



Countryside Day Nursery Newsletter

August 2025

Sports Day and Leavers Ceremony- Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th July

The children all enjoyed sports day and the leaver's ceremony, we had a wonderful day and I would like to thank all of the staff who helped on the day as well as preparing beforehand and thank you to the parents for supporting their children on the day too. It was a very special day where lots of happy memories were made.



Fond Farewell to Our School Leavers

It is that time of year where we sadly say goodbye to our pre-school children and wish them all the very best for a smooth transition from nursery to school. We will be very sorry to see you all go but it has been a pleasure to have each one of you here and we hope you settle quickly into school. We thought that you maybe interested to know that all of the information from the children's assessments which the Big Squirrels team collate, is processed carefully and this data is used to inform our future planning.

I feel it is so important to make use of the data which we collect, so we compile a research project in order to further improve our practice at Countryside. Therefore, we will be looking particularly at how effective the curriculum has been during this past year, alongside the levels of progress which the children have made. We will then be looking at how we can implement the curriculum successfully in Big Squirrels for the next cohort to ensure that we are meeting each child's needs as well as making sure we are giving them optimum learning opportunities here at Countryside.

Therefore, we will continue to analyze the results for the 2025 school leavers and put improvements into place to further develop our practice.

I thought you may like to read some extracts from our thank you cards from our Big Squirrel parents leaving this year.

"I honestly don't have the words to describe how grateful we are for what you have done for my son and us as a family. My child started at Countryside as an anxious child, but his confidence and love for Nursery has grown so much which is a testament to you and your amazing team".

"Thank you for everything. I don't think I have met anyone so passionate and really loves their job. The love you have for our children truly shows, Thank you for being you"!

"From day one my child has had the most wonderful time at Countryside and I have loved watching him grow and develop through all of the fabulous activities you plan and organise for the children. Big Squirrels has, again, been fantastic, my child has loved every minute and that's all because of you!! Your passion, kindness and care shines through in everything you do."

"Thank you will never be enough for everything you have done for my child! His confidence has grown so much since coming to Nursery and you have really helped him be ready for school".

"I really can't put into words how grateful we are for all that you have done for our child. We couldn't have wished for better care and they have had such an amazing time at Countryside".

"Thank you all so much for making my child's time with you so amazing! You've truly gone above and beyond and her time with you are memories that she and I will both treasure. We couldn't of picked a more perfect Nursery".

"Thank you for everything you and your wonderful staff have done for our three daughters (and us as a family) over the past 8 years. We could not of asked for a better place for them to spend their early years and really appreciate all the energy, passion and enthusiasm you put into making Countryside so special".

"A massive thank you for all the hard work you put in with our child at Nursery and for also making it such a warm, happy environment for them to spend their days in, the difference Nursery has made to them is astonishing".

"As our child's time comes to an end at Countryside we wanted to say a massive thank you for your help and support over the years, they have both got so much out of their time there and we will miss it".

"Thank you for all you have done with helping our babies grow! You have all been amazing and they loved every day spent with you. Both our children have truly blossomed and thrived over the years, your part in that has been so important and amazing. You taught our babies so much and really helped to be ready for the big world of school"!

So thank you so much to all of our 2025 parents and children for your very kind words about Countryside, it has been a privilege and a pleasure working with you all and we wish you our very best wishes as you begin school in September- Grace xxx

Thank you to Diego's Parents

On Friday 4th July Big Squirrels morning was a little different as Diego's parents came into Nursery to talk to us all about Mexico. Diego's Mummy and Daddy read a story to us in Spanish and showed us some Mexican items and some pictures of their family holiday in Mexico. We also enjoyed counting in Spanish with our friends. Diego's Mummy and Daddy also left us a piñata to play with which we had the most amazing time breaking open!

Thank you so much for giving the children this wonderful opportunity.

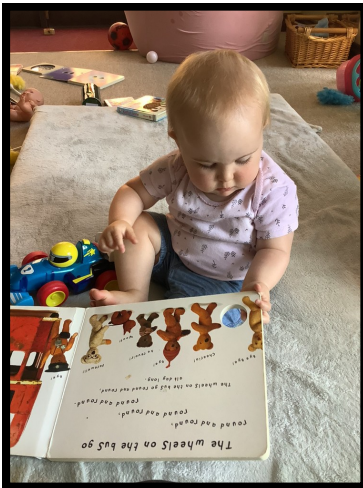


Big Squirrels Trip to Redmarley Tennis Club

On Monday 7th July Big Squirrels were invited to Redmarley Tennis Club. The teachers at the tennis club were busy, but they allowed us to kindly use their venue. Before we went to play Tennis we were looking at the letter "W" so we watched some clips of Wimbledon, just so that we knew what to do!!! Laura and I, invited Laurds daughter, Kayla along, who is a qualified PE teacher and Kayla showed us some fabulous ball games and how to use the tennis rackets. We had a wonderful time. Thank you to Redmarley Tennis Club for allowing us to use their courts, rackets and balls- it was a wonderful experience for our Big Squirrel children.



Ladybirds Learning Activities in July 2025



Enjoying looking at a book.



Exploring the sensory tray together.



Having fun on the Rocking horse.



Exploring the sand tray.



Enjoying finding the shapes for the shape sorting toy.



Music time



Mark making with the large chalks.



Playing alongside each other with the small world vehicles.



Exploring the sensory toys .



Having fun trying on the hats.

Hedgehogs Learning Activities in July 2025



Parachute Play.



Cosmic Yoga time.



Creating a colourful picture.



Enjoying a Tea Party Together.



Exploring the Seaside sensory tray.



Playdough Fun.



Feeding the Nursery chickens.



Completing some Seaside art.



Getting a helping hand from my friends.



Having fun in the large sand pit.



Going for a boat trip!

Little Squirrels Learning Activities in July 2025



Making a fruit smoothy.



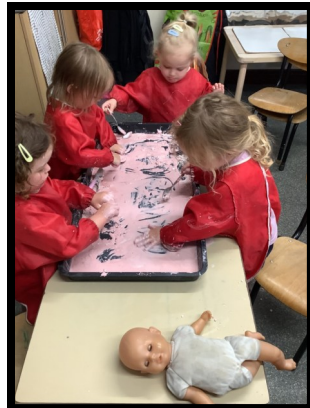
Practising our Sports Day races.



Completing puzzles.



Looking at colours and numbers.



Exploring the pink gloop.



Having fun playing with the Marble Run together.



Practicing our cutting skills.



Creating our Umbrella pictures.



Creating some colourful Ice Lolly Pictures.



Climbing the Climbing tree.



Enjoying playing inside the Nursery Caravan.

Big Squirrels Learning Activities in July 2025



Making colourful Rainbows.



Creating Jelly Fish.



Picking strawberries from our Nursery garden.



Creating our names out of the Letter blocks.



Mark making with water and brushes.



Having fun keeping cool.



Painting our "Y" pictures.



Picking some of our Vegetables.



Creating our Hand Xray pictures.



Playing in the climbing tree together.

Practicing our balancing skills on the Trim Trail.



Thank you to...

Rory

We would like to thank Rory's family for very kindly donating some of Rory's clothes he has grown out of for our spares at Nursery.

This was very kind of you to think of us and I am sure these will be very useful.

Thank you.



Macmillan Coffee afternoon

On Tuesday 23rd September, we would like to invite the grandparents/ relatives to see their children here at Nursery for some fun activities from 4-00-5-30pm and to enjoy some refreshments in the kitchen.. We are opening the Nursery up for the grandparents of the children who attend on that Tuesday afternoon and it would be lovely for you to see your children here at the setting. We will also be raising funds for the Macmillan Cancer support, so if you would like to donate on the day, please feel free. However, above all, we would like to share with you the activities which your children enjoy here at the setting.

Please email me at info@country-sidedaynursery.co.uk if you would like to book places for your child's grandparents/ relatives to attend and I will make sure the place is booked for them. Please do advise if any of your relatives have mobility aids and then we will make sure that we have the rooms set up to facilitate these.
Many thanks as always-
Grace



Big Squirrels Boat Trip

We were all very excited to be going on our boat trip. We all had a lovely time, we spotted so many more boats, Canada goose, Egyptian goose, a heron, duck and swans and a few people camping and fishing.



Children's Christmas Party Day

As Christmas is approaching, as a staff team we have been thinking about organising a Christmas party day for the children here at Countryside.

So the parties will all be on one day- Monday 8th December and at one venue- Corse and Staunton Village Hall, Gloucester Road, Staunton, Gloucester Rd, Corse, Gloucester GL19 3RQ . The timings will be as follows:-

Hedgehog Party	9-30am-11-00am—Children will travel in the Nursery bus,
Big Squirrel Party	11-30pm- 1-00pm- Children will travel in the Nursery bus.
Little Squirrel Party	2-00pm- 3-30pm- Children will travel in the Nursery bus.

If it is your child's session on Monday 8th December, we will have the staff to look after your child, however, if it is not your child's session, please make arrangements to bring your child and stay with them at the hall. If parents are attending Hedgehogs party and it is your child's session, please can you bring them back to Nursery yourself rather than travelling on the bus. As sometimes the children get upset leaving their parents at the hall.

Each room will have further information nearer the time, with permission forms and food lists, to ensure that the children have a memorable a fabulous time

I am sure that you will all realise that the Ladybird Room isn't on the list for a party at the hall- this is because these children are so little and transport is so tricky, however, Nicole and Issy will be organising some extra special Christmas activities for the babies during this week at Nursery.

Big Squirrels Nativity Play- Corse & Staunton Village Hall

This year we are planning a Nursery Nativity for the children who are due to begin school in September 2026 (children in Big Squirrels). The dates will be as follows:-

Tuesday 9th December morning all children need to be dropped off at the hall at 8-00am where we will have a dress rehearsal and a show for our grandparents at 11am and a performance at 1.45pm in the afternoon for all parents and other relatives to watch. More details will follow in due course.

Big Squirrels- 2026 cohort. Preparing for your child's final year at Countryside—open evening 4th September at 7-00pm

On Thursday 4th September at 7-00pm- 8-00pm Grace, Laura and Poppy (Big Squirrels) would like to invite all of the 2026 school cohort children's parents/ carers to Nursery to have an informative evening discussing what we are going to complete in Big Squirrels for the forthcoming academic year and how we are going to prepare your child for school

We will also be talking about school applications and we will have a power point offering information to parents about this process.

We will also be showing you, how we use the "ready for school learning programme" which is a great programme to support each child in Big Squirrels

We would encourage as many parents as possible as we always say in Big Squirrels, the more you work with us during this final year, the more prepared your child will be for school. This really does make a massive difference to help consolidate your child's learning and set them up to be confident happy active life long learners- exciting times ahead!!

Therefore, if you would like to attend this evening, please email Grace at info@countrysideynursery.co.uk and then Grace will book you places for the evening.

Magic Moments

Please let us know if your child has done something exciting at home and we will celebrate it here with a Wow Certificate! It is really wonderful to see our children taking steps forward in their learning and development and they also love sharing their certificates with their friends during Circle Time.

Ladybirds: Congratulations to **Elsa** for pulling yourself up and standing independently and for sitting down from standing independently.

Hedgehogs: Well done to **Ronan** and **Otto** for sleeping in a big boy's bed. Congratulations to **Henry** for wearing pants and being dry through the night. Well done to **Elana** for coming into Nursery with a big smile. Congratulations to **Maeve**, **Florence** and **Polly** for all doing so well wearing pants. Well done to **Isaac** for using more sentences at Nursery. Congratulations to **Ivy** and **Alba** for settling so well in Hedgehogs.

Little Squirrels: Congratulations to **Mabel Y** for being more independent using the toilet. Well done to

Big Squirrels: Well done to **Henry P** for riding your bike without stabilisers. Congratulations to **Molly** for being so brave at the Doctors.

New Nutrition Guidelines for September



From September 2025 the DfE have published new nutrition guidelines for early years providers and childminders in England. As an Early Years setting we have been preparing for these new changes and we have had a meeting with Doreen and Kay (our wonderful cooks) to look carefully at the guidelines and our menus.

We currently have 5 weeks of menus and we have "tweaked" some of these in order to incorporate the new changes. Making changes to our menus at any time can be challenging as we need to trial different recipes to find out what is manageable within the oven space, we also need to offer foods which the kitchen staff can prepare and deliver, we also need to think about the vast array of special diets which we manage and finally and most importantly we need to provide something which we know the children will eat and not be hungry- otherwise we run the risk of then managing challenging behaviour and having unhappy children, which is definitely not what we want at Countryside. So, if you can bear with us, whilst we trial these menus and then we will send out our new menus from September.

Christmas Closing Dates

Dates for Christmas Break 2025

Friday 19th December 2025-Nursery closes @ 6pm
Monday 5th January 2026-Nursery re-opens @ 8am
