



## Dear Families,

Welcome to our April newsletter. Spring is finally on its way and there are lots of exciting things happening at our Fair Oak Nursery. The children have all been interested in our new tadpole friends and have been learning all about their life cycle. We are really looking forward to them growing into froglets and finding a local stream for their new home!

In March, we were busy with preparations for Mother's Day. The children spent time in their rooms making special cards, using skills such as printing and weaving. Thank you to all of the Mummy's who joined us for a Mother's Day Tea, it was a great success and we hope you enjoyed the yummy treats!

The children have been learning about Easter, they have been reading the Easter Story Book and learning about why we celebrate Easter, as well as joining in with egg hunts in the garden and getting creative by making different patterns with egg shapes and on egg shapes!

We have also been fundraising for Sport Relief! Thank you to all of the families getting involved by supporting our sponsored walk, all of the children enjoyed getting involved and being together as a Nursery community to raise money and get out and about! We made £420. The Fair Oak Bake Off saw some amazing cake creations, thank you for voting for our worthy winner, every donation is appreciated!

Through April, we are looking forward to more fundraising for our sister Nursery in Kisumu, Kenya. We will be celebrating a 'wild' Africa Week and Kwame the Drummer will be visiting the Nursery. On a different note we will also be welcoming some eggs into the Nursery to incubate and watch to see who might hatch!

Warm regards

*Clare Ashton*  
Nursery Manager

## Ditching The Dummies

Children learn to talk by babbling and playing with sounds. Dummies prevent them from practicing these important skills. Children need to practice saying sounds, you may notice your child making some early sounds, such as 'm, n, b', or practicing new words they have learnt, and a dummy can stop your child from making these sounds correctly and forming new words. Early Communication Support Service recommend ditching the dummy by 12 months old. To do this, you could try to limit times of usage, such as only allow your child to use it at sleep time. Giving the dummy away can work well, maybe to the dummy fairy, to give your child a clean break from the dummy. The first few nights can be stressful, it can help to get some support from a local Children's Centre or a close friend for moral support.

## Dates for your Diary

- **Easter Monday**  
2<sup>nd</sup> April
- **Africa Week**  
w/c 30<sup>th</sup> April
- **Zoo Lab Visit**  
19<sup>th</sup> April
- **Grandparents Day**  
3<sup>rd</sup> May 9-11am & 2-4pm
- **May Day Bank Holiday**  
7<sup>th</sup> May - Nursery Closed



## Babies

The Babies have been spending time in the big garden playing with the older children this month. This has allowed them to develop their physical skills, climbing up the slide and practising going up and down the stairs on their hands and knees. Inside the children have been exploring mark making through March. They were able to discover that using brushes, hands and sponges made different marks! We had lots of fun exploring lots of stories on World Book Day and we also brought the snow inside as it was a bit chilly outside!

## Toddlers

The Toddlers have been fascinated by the arrival of the tadpoles. We have been spending time in smalls groups, watching them swim around, looking at books full of tadpole facts and drawing our own pictures of tadpoles. We have been learning lots about animals over the last month, the Toddlers have been bug hunting in the garden, had a super trip to Marwell Zoo and have spent time singing animal songs. We will be developing this knowledge, using single words to name the animals and beginning to learn more about wild animals in anticipation of our Africa Week to raise money for our sister Nursery in Kisumu.



## Transition

The children in Transition have been doing lots of role play this month. They had the Gruffalo come to visit and found lots of little Gruffalo costumes to dress up in. The children were able to retell the story and spent lots of time perfecting their Gruffalo "roar"! The children have also been excited by the addition of new costumes to their role play, they have been acting out going to the Doctors, dressing up for World Book Day and playing Tinkerbell! Role playing kitchen cooking with playdough has been a favourite this past month, so we have extended the children's interests in this by making lots of yummy treats!

## Kindergarten

The Kindergarten children have been learning all about tadpoles and the frog life cycle. Professor Charlene, from Mini Professors, brought in some frogspawn and talked through the life cycle as part of the session. She then left them here for the children to look after. The children have been visiting the tank regularly to check on the development of the tadpoles and have noticed them growing. They have also been completing observational drawings of what the tadpoles they look like as they grow.

