

Spring Term at Poppins Day Nursery

A very warm welcome back to all our Poppins Families!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas? It has been lovely to see the children's smiling faces back in the setting this last week, hearing all about their adventures and seeing them reconnect with their nursery friends. We would also like to welcome our new children to our setting.

We wish you all a Happy New Year. As we begin 2026 together, we look forward to a term filled with wonderful discoveries—from frosty mornings to the first signs of Spring.

Important Dates for Your Diary (Spring 2026)

- **Settling Back In:** Monday, 5th January – Focusing on **PSED** (Personal, Social, and Emotional Development) as we gently ease back into our nursery routines.
- **Children's Mental Health Week (February 9–15):** We focus on **Self-Regulation**, using quiet sensory play to help our little ones name their big feelings in a safe space.
- **Mothers Day Event** – 15th March
- **Easter bonnet parade** – 2nd March (further details to follow)

Exploring Our World: Festivals & Traditions

In our Early Years setting, we use celebrations to support **Understanding the World**. This term, we will be exploring:



Penguin Awareness Day (20th January) – we would like everyone to wear black and white as we spend the day celebrating all things penguins. This will develop our **understanding of the world** by learning about the animals in our world.



Ground Hog Day (2nd February) – We will be exploring shadows and learning the ground hog day story. The children will be using their **Fine Motor Skills** to create signs in the shadows with their hands.



Valentines Day (14th February) – We will be sharing the love whilst we explore Valentines Day and the colour red. We will explore **Expressive Arts and Design** as we make special cards and gifts for our loved ones. We will also be developing our **Communication and Language** skills as we use language to describe our feelings and emotions.



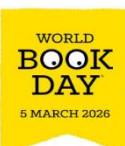
Pancake Day (17th February): A wonderful way to practice **Physical Development** (pouring and flipping!) and **Mathematics** as we measure ingredients and count our toppings.



Chinese / Lunar New Year (17th February): Welcoming the Year of the Horse. We will explore **Expressive Arts and Design** through ribbon dancing and making lucky red envelopes. We will be creating our own dragon masks and Chinese lanterns, painting with chopsticks as we get creative. We will be exploring **Physical Development** through food tasting Chinese food developing our own likes and dislikes.



St David's Day – (1st March) – We will celebrate St. Davids Day, the patron saint of Wales by creating our very own daffodil pictures enhancing our **Expressive Arts and Design** development. We will also have the opportunity to taste some delicious Welsh cake.



World Book Day (5th March): A celebration of **Early Reading**. We invite children to come in their pyjamas for a cozy day of sharing stories. Please feel free to bring in your favourite book to share with your friends.



Mothering Sunday (15th March): The children will be using their **Fine Motor Skills** to create secret, handmade cards for the wonderful people who look after them.



St Patrick's Day- (17th March) – We will be celebrating the patron saint of Ireland exploring our **Expressive Arts and Design** by exploring the traditional Irish music and learning their traditional dance.



Earth Day (22nd April): We will be getting our hands in the soil, planting seeds in our garden and learning how to care for living things.

A Gentle Reminder: Warm Clothes for Outdoor Exploring

At Poppins, we believe outdoor play is vital for **Physical Health** and builds essential gross motor skills through jumping, climbing, and running.

Please ensure your little explorer is prepared for the winter chill with:

- **Named wellies** (for those muddy puddles!)
- **A warm, waterproof coat**
- **Plenty of spare socks**
- **Cosy layers** like hats, gloves, and warm jumpers.



Safeguarding: Keeping Our Children Safe

At Poppins Day Nursery, the safety and well-being of your children is our upmost priority. Following the updated 2025/26 EYFS statutory framework, we want to ensure all families know exactly who is responsible for safeguarding in our setting and how you can work with us.

1. Poppins Day Nursery - Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is a specially trained staff member responsible for managing safeguarding concerns and liaising with local authorities.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Zara Campbell

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Debbie Hughes

How to contact us: You can speak to us in person at drop-off/pick-up, call us on 01453 493443, or email info@thepoppinsdaynursery.co.uk

2. Why We Have a DSL

Our DSLs are here to:

Listen to Concerns: If you ever have a worry about a child's safety or well-being—whether at home, in the community, or within the setting—the DSL is your first point of contact.

Provide Support: Safeguarding is about more than just reporting concerns; it's about supporting families. We can signpost you to "Early Help" services, such as parenting support or local children's centre activities.

Lead Professional Standards: The DSL ensures all our staff renew their safeguarding training every two years (as per 2026 requirements) and follow strict "safer recruitment" and "safer eating" policies.

3. Working in Partnership: New 2026 Requirements

To help us meet our statutory duties this year, we kindly ask parents to:

Update Emergency Contacts: Please ensure we have at least two (ideally more) emergency contact numbers for your child.



Report Absences Early: If your child is going to be absent, please notify us by 9.00am on the day. Under new 2026 rules, we are required to follow up on unexplained absences promptly to ensure every child is safe.

Read Our Policy: Our updated 2026 Safeguarding Policy is now available on request via The Ovivio App. It includes our new whistleblowing procedures for parents and staff.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any questions about how we keep your child safe, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team.

Thank you for being part of our Poppins family and for trusting us with your precious little ones.

We are looking forward to an exciting and happy Spring term.

Warm regards,

The Poppins Day Nursery Team

Caterpillar Room



Firstly, we would like to give all our new children and their families a warm welcome into the caterpillar room as we begin our journey together to support and guide your child/ren through their development. Here are some of the things we have been up to the last few months.

Our Caterpillar Room have had a wonderful time exploring all about Autumn in both our indoor environment and our outdoor environment.

During our Halloween celebrations the children took part in our Halloween party and a variety of spooky activities. The Babies really loved watching the spooky Skelton dance.



Discovering the magic of creating a spider in its web using their own handprints.



The little ones thoroughly enjoyed the sensory experience of mixing the chocolate with rice krispies to make delicious cakes.

Our Caterpillar room have loved exploring the festive environment.

The babies have been busy colouring and investigating our seasonal sensory trays, enjoying the various textures. These hands-on activities have been a wonderful way for the cubs to engage their senses and share in the excitement of the Christmas together

Next steps for the Caterpillar Room.

In the Room, our under-twos have been enchanted by the wonder of bubbles, which provide a rich sensory environment for their early development. These simple activities are vital for building foundational skills:

-Physical Development: Reaching for and "poking" floating bubbles helps develop hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness. For our older toddlers, chasing and stomping bubbles builds balance and gross motor strength.

-Language & Communication: We use repetitive, exciting words like "pop," "bubble," and "gone" to encourage early babbling and first words.

-Cognitive Discovery: Watching a bubble disappear when touched introduces the important concept of cause and effect



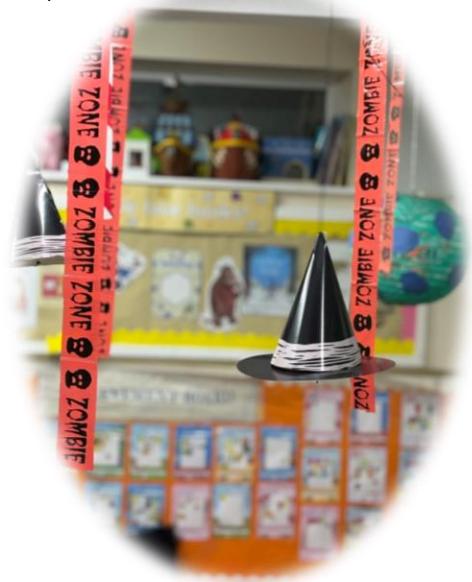
Butterfly Room

In the Butterfly Room, our two-year-olds have been fully embracing the magic of autumn through a variety of hands-on sensory experiences. The children have loved exploring the different textures and sizes of real pumpkins, using their fine motor skills to scoop and investigate the seeds inside.

We also practiced our creativity by decorating various shapes with colourful rice, a wonderful activity for developing hand-eye coordination.

To celebrate the spooky season, our little explorers have been busy mixing "witches' potions" in a large cauldron, pouring and stirring "magical" ingredients to spark their imaginations.

The Butterfly enjoyed Autumn walks as they collected their own resources to create their own Gruffalo pictures





Next term in the Butterfly Room,

Over the upcoming term we will be working on our sharing skills and our listening skills. Encouraging the Butterfly's to follow simple instructions whilst also getting the older Butterfly's ready to progress into the Ladybird room (Pre-school).

Ladybird Room



The changing season has brought inspiration to our classroom as the children explored the wonders of autumn through creative, hands-on play. These activities have been fantastic for developing their fine motor control and early literacy skills in a natural, engaging way.

The ladybirds have taken part in creating their very own Remembrance wreath and took a little walk to the memorial. This encouraged the children to learn about road safety and why it is important to look both ways before crossing the road.



We also had lots of fun taking part in our Halloween Party and then our very own trick a treat walk. Where we got to take a stroll around the community talking to the locals and showing off our Halloween costumes.





Our recent trip to “Ryman’s Pumpkin Farm” provided hands-on learning experience linked to the EYFS framework.

The children explored Mathematics, comparing shape, size, and weight with the variety of pumpkins that they harvested. Developing their Understanding of the World, observing seasonal changes and plant growth first-hand. Navigating the fields and lifting their chosen pumpkins supported their Physical Development, while the new environment sparked fantastic Communication and Language as they described the textures and colours of their harvest.



It was a joy to see them working together and building confidence in such a vibrant outdoor setting!



The children at Poppins really enjoyed having a special guest arrive in December, some were even lucky enough to have breakfast with SANTA.

Each room got to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas and show him everything that they have been doing during the December month.

