



The Roche Nursery School

Keswick House

Newsletter

Week beginning 12th January 2026

Dear Parents

We hope you are all well and we are happy to report that term has started most successfully with a noticeable air of excitement amongst the children. We would like to welcome our new families to Keswick House; Archie, Arlo, Elizabeth and Tatiana who have joined the Lower Nursery this term; we look forward to getting to know them.

We have already started our new project "Terrific Transformations" so please look out on Tapestry for our project overview which outlines the weekly project activities and includes ideas for activities at home and the all important 'big question' which poses an open-ended question linked to the weekly project. This information can also be found on keswickhousenursery.co.uk/parents under the tab 'activities at home'. Free flows plans describing our learning environment and key activities we set out will also be posted up on Tapestry. Any feedback particularly via Tapestry is much appreciated as we love to know if children make links from home to school and vice versa!

Upper Nursery

The children have had a fantastic return to school. This week the children have been deeply engaged in imaginative domestic role-play, using whisks and washing-up liquid to recreate familiar home routines. As part of this play, they enjoyed hanging out socks to dry, learning how to use pegs on a washing line and developing their fine motor skills and independence. They have also shown a huge interest in dressing up, using costumes to take on different roles and act out familiar and imaginary scenarios. This has supported the development of their communication and language skills as they negotiated roles, shared ideas and extended their vocabulary through play. Dressing up has also encouraged confidence, cooperation, and turn-taking, supporting their personal, social and emotional development. If you have any unwanted dressing up we would happily use the costumes!

This week they displayed a keen interest in construction and the children thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity to build with the materials provided, including using hammers. There was also lots of imaginative play and cooking in the mud kitchen, which the children explored with great enthusiasm and gave out step by step instructions to recipes!

Also outdoors, the children enjoyed making bug hotels in our forest camp and extended this learning by creating ladybirds using playdough and paper.

In drama, the focus was on *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The children are showing a real love for books and storytelling and keep asking when we will be doing another show — a clear sign of the lasting impact of our Christmas performance.

In phonics, the children revisited previously learned sounds by matching objects to the correct initial sound on a giant phonic mat. It has been wonderful to see the progress they are making. This week's focus sound was 'g'.

In mathematics, we explored grading by size and recognising patterns, building on the children's interest in Russian dolls during their play.

We would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued cooperation and support during recent routine and timetable changes. Your flexibility has really helped the children settle.





Lower Nursery

Our new friends are settling in well and adjusting confidently to the school routine. It has been lovely to see the children establishing firm friendships and we are delighted with how happily they are interacting with one another. They have enthusiastically immersed themselves in new activities particularly in the Practical Life shelf, developing independence and focus.

We would love to encourage playdates outside of Nursery to help nurture these friendships. During circle time, we have been focusing on learning colours and

matching colours in our environment and counting objects. The children especially enjoy singing, with *Jelly on My Plate*, *Zoom Zoom Zoom*, and *The Wheels on the Bus* being firm favourites. *Sleeping Bunnies* is another song they particularly love and engage in enthusiastically as they adore jumping! We also introduced 'Dear Zoo' with the animal props and the camel seemed to be a new word for most.

We have been impressed with how well the children sit at snack time, demonstrating good table manners and patiently waiting for their friends to finish. In the role-play area, the children have especially enjoyed the new enhancements, using real food such as scrubbing potatoes and carrots as part of their play.

The children had a wonderful time at forest school this week. They were full of excitement and enthusiasm, particularly enjoying the opportunity to explore the outdoor environment by jumping in puddles. This activity supported their physical development while allowing them to express their enjoyment through active play. One little arrived back to school after the forest school trip and wanted to draw a tree immediately!

The children relished the opportunity to use homemade red playdough. They enjoyed shaping it into sausages and developing their fine motor skills by cutting it carefully with scissors. This activity encouraged creativity, hand-eye coordination and confidence when using tools safely.





Finally.....

Please find attached diary dates for this term; we are very much looking forward to our school trip to The Look Out Discovery Centre at the end of term. Trip letters will be sent out shortly. If you are able to volunteer as a helper, could you please let Mrs Lisa know. All children are invited to the school trip.

We have a lot to look forward to this term and as ever we are keen to include the many celebrations of importance to everyone. We would be grateful if you could return the 'Celebration' sheet if you have not done so already which gives you the opportunity to let us know of celebrations or events that may be of importance to your family that we could share at school too. Spring term is brimming with celebrations but we are particularly looking forward to Languages Week and celebrating the Persian and Lunar New Years.

Best wishes

Nursery Team