition throughout the term ahead. More of this to come later in the newsletter!

After so much rain again last term, we're really looking forward to some warmer weather ahead, and extending more of the children's learning to the great outdoors.

Our **Summer Term project** will be **'Planting and Growing!'** which is fantastic for encouraging a love of the natural world and embracing outdoor discovery.



Planting and growing activities in the early years are essential for holistic development, fostering curiosity about nature, physical coordination through sensory play, and emotional growth through responsibility.

These activities teach patience, promote healthy eating habits, enhance cognitive understanding of life cycles, and encourage team collaboration, aligning with key early learning goals.



The key benefits of gardening for children are:

- **Physical Development (Gross & Fine Motor Skills):** Digging, planting, watering, and weeding strengthen hand-eye coordination, build physical strength, and improve motor skills.
- **Understanding the World:** Children explore science, biology, and maths by observing life cycles, weather patterns, and the roles of sunlight and soil.
- **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED):** Nurturing plants fosters responsibility, patience, empathy, and self-esteem as children take pride in their work.



- **Healthy Eating Habits:** Involving children in growing their own food encourages a better relationship with nutritious food, leading to more, healthier eating habits.
- **Communication & Language:** Describing textures, naming plant parts, and discussing growth stages enriches vocabulary.
- **Well-being & Mental Health:** Spending time in nature reduces stress, providing a calming, sensory-rich environment.

These activities are a core part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum in encouraging environmental awareness, sustainability, and teamwork.



Within the outdoor environment, children can explore their own personal risk; whether that is how high they choose to climb, their proximity to spiders, or even the feel of damp leaves and squelchy mud on their fingertips!

There's lots of information about our Summer Term project available on our website, please click on the link below where you can find out more.

[Link: Summer term planting and growing project](#)



Complimenting our project very nicely, the children will also be learning about

Minibeasts and Lifecycles

Looking at minibeasts helps us to learn about how we care for other creatures and for our environment.

So, what is a minibeast?



A minibeast, also called an invertebrate, is a creature without either a backbone or an internal skeleton.

Butterflies, bees, moths, dragonflies, centipedes, spiders, scorpions, snails, beetles, crabs and worms are all minibeasts.

It's important to encourage our children's curiosity about the natural world, for they will be the next generation safeguarding the future of our planet. Minibeasts particularly play a vital role in nature, and our children love to learn about how bees pollinate our plants, ladybirds eat the pests on our crops, and worms help to keep our soil healthy.



We can incorporate celebrations for **World Bee Day** in this topic.



Including 'waggle dancing', learning about the different roles of bees in the hive and even some delicious honey tasting!



Lifecycles form an important part of this topic and we'll be giving the children a chance to watch their very own hungry caterpillars growing and turning into beautiful butterflies, which we'll release in the school grounds.



Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy can all be supported by activities that lend themselves well to this topic.

- Minibeast surveys using tally/mark making charts
- Minibeast counting games - spots, legs, wings
- Sorting - minibeasts with legs/spots/wings etc
- Repeating patterns - threading bead caterpillars
- Measuring quantities in cooking (honey sandwiches/honey cakes)
- Symmetry - butterflies

There is a wealth of children's fiction and non-fiction books that support this topic. 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' is always a firm favourite that children love to act out and re-tell.



There are also lots of songs and nursery rhymes that we'll share together in nursery, such as 'Incey-Wincey Spider', 'Ladybird, Ladybird' and 'Little Miss Muffet'. The children love taking part with actions and words.

The world of minibeasts is amazing. There is always something new to learn, so we'll be putting on our sunhats and sun cream, packing our binoculars and magnifying glasses, and setting off to explore the incredible tiny world that's all around us!

Hopefully, over the Easter holidays, our older children will have found out which first schools they will be attending from September.

Please do let us know which school your child will be going to, as we begin helping to prepare them for this important transition.

Your child may be really looking forward to starting school, or they may be nervous about leaving the familiarity of nursery and home. Talking enthusiastically about school will help. Talk to them about the sorts of things they will be doing, and who they will meet.

Parents are often confused by what is meant by 'school readiness'. It actually refers to how simple the transition is for children heading to school, and how adjusted they are socially, physically, and intellectually beforehand.



Independence and self-regulation are far more important in helping your child with a smooth transition, than whether they are able to read and write. You can help your child by practicing the skills below: -

Getting dressed - encourage your child to dress on their own - including fastening buttons, zipping zips and taking off and putting on a jacket/coat.

Eating independently - your child should know how to eat using a knife, fork and spoon.

Going to the toilet without help.

Talking to other children - having friends is hugely beneficial for children. Encourage your child to talk and play with other children, sharing books, toys or games.

Listening to what the teacher says - your child should be able to listen without interrupting and to answer when spoken to. You could practice this at home - encouraging family discussions, taking turns to listen and to speak.

Recognising their name - some children will already be able to read and write simple words by the time they start reception class but others will be new learners. Explore what the letters in your child's name look like and help them try to write their name. It's important that your child can recognise their name so they can find their own things in the classroom.

This term we will encourage lots of discussions about starting school, which will benefit all the children, not just our Class of 2026. Talking about the things we will see and hear when we start school helps children to prepare for exciting days ahead of them! Although we will miss our older children a great deal, we wish them lots of luck in their new adventures and will enjoy sharing this final term with them.

Our **School Leavers Graduation Ceremony** gives our older children a chance to say goodbye to their friends and teachers. We will email you further information about this including times, as soon as we have the details.

Parent Questionnaire

Section 1 of 7

Childrens House Parent Survey 2026



Please take a few moments to fill out our survey. It's very important to us to know how you feel about the school.

You are welcome to put your name at the bottom of the form but this is optional if you would like to remain anonymous.

All responses will be reviewed by our principal, Stacey and the nursery owners.

Please can you help us to find out what you think about the nursery?

We welcome parent feedback to discover ways to improve the service that we offer to our families.

We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete our short survey and we'll let you know the results in due course. Thank you for your help with this.

[Link: Parent Questionnaire](#)

Things to remember!

• Nursery photographers

Our nursery photographers, Concept Photography will be coming into nursery this term on **Tuesday 12th May 9.30 - 11.00am** to take photographs of our school leavers.

Please speak to me if your child doesn't usually attend on a Tuesday morning so that we can book you in for a 5-minute slot if you would like a keepsake of nursery days. **We will be having class group photos at 11:05am**, please can parents make sure their child is here for these at 11am if they'd like them to be included. The group shots will be outside, weather depending, fingers crossed!

[Link: Concept Photography](#)



• Sun hats and sun cream

With the warmer weather approaching we would like to remind all parents to ensure children attend nursery with an appropriate, NAMED, sun hat.



This summer we will be using **Nivea Babies & Kids sensitive protect spray suncream SPF 50+** at the Children's House. This sun lotion has the highest, 5-star UVA rating and has been dermatologically tested and developed for children's delicate and sensitive skin.

If you wish for us NOT to use this cream on your child please provide a NAMED bottle of your preferred sun-cream that can **remain on site at ALL times**.

• Items from home

Please can we be mindful of the size and contents of bags brought into nursery. We have everything that your child might need for a session in nursery.

Please also can we be mindful of items in children's pockets, and any items brought in for 'Show and Tell'. We are mixed classes at The Children's House starting from age 2 years old, and therefore many small items are not suitable for this age group. We appreciate your support when keeping our children as safe as possible.

Please can you NAME all items such as water bottles, lunchboxes and jackets/ cardigans/coats as these can get easily lost and mixed up.



Please do inform us if your child has taken any medication or sustained any injury prior to a session with us. You will be asked to fill out a quick form at drop off. However, for your ease, these forms can also be downloaded and printed out from our website to complete at home and bring into nursery with you.

[Link: Childrens House website forms](#)

- **The term and holiday dates** for this academic year and the next are available on our website to assist with your forward planning.

[Link: Childrens House Hours, Fees & Holidays](#)

- **Up to date contact information**

It's so important that yours and your emergency contact's details are kept up-to-date, so that we can get in touch with you should there be any need to. Please check that the information we have on our records is correct.

- **30-hr funding reminder**

Please can we remind parents who receive 30-hr Early Years Funding for your child that you need to update your eligibility online with HMRC **every 3 months, and each time notify the nursery of your next renewal date.** Without this information we don't know if you are still eligible to receive the funding, and chasing parents for the information to keep our records updated is very time consuming. Thank you for your ongoing help with this.

And finally....

If you have any ideas for things that the children might like to include as part of their learning this term, please do share on Tapestry or speak to a teacher. We're always pleased to share favourite stories, songs and activities from home in nursery.

In the summer sunshine, children can use their senses for a whole new way of learning.

Ready to stretch their limbs and voices, summer learning provides the open space to explore some of their inner creativity!

We're particularly looking forward to spending time outdoors in the garden planting and growing with the children, and of course.... seeing you all in nursery very soon!

Kind regards

Stacey

