

April 2026 Newsletter

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the change in the weather – even if that means experiencing every kind of weather in one day!

Firstly, I would like to point out the key dates which are coming up at Croft Corner Nursery:

Tuesday 28th April 2026 6pm-7pm – Pre-School offer meeting *Aimed at families with children going to school in 2027/2028 who will be in the Woodland Room in the next academic year. If you would like to attend please email info@forestschoollnursery.co.uk

Monday 4th May 2026 – Bank holiday – Nursery closed

Wednesday 6th May 2026 – Razzamatazz Workshop for the Woodland room children

Monday 25th May 2026 – Bank holiday – Nursery closed

Wednesday 27th May – Visit to Henleigh Hall Care home to see our older friends

Wednesday 8th July 2026 – Leaver celebration

April has been a time of reflection, planning and action within the Nursery. We have been reflecting as a team about what our curriculum is, how it is shared with you, the families and how ultimately it impacts and teaches the children within our care.

Some families will have already seen a change in the Focus week but just so everyone is aware I want to share what has changed.

When your child has a focus week you will still be asked to fill out the questionnaire as we need your input, we want to have a holistic view of the child and for this we need to know them from your point of view. This is why we have now added some examples of things you can write about on the sheet, and these are simple things that may have an impact on your Child. Your Child's Key person will use their knowledge of the Child, the sheet you give us and the Birth to five assessment tools to set some 'curriculum intent activities'. These will be in the three Prime areas of Child development – Personal, social and emotional, Communication and Language and Physical. The curriculum intent activities will impact the planning for the room, which will mean that the activities will be engaging for the focus week Child, but all the other Children can join in too. The Child's Key person will then spend time with the Key Child to develop skills and their knowledge of the Child, and you will see at least 3 observations based on the three areas as above and a short overview of what the Key person knows about your Child.

There will also be an update the birth to five assessment and an assessment on

Characteristics of effective learning and Every Child a talker. This will all be published on Parent Zone for you to see and as before you will be invited in to meet with your Key Person to discuss what they have found and then to have a play in nursery with your Child.

As part of the changes, we have been looking at our curriculum and ultimately what we want the children to learn and develop in each room before they either move on to the next room or before they leave us to go to School. We have developed Curriculum documents for each of the rooms, and I aim to share these with you by the end of this week. These will be attached to the room information booklets which families then receive when your Child moves to the next room. The hope is by sharing them we can help guide you as to what each Child should be achieving (and how in some cases) within the relevant age ranges. There will always be exceptions to the rules, and we are always going to help and support Children to achieve in which ever capacity this looks like for them. Any Child who needs additional support due to SEND needs will have their Key person and the SENCo's support as well as any additional outside agency support as and when this is relevant.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive space for everyone and our aim is to ensure we have high expectations for ourselves and all the children in our care which will lead to all Children achieving their best whilst they are with us and beyond!

We also have the new menus which we have designed for the Spring/Summer, and they are in the information section of the School App for you to look at. We are gaining feedback from the children after each meal in the form of the children voting if it's a smiley face meal or a sad face. I am pleased to say that last week was quite the success with the children and the snacks of summer fruits such as strawberries and melon have gone down well!

There has been guidance for parents published from the government regarding screen time for children under the age of five. As you know at Croft Corner we don't have iPad or computers for the children to use as part of continuous provision, we may at times use the iPad to show the children a video or research something that we cannot get from books but this would be under the supervision of a grown up and with us explaining how we are safe and keeping them safe online whilst doing so. The guidance may be useful for you as families to use and reflect upon in your own time, so I have added the guidance at the end of this newsletter, and it is on the notice board outside.

I think that is more than enough from me, but if you have any questions about what I have wrote to you about please do get in touch.

Rachel (Nursery manager)

News from the Nest

Throughout March the Babies have loved exploring stories. We had a visit from Adventure babies for a Sensory story session where we went on a Bear hunt, we battled long wavy grass, deep dark forests and whirling snowstorms! This was all by exploring the amazing and creative sensory materials and props that the Story telling person brought with them, we had fibre optic light across the floor, bubbles to pop and a big cuddly bear at the end – and lots of other materials and special things!

We celebrated World book week by reading lots of our favourite stories and had multiple trips to the library so that we all had a chance to experience going on the bus and explore the library space and huge range of books!

From April we are introducing our words and Makaton signs of the month, these are 'hat', 'flower', 'bird' and 'train'. By having focus words we are aiming to teach the children the words and signs to boost the amount of words that the Babies have in their repertoire and build their confidence with key words before they are 2 years old. These words and signs are on the Parent Notice board next to the pegs for you to join in with teaching the children outside of Nursery.

We challenge you all to putting on your hats and to go outside to search from train, flowers and birds!

Don't forget to send us some photos on Parent Zone.

News from the Den

In March we have been learning about spring and farm animals. We have been looking at photos of animals on the farms and talking about our experiences of seeing them with our families. Many of us can name the sounds the animals make and name them too.

As a way to help us learn about spring we have been looking after our garden, sweeping, raking, and planting seeds and bulbs. We have started some sunflower seeds growing and we are keeping a close eye on them and know to call them shoots at the moment whilst they are only just growing.

Whilst in the garden we have seen lots of insects starting to wake up and be active again, ladybirds and bees are the ones we have seen lots of and we are good at spotting them to show each other and the grownups!

During World book week we investigated lots of stories and books and had the opportunity to join in the Sensory story session where we explored The bear hunt, we battled long wavy grass, deep dark forests and whirling snowstorms! This was all by exploring the amazing and creative sensory materials and props that the Story telling

person brought with them, we had fibre optic light across the floor, bubbles to pop and a big cuddly bear at the end – and lots of other materials and special things!

During April we are going to be keeping up the hard work in the garden, we will be looking after our plants and making sure we use our gentle hands to touch the shoots when the grownups say we can.

Our challenge for you this month is to go on a walk to look for signs of spring – look high, look low what can you notice when you stop and take a minute to look at the world through the lens of a 2-year-old!

Don't forget to add some photos onto the Parent Zone app.

News from the Woodland room

In March we have been so busy! We celebrated World book week and so many of us dressed up and brought in our favourite books from home which was lovely. We also got to listen to stories been read by different people and some of the Parents came in to read to us which was wonderful and taught us that there are many fun and creative ways to hear stories being read. Julia read us a story in German and her Mummy sent us a video of her reading one too – this was a wonderful experience for the children and many of them tried to work out the translations as they listened and looked at the pictures.

We have been out and about in the community so much, not just at Forest school but going to the library on the bus, learning how to behave on the bus and in different places and also learning how we can borrow and exchange books so that we can bring fresh ones back to share with our friends at nursery. On one trip the librarian also read us an amazing story on one of the trips and she was reenacting it with us!

We have been learning about Easter and sharing our experiences, some children talking about attending Church and other talking about easter egg hunts which has been lovely.

Unfortunately the Vicar was too poorly to come and see us before Easter but the children and grown ups have been learning about how each other celebrate which has been lovely.

There have been a few trips to see our older friends at Henleigh Hall, they listened to us sing our Spring songs and then they surprised us with some songs they had learnt just for us! They then had lots of activities for us to do and they have even hatched some Chicks which we went back to visit once the chicks had arrived. We are very grateful to our Older friends and we believe they enjoy our company too with one of the residents cutting a birthday trip with her family short just so she could see us!

We have been embracing Spring, this has looked like us doing lots in the Garden – we have been cleaning, sorting and planting, some of the seeds we are planting are

pumpkins, carrots, beetroots and potatoes. We are learning about what seeds need to grow and learning to look after the too.

As part of the new curriculum, we are investigating poems from a book called 'The lost words' these are words which have been removed from the Children's dictionary and sadly they are all words to do with the natural world. We have been looking at Magpie and Bluebell during morning group time. This had led to us hearing a range of new words and the structure of poems too. The bluebell poem led to us going on a Bluebell hunt and the Magpie poem led to us using the paints to create our own magpie pictures concentrating on the colours and mixing them just right.

Our challenge for you is to investigate what flowers you can see in your local area so your garden, the park the woods and to see if you can research what type of flower they are using a book or help from a grown up.

News from Forest School

We started off searching from signs of spring in March, looking for the plants starting to grow from the damp forest floor and for the buds to start appearing on the trees. We had some wild sessions where we experienced all the weathers in the session which was fun and unpredictable!

We have been trying to find frog spawn in the woods over the last few weeks. We went for a walk to the pond and met a ranger who told us that they had been doing some work in the pond and so they weren't sure if the frogs would lay their frogspawn this year but we have been a few times to check.

The children have been enjoying following the streams in the woods and on a few occasions, they have had a dip in the pond to see what they can find – we are very careful not to upset the insects and animals who use the streams and remember to be respectful of the woods which we love.

