



Verwood Day Nursery

Spring Newsletter



Celebrations

Across the nursery we have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, this year the year of the snake.

The children have explored the lucky colours gold and red, played with noodles and rice, made masks and lanterns and attempted their own Chinese writing.



It has become an annual tradition to make a Dragon head and perform our own dragon dance to traditional music.

This year the pre-school children made 'Zog' our new green dragon.

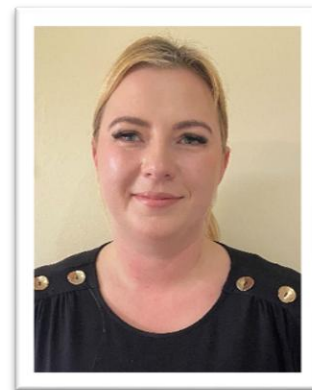


Welcome to the team!

We are delighted to welcome some new faces to the Verwood Day Nursery family:



Melissa joins our bank staff team, based in Apple Room. With a Level 3 qualification, previous nursery experience and a passion for childcare, we are thrilled to have her onboard. Melissa also brings her own experiences and knowledge as a mum of two!



Zoe joins our bank staff team, as a dedicated mum, she is excited to begin her childcare journey with us.

A sad goodbye



After 15 years of dedicated service to Verwood Day Nursery our much-loved Nursery Manager, Craig, made the difficult decision to resign from his role at the end of January, due to personal circumstances following a family bereavement.



Craig had been an integral part of our nursery community, playing a pivotal role in nurturing and supporting countless children and

families over the years. His dedication and passion have left an indelible mark on all of us, and we will deeply miss his presence at the nursery.

We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for Craig's unwavering commitment and to acknowledge the significant impact he has had on making Verwood Day Nursery the special place it is today.





With every ending comes a new beginning

We are thrilled to announce that Kaitie Caldicott, has been appointed as our new Nursery Manager.

Kaitie's journey really highlights our ethos and belief in training and promoting from within.

Kaitie joined the team in 2015 as an apprentice, undertaking her level 3 with us. After qualifying Kaitie was promoted to Room Supervisor in 2019 and then in 2020 became 3rd in charge of the nursery. Then in September 2023 she became Deputy Manager. In between all of this, she had time to become a mum to two boys as well, juggling working, studying and family life!

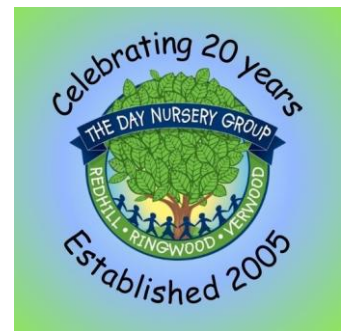


Kaitie will transition into her role over the summer term and continue to work with the pre-school team preparing our oldest children for their transition to big school later this year. Rachel will continue to support Kaitie during this period to ensure a smooth handover.

Kaitie can be reached directly on: kaitie@verwooddaynursery.com

Celebrating 20 years during 2025

The Day Nursery Group is pleased to celebrate a significant milestone this year, marking 20 years since the establishment of our first setting, Ringwood Day Nursery, in January 2005. Following its success, the group expanded, establishing Redhill Day Nursery in Bournemouth in 2010 and later that same year, the acquisition of Verwood Day Nursery completed the trio.



We will be coming together across all three settings during this year to celebrate and hope to host some events during the summer months, for our families and children.

Some things to look forward to include:

- Celebration afternoon tea
- Plant and share month celebrating our wonderful food
- Stay and play sessions



Tax free childcare

Are you using tax free childcare to pay your nursery bill? If you aren't, you are missing out!



What is it?

If you're a working parent or carer, you can get up to £500 every three months (up to £2,000 a year per child) to help with the costs of childcare. If your child has a disability, you can get up to £1,000 every three months (up to £4,000 a year per child).

How it works

You set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2, up to a maximum of £2,000 a year or £4,000 if your child has a disability.

You can then use the money to pay your nursery fees.

You need to reconfirm your eligibility for Tax-Free Childcare every three months. You'll get a text reminder and it's easy to do through your online childcare account.



Get up to £2,000 towards your childcare costs with Tax-Free Childcare.
childcarechoices.gov.uk



Redecoration and refurbishment



The nursery is currently undergoing a comprehensive programme of redecoration and refurbishment. You may have already noticed the fresh scent of paint.

The decoration work is being carried out during weekends, with the aim to complete the nursery by the end of the month.

New carpet will be installed in the Plum room, the conservatory, and the Apple room, and necessary repairs have been performed in the conservatory.

Supporting your child's potty-training journey

Potty training is a developmental stage that can quite often be difficult to navigate, but we are here to help.

The best time for potty training is between 18 months and 3 years, and when your child shows readiness, it is suggested to begin the process at home. Please discuss your potty-training plans with the team to ensure a consistent approach both at nursery and at home. After you have achieved several days of success with minimal accidents, we will provide support while your child is with us. Our staff will not start the process but will support your child in transitioning from nappies to pants.



Starting out

- When you think your child is ready, choose a time that is quiet and relaxed. It may take a few days before your child gets the hang of it, so bear this in mind.
- It is important for your child to have some success, so taking them at regular intervals can work well.
- If they are not interested or do not produce anything, don't make a fuss and don't make them stay. Instead say something along the lines of 'it looks like your wee wee isn't ready yet' then try again later.
- Don't worry if there are accidents, children have to learn the signals of a full bladder. If your child has not made any progress after two or three days, you may need to go back to nappies or pull ups and try again in a few weeks' time.



Make sure your child is drinking regularly

On average, children require six to eight cups of water daily to maintain regular bladder and bowel movements.

Keep calm

Stay calm during potty training. Children need to relax to urinate, so forcing them to use the toilet can cause distress.

Be guided by your child

Some children prefer privacy when using the potty, especially for bowel movements, while others seek adult company. Follow your child's cues.

Avoid constant reminders

Your child needs to learn what it feels like to have a full bladder and the signals that the bladder sends. At first, withdrawing reminders might cause a few accidents, but this is part of your child's learning.

The Nest

Over the past few months, the team have been very busy in the Nest welcoming lots of new little ones. It has been lovely to see lots of new faces and the siblings of our older children begin their nursery journey.

The children in the Nest have been busy exploring the outside world. Testing their physical abilities with adult support, they have loved the opportunities to climb, balance and run freely, it is certainly evident they have gained confidence in balancing on the bridges and bikes.

Sand play has been enjoyed inside and out! The children have been discovering textures running their hands and feet through the sand, they have enjoyed filling and emptying containers and transporting the sand.

As always messy play is a huge part in their busy nursery days and they have had lots of opportunities to discover new textures and smells, they certainly do love getting stuck in head to toe!



Every day the children in the Nest are exposed to storytelling and singing, this encourages relationships and bonds with adults and each other. Storytelling and singing helps support little ones in getting to know sounds, words and language which sparks their growing imagination and curiosity.

The children have a wide variety of books to explore, supporting them at different levels in their development, these include sensory books, picture books and sound books.



Plum room

The children in the Plum room have been exploring a selection of activities supporting their fine motor skills.

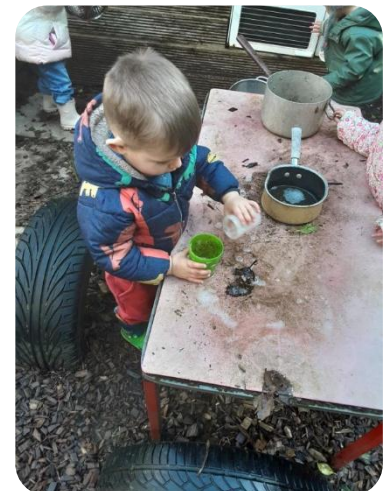
Using a variety of materials and objects they have been busy mark making inside and out., using scissors with playdough practicing their snipping, threading cheerio's on to spaghetti, and practicing using tweezers!

In line with the cold weather the children had to rescue the animals from the frost and snow using the paint brushes to clean them off!

The children have been busy exploring all areas of the outdoor environment particularly the mud kitchen and sandpit, this has continued to support their fine motor and gross motor skills.

At every opportunity the children have had the balls out alongside the rackets, shooters and hoola hoops, we have witnessed some great hand eye coordination!

The children have also loved expressing themselves through musical and movement and exploring sounds with the musical instruments.



Apple Room

Did somebody say **DINOSAUR!**

The Preschool children have been sharing their huge interest for dinosaurs over the past few weeks.

They got very messy indeed when they had to rescue the dinosaurs from the sticky green slime and clean them off.

They then had to go on another rescue mission cutting the string away from the dinosaurs that had been captured!

Using paints the children had the tasks of mixing colours together to create the correct shades of the dinosaurs!



The prechooolers went on a nature walk and trip to Potterne Park! Lots of conversations were had about the wider community and the enviroment whilst they enjoyed their walk, they loved their time in the park!



Safety Spies

Each day a group of children will carry out a risk assessment in the garden with adult support. The children are given a list with key areas in the garden that need checking to ensure the garden is safe to play in. Having this responsibility supports the children's confidence and independence and teaches them about risks and safety.





Upcoming Events in 2025

- World Book Day – Thursday 7th March
School Leavers Party - Saturday 9th August
Concept Photography – Tuesday 12th August
Pumpkin Competition - Friday 31st October
Children in Need – Friday 14th November



Reminders

- ✓ Please ensure that your child's details are up to date, it is important contacts and emergency contacts are correct.
- ✓ Please take extra precautions when entering and exiting the building, ensuring that both front doors are fully closed behind you.
- ✓ Please ensure that your child attends nursery with appropriate and named clothing, we use the outdoor space all year round.
- ✓ Our session times run from 7.45am to 12.45pm and then 1.00pm until 6.00pm. Please arrive in good time to collect your child at the end of the session.
- ✓ Please do not forget to inform us if your child is unwell. Some illnesses are very infectious, and we need to notify other parents and on occasions implement cautionary measures within the setting.

If we don't hear from you, we will call you in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

From Rachel, Kaitie and all the team at Verwood Day Nursery

Don't forget to follow us!

