



Countryside Day Nursery Newsletter

April 2026

World Book Day

It was World Book Day on the Thursday 5th March and it was astonishing to see so many children dressed up—we would like to say a massive thank you to all parents for working so hard to create some really wonderful costumes! The staff team dressed up too. We had a wonderful day of sharing stories and looking at books- what a special day this always is each year.

Please see our lovely pictures.



Big Squirrels Trip to Newent Library

On Tuesday 3rd March after lunch the Big Squirrels went on the Nursery Minibus to Newent Library where the kind librarian lady Jill made a Goldilocks and the three bears tuff tray. In Big Squirrels we were focusing on traditional tales, so Goldilocks was a perfect story for the Librarian to choose. Jill read us the book which we really enjoyed listening to, and then we walked around the library looking for some new books to bring back to nursery.



People who help us week- thank you so much to all!!



Little Squirrels visit Apha Colour Printing Factory.



Big Squirrels visit Staunton School.



Trip to Debbie's Farm



Talia's Dad's Digger.



Hedgehogs Flower Arranging.



Visit from the Police



Fire Engine Visit



Big Squirrels Cooking Activity.



Visit from a Goat Farmer



Ambulance Visit



Visit from DrJess



Decorating Cakes

Little City Party

On Thursday 19th March Hedgehogs, Little Squirrels and Big Squirrels all enjoyed a play session at Corse and Staunton Village Hall with the Little City Party. What wonderful learning opportunities we all experienced.



Mummies Afternoon

On Wednesday 11h March we welcomed our Mummies, Grannies and Aunties into Nursery to enjoy a session completing activities with their children.

As you can see from the photographs this was a very enjoyable afternoon.



Food Hygiene Inspection



On 4th March we had an unannounced food hygiene inspection from the Forest of Dean District Council Environmental Health. I am so pleased to inform you all that Doreen and our new cook Lin achieved 5 stars, the highest rating possible.

We have never failed to reach 5 stars, so sometimes the pressure is on, but Doreen and Lin met all of the criteria for the inspector and are very worthy winners of the 5 star accolade.



So a huge thank you to Doreen and Lin, we are so grateful for all your hard work as we absolutely love your home cooked fresh food. Thank you from us all xxx

Ladybirds Learning Activities in March 2026



Creating some Mothers Day Cards.



Threading and pulling the pipe cleaners through the colander.



Filling and emptying the Duck shapes.



St. Patrick Day activities.



Having fun in the new Nursery swing.



Meeting the Nursery Lamb.



Playing with the sensory toys in the garden..



Enjoying a music session with Melody Makers.



Fun time on the slide.



Creating a colourful Butterfly.

Hedgehogs Learning Activities in March 2026



Enjoying looking at a book.



Sand Tray fun.



Saying hello to our Nursery lamb.



Exploring the goop with the small world animals.



Mark making.



Sensory Circle time using the Light Cube.



Playdough fun.



Enjoying a music session with Melody Makers.



Visiting the Chicks.



Playing with the Toot Toot vehicles and track.



Having fun in the boat.

Little Squirrels Learning Activities in March 2026



Practising holding hands.



Sharing our Tapestry news from home.



Having fun in the mud kitchen.



St. Patrick Day activities.



Creating our Easter Chick pictures.



Feeding Nursery chickens.



Having fun on a windy day.



Fun music session with Melody Makers.



Counting the Chicks.



Riding our Bikes.

Big Squirrels Learning Activities in March 2026



Planting our bean seeds.



Practising our balancing.



Bike week.



Playing the Bear sorting game.



Making potions.



Using the fine brushes to paint our Vet pictures.



Picking some Daffodils.



Making some delicious pizzas.



Celebrating our achievements.



Looking at the life cycle of a chicken.



Creating some caterpillar pictures.



Enjoying the Music Wall.

Trip to Eldersfield school- Friday 6th March

For Big Squirrels adult led activity they were kindly invited to Eldersfield School for a reading experience with the children at school.

They had the opportunity of going to their reading area and then into Reception class to play and explore in their classroom and outdoor areas. This was a wonderful end to our book week and we thank Eldersfield school for making us feel so welcome.



Living Eggs Arrive

On 23rd March our Living Eggs arrived. By day 2 we had chicks hatching, here, there and everywhere!!! We have successfully hatched 8 chicks, 4 boys and 4 girls. We will continue to rear these chicks until they get older and then eventually we will be able to collect the eggs from the hens

Thank you to "Living Eggs," the company which we use to provide us with the eggs and equipment. This is an excellent learning opportunity for the children at Countryside and all rooms have been visiting regularly to see how the chicks are progressing.



Parents First Aid Training



On Thursday 21st May 2026 I have organised a free first aid refresher evening for parents. The session will begin at 6.15pm and we will aim to finish at around 7.30pm (depending on questions). The evening is an information evening where the trainer will be demonstrating the basics of first aid and how to save a child's life. This is not a certificated course, but if after the evening you would like to attend further training, I am sure that the company can signpost you to their training courses.

For me, I have organised this evening to raise awareness for anybody looking after young children. The first aid will be based on procedures for young babies and young children (not adults). We are also opening this session up to grandparents or any other relatives who look after your children. This would be an ideal session for people who would just not know what to do in case of an emergency but would feel more confident if they had the basics of first aid. Therefore, if you would like to attend, please could you email me and I will make sure I book the places for you.

Big Squirrels Trip to Newent Lake

On Tuesday 24th March Big Squirrels went on the Nursery mini bus to Newent Lake as their morning activity was to go to a stream to see what we could catch with their nets in the water to see what we could find. They also played poo stick and watched the sticks float under the bridge to see whose stick won- it was great fun!!



Thank you to Edison



We would like to thank Edison's family for very kindly donating these lovely scoot along resources to us.

This was very kind and the younger children are going to have so much fun using these.

Thank you so much for thinking of us.

Thank you to Peter



We would like to thank Peter's family for very kindly donating these lovely scoot along resources to us.

The children are going to have so much fun using them.

Thank you so much.

Hedgehog Parent Day

For this month it is the opportunity for the Hedgehogs to run their parents days.

Therefore, if any parents would like to speak with their child's key person about their child's progress, please either message us on Tapestry or via email and we will arrange a suitable date/time for you to either meet in person with us, or alternatively complete a telephone call.

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 **Finn** and **Darcie** for both doing some amazing walking. Well done to **William** for doing some amazing crawling. Congratulations to **James** for sleeping so well on a snooze mat. Well done to **Ollie** for coming into Nursery so happily and well done to **Pippa** for practicing so well with your spoon at mealtimes.

Hedgehogs: Congratulations to **Elsa** for being very brave at the Hospital. Well done to **Dulcie** for sleeping in your big girl's bed. Congratulations to **Digby** for using the potty successfully.

Little Squirrels: Well done to **Darcie**, **Ronan** and **Isaac** for both doing so well wearing pants.

Big Squirrels: Well done **Rory**, **Penelope** and **Arlo** for completing some great climbing at the new activity centre. Congratulations to **Luther**, **Bianca** for being brave at the Dentist. Well done to **Rory** for completing a Park Run every Sunday and well done to **Kit** for completing a 1k Pendock Spring Chicken Race. Congratulations to **Luther** for doing some great balancing on your bike. A huge well done to Erin and Penelope for independently doing up your zips, amazing, well done. Also a huge well done to Hunter for practicing with your pencils, scissors and Pritt sticks at home A huge well done to **Charlotte** for enjoying your visit to the Dentist and finally a massive well done to **Aura** for persevering and practicing your bike riding skills. Well done to **Edison** for putting your clothes on by yourself in the morning and being helpful.

Big Squirrels Gardening Session

On Thursday 26th March Big Squirrels were so lucky as we had Sidney's Daddy to come into nursery to show us the skills of gardening.

We learnt so much, first we each planted a sunflower, we learnt how to make signs for our plants, we also watered our sunflowers. We then went to our garden and James showed us how to use gardening tools, we also then dug a hole to plant a bulb.

We smelt mint and an onion plant which James kindly dug out for us as it was growing too large. We had such a lovely time, thank you so much to James for completing this session for us, it was so kind of you.

