



Countryside Day Nursery Newsletter December 2025

Children In Need

On Friday 14th November we joined in with the Children In Need fund raising event. Big and Little Squirrels participated in an exciting Supa Strikers session at Hartpury Village Hall with "Coach Chris" and the Ladybird and Hedgehog Children came dressed in their pyjamas. Please can we remind parents all donations and sponsor forms be returned to Nursery by Friday 12th December. Thank you, very much for all your contributions for this very worthwhile charity.



Fee Increase From Spring 2026

As always Countryside Day Nursery offers high quality care and education for young children within the community, however, in order to continuously deliver these high standards there has to be a necessary fee increase from Spring 2026. Considerations will be made to keep the fee increase to a minimum. Nearer the time I will have more idea as to the Governments plans and agenda regarding all childcare costs. So at this point, I will be able to confirm then the increased fees.

I am writing this in December's newsletter to give you as much notice as possible. As you are all probably aware Countryside reinvests huge amounts of income back into the Nursery in order that your children can benefit from improvements and quality practice. Excellent variety of learning opportunities for your children to improve their outcomes and constant purchase of new resources are some examples of how your money is re-invested into the setting. In addition to this, I know that everyone is aware of the increase in fuel costs, food costs and general day to day running of a business. All of these factors will lead to a necessary fee increase in the New year which I will announce as soon as I know in the new year.

Please note that we now accept the 15 and 30 hours funding for the relevant age groups (eligibility criteria will apply) and from September 2025 all children aged 9 months onwards have been able to access 30 hours of funding (eligibility criteria will apply)

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind parents whose children are leaving for school in September 2026 to cancel their salary sacrifice childcare contracts, as Countryside Day Nursery cannot reimburse any payments which are made once the children have left the establishment.

Can I take this opportunity to signpost you to two useful government websites if you need further information:-

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/check-youre-eligible>

Thank you for your continuous support here at Countryside- it is always appreciated.

Ladybirds Learning Activities in November 2025



Making marks in the sand.



Exploring the rice sensory tray.



Having fun together in the garden.



Spinach and Farm Animals Sensory fun.



Pushing and pulling the pipe cleaners through the holes.



Exploring the busy board.



Creating Christmas craft.



Enjoying the slide.



Vegetable printing.



Enjoying looking at the books.



Having fun with the scarves.



Exploring the wobbly, Green Jelly.



Spreading the glue and sticking shapes to create our pictures.

Hedgehogs Learning Activities in November 2025



Exploring the purple sensory tray.



Creating pictures with the large Mosaics.



Mark making .



Enjoying a morning walk in the meadow.



Bubble time.



Collecting and counting the eggs.



Matching up the eggs.



Having fun in the Nursery boat.



Mud Kitchen fun.



Concentrating really hard with threading.



Enjoying the peg board puzzles.

Building towers with the magnetic blocks.



Decorating the Christmas Tree.

Little Squirrels Learning Activities in November 2025



Colouring in our tractor pictures.



Exploring the goop.



Mud kitchen fun.



Pink crazy soap fun.



Creating our Hot Air Balloons with sticky dots.



Creating Christmas decorations.



Sharing books from home.



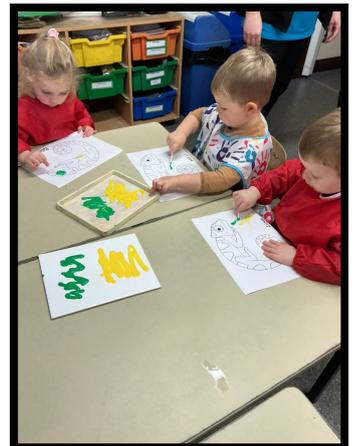
Practising our cutting skills.



Exploring the ice .



Rolling and cutting the playdough.



Decorating Chameleons

Creating pictures using Cauliflower and paint.



Sharing Tapestry news from home.

Big Squirrels Learning Activities in November 2025



Tracing Letters and pictures.



Getting creative with the mobilo



Exploring the seeds and corn sensory tray.



Creating Firework pictures.



Enjoying looking at books together.



Completing puzzles.



Working with friends together



Having fun whilst creating Christmas craft.



Playing board games together.



Creating Christmas craft



Tapping pegs into the Pumpkins.

Crunching the ice we found.



Trip to Little Hedgehogs Play Garden

On Tuesday 4th November Big and Little Squirrels went on a trip to Little Hedgehogs Play Garden. The Children had lots of fun exploring the play garden, they made some potions in the witches stand, played in the construction area and enjoyed exploring all of the lovely resources. Thank you to Bernadette for letting us hire this playground just for Countryside.



Trip to Pendock School

On 5th November Big Squirrels went on the Nursery mini bus to Pendock School for an adventure in the Forest school. We explored the mud kitchen, swing, construction area, we made crowns with leaves and our favourite activity was sitting around the campfire toasting marshmallows. Yum Yum!!!



Big and Little Squirrels to Soft Play

On Friday 21st November in the afternoon Big and Little Squirrels enjoyed a play at the soft play at Roses Garden Centre.

We had lots of fun going down the slide, climbing the climbing apparatus, playing chase, hiding from friends.

Grace even treated us to crisps and a hot chocolate. Yum Yum again!!!



Trip to Newent Library

On Tuesday 18th November in the afternoon we went to the library to choose some new books. We also took Baby Jesus to meet the Librarian, Grace's friend, Amanda and we shared The Nativity story together. We looked at the books which we chose when we returned to nursery.



Big Squirrels trip to The Elms School

On Wednesday 26th November in the afternoon Big Squirrels enjoyed a trip to The Elms school where they visited their farm and we saw lots of animals. We even enjoyed a hot chocolate and tea cakes, so a big thank you to The Elms for hosting this lovely afternoon



Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November we have been looking at Remembrance Day throughout the Nursery.

The children experienced a big poppy sensory tray of oats, rice and bulgar wheat, flower/ petal cutting, mark making station where we could use red and green crayons to colour or red paint to make small finger paint marks to resemble a poppy as well as creating some colourful Poppies with sponges and red paint.

What a wonderful day we had remembering those very special people on 11th November.



Choosing and Collecting Nursery Christmas Trees

On Friday 28th November in the morning Big Squirrels went to a Christmas tree farm and we brought 3 Christmas all different sizes big and small. We chose one each for Big squirrels, Little Squirrels and Hedgehogs. We enjoyed watching Shaun cut down the Christmas trees with his saw and we also helped Shaun by pulling the Christmas trees through the wrapper. Thank you so much to Shaun for making this such a fun morning



Thank you to Sidney



We would like to thank Sidney's family for very kindly donating this lovely resource to us.

I am sure the younger children will have so much fun playing with this.

Thank you so much for thinking of us.

Thank you to Digby



We would like to thank Digby's family for very kindly donating these delicious apples to us.

This was so kind of you to think of us.

Thank you so much.

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. Each room will have further information nearer the time, with permission forms to ensure that the children have a memorable and 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, Issy and Immy will be organising some extra special Christmas activities for the babies during their final weeks at Nursery .

Christmas Closing Dates

Dates for Christmas Break 2025

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

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 **James** for practicing so hard with your spoon control at mealtimes. Well done to **Sebastian** for coming into Nursery so happily. Congratulations to **Eddie** for practicing with your spoon at mealtimes. Well done to **Billie** and **Elsie J** for learning so many new words. Congratulations to **Eva** for learning your animal noises. Well done to **Elsie J** for sleeping on a mat at Nursery.

Hedgehogs: Well done to **Elena** for being really helpful at tidy up time. Congratulations to **Elsa** for taking two steps independently. Well done to **Callie** for good listening and tidying up at Nursery. Congratulations to **Oscar** for doing so well wearing your new glasses.

Little Squirrels: Congratulations to **Edith** for being an amazing big sister. Well done to **Alfie** for trying different foods at Nursery and Congratulations to **Cianan** for being an amazing big brother.

Big Squirrels: Well done to

Congratulations to all of you superstars!

Ladybird Parent Days

This month will be Ladybirds Parent Days. If you would like to discuss with your child's key worker how they are getting along, please email me at info@country-sidedaynursery.co.uk and I will ask a member of the Ladybird team to arrange a consultation with you.

Alternatively, please message the Ladybird staff through Tapestry and they will then arrange a convenient time with you via this method.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all!

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to thank you very much for continuously reading our newsletters, tapestry posts and supporting your children every step of the way. You would not believe what a difference this makes to us as staff within our job roles, as your support is fundamental to your child's early learning and development. We are so lucky at Countryside to have an excellent partnership with parents and we thank you so much for being brilliant supportive parents.

Please note that the last day the Nursery will be open is Friday 19th December 2025 December and we will re-open on Monday 5th January 2026 at 8-00am.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, we hope that you will all enjoy a well deserved restful Christmas period, and we hope that you have a lovely time at Christmas with your children. Can I take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year from us all here at Countryside. From Grace xxx