



Countryside Day Nursery Newsletter

August 2026

Sports Day and Leavers Ceremony- Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th 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 2026 school leavers and put improvements into place to further develop our practice.

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

"We knew from the beginning that Countryside was the only place we wanted our child to be. The warmth, care and passion for children's learning shone through immediately and choosing Countryside was one of the best decisions we could have made. The thought, care and enthusiasm that goes into everything you do is unbeatable, from unforgettable nativities, wonderful sports days to graduation ceremonies and countless learning experiences, you've created so many magical memories. You've always been there with kind words, thoughtful advice and genuine support. Thank you for nurturing our child's curiosity, encouraging his love of learning and helping him grow into the kind confident and capable little boy he is today. We couldn't have wished for a better start to his education.

"We are always saying how lucky we are to have you down the road as our local nursery, we are yet to hear of another that comes close to you. We will forever be grateful to you and your wonderful staff for giving our children the absolutely best start in life."

"Thank you for everything you have done for our child during her time at Countryside. We are so grateful for the care, support and wonderful experiences you and your team have given her. We've loved the variety of activities and opportunities you organise for the children and she has made so many happy memories with you"

"Thank you so much for the wonderful care, support and kindness you have shown our daughter during her time at Nursery. Every week I have been in awe of the fantastic activities and opportunities you have provided for the children. Our daughter is always so happy and excited to come to Nursery. Countryside is truly outstanding in every way and we are so proud of our daughter's continued development during her time at Nursery."

"Where to start. Our child has had the most fantastic four plus years here. Everyday he is here we know he will be thriving and exploring. All the trips, planning, activities and visitors have made this Nursery beyond what so many others offer. I hope you are so proud of what you do. Of course we are sad to say our final farewell but we know our son is ready for school as a result of everything you do. Thank you for your tireless work, patience and resolution finding with our child, he is incredibly fond of you all."

Big and Little Squirrels trip to BumpyLand

On Wednesday 1st July in the morning Big and Little Squirrels headed off to BumpyLand to celebrate Grace's Birthday.

We all had lots of fun, we sang Happy Birthday and enjoyed some yummy Birthday cake.



Sheep Shearing

On Friday 10th July we enjoyed watching farmer Andy shear his sheep, we also got to meet Rip the sheep dog. We sat in the shade and enjoyed learning all about wool, where it goes and what it feels like. We even got to take some wool home if we wanted to. It was a lovely morning activity, enjoyed by all.



Ladybirds Learning Activities in July 2026



Exploring the musical keyboard.



Enjoying the Cornflake sensory tray.



Creating some colourful Tractor and Digger pictures.



Having fun in the swing.



Popping bubbles.



Potato printing.



Enjoying the ride along toys in the garden.



Story time.



Enjoying looking at a book in the free flow.



Exploring the shaving foam sensory tray.

Hedgehogs Learning Activities in July 2026



Mark making with water and brushes.



Taking our babies for a walk.



Keeping cool with water play.



Tunnel fun.



Exploring the Playdough.



Collecting the eggs from the Nursery Chickens.



Enjoying a walk in the meadow.



Mark making with brushes and water.



Enjoying the Green Gloop and Jelly Sensory tray.

Little Squirrels Learning Activities in July 2026



Creating a colourful Butterfly.



Spreading our own butter
on our malt loaf.



Cheerio threading station.



Shaving foam sensory tray
fun.



Using coloured water to
decorate a shower curtain.



Keeping cool with lots of water play.



Creating our Gruffalo collages.



Practising our cycling
skills.



Completing some colour by
numbers pictures.

Big Squirrels Learning Activities in July 2026



We created these wonderful Zoo animal masks.



Busy constructing.



Keeping cool with water play.



Fantastic Puppet Show.



Having fun with the shaving foam.



Catching and throwing balls to each other.



Creating structures together.



Playdough fun.



Completing I spy challenge.



Exploring the gloop using spoons and scoops.



Working together to complete puzzles.

Thank you to Erin

We would like to thank Erin's family for very kindly donating a selection of clothes for us to use at spares at Nursery.

This was very kind of you, and these will be very useful for the younger children in the Nursery.

Thank you so much for thinking of us.



Thank you to Cianan

We would like to thank Cianan's family for very kindly bringing in some ice creams and cool drinks for all the staff to enjoy during the heatwave.

This was so very kind of you to think of us and they were greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much.



Thank you to Elsie

We would also like to thank Elsie's family for very kindly donating this wonderful puzzle donation to us.

This was so kind of you and I am sure the children will so much fun exploring these new resources.

Thank you so much.



Thank you to Polly

We would also to thank Polly's family for very kindly donating these lovely resources to us for the younger children to enjoy.

This was so kind of you to think of us and the children are going to really enjoy playing with these.

Thank you so much for thinking of us.



Chippy Lunch and a Riverside walk

On Friday 24th July Big and Little Squirrels went on the minibus to Tewkesbury where they all enjoyed some yummy chicken nuggets and chips for their lunch by the river.

After their lunch they enjoyed a walk along the River bank where they saw lots of boats.



Big Squirrels visit to the Cinema

On Tuesday 21st July the Big Squirrels children went on the Nursery minibus to Sherborne Cinema to watch Toy Story 5 and we enjoyed a packet of milky stars each (we couldn't have popcorn as our guidance says we are not allowed due to choking.... Sorry) we had the most wonderful time in the old fashioned cinema and we loved the film., we all sat and watched so well.



Thank you to...

We would like to thank Erin's family for very kindly donating a selection of clothes for us to use at spares at Nursery.

This was very kind of you, and these will be very useful for the younger children in the Nursery.

Thank you so much for thinking of us.



Macmillan Coffee afternoon

On Thursday 24th September, we would like to invite the grandparents/ relatives to see their children here at Nursery for some fun activities from 4-00-5-00pm and to enjoy some refreshments in the kitchen.. We are opening the Nursery up for the grandparents of the children who attend on that Thursday 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@countrysidedaynursery.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



Quad Bikes

On Tuesday 28th July we were so lucky as Big Squirrels were able to try riding quad bikes. We would like to thank Gary from Bouncy Castle Hire Malvern for coming to complete this activity for us. Even Little Squirrels joined in the fun as it was their bike week, so we replaced the quads for their bikes and they all had a go racing round the inflatable track on their pedal and balance bikes. We definitely witnessed some potential Formula one racers and it was a fun morning enjoyed by all.



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 14th 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 14th 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 your child 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, 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, Issy and Immy will be organising some extra special Christmas activities for the babies during this week at Nursery.

Big Squirrels- 2027 cohort. Preparing for your child's final year at Countryside—open evening 9th September at 7-00pm

On Thursday 9th September at 7-00pm- 8-00pm Grace, Laura and Kath (Big Squirrels) would like to invite all of the 2027 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 **Finn** and **Pippa** for sleeping on a snooze mat. Well done to **Bonnie** and **Ronnie** for settling into Nursery so well. Congratulations to **Mina** for trying and enjoying different foods and for doing amazing independent standing. Well done to **William** for coming into Nursery so happily. Congratulations to **Noah** for doing such fantastic walking.

Hedgehogs: Well done to **Dulcie** for doing so well wearing Pants. Congratulations to **Heidi, James, Samuel** and **Eva** for all settling so well in Hedgehogs.

Little Squirrels: Congratulations to **Angus** for learning to ride your very first pedal bike.

Big Squirrels: Well done to **Aura** for riding your bike without stabilizers. Congratulations to **Rory** for completing your 25th Park Run.

Dates for your Diary

Just a quick summary of some important dates for your diaries with more details to follow:

Information Evening for 2027 School Cohort Children's Parents/Carers
Wednesday 9th September 7-8pm

Macmillian Coffee Afternoon Thursday 24th September 4- 5pm
(for our Grandparents of the children who attend that afternoon)

Christmas Closing Dates

Dates for Christmas Break 2026

Tuesday 22nd December 2026-Nursery closes @ 6pm
Monday 4th January 2027-Nursery re -opens @ 8am
