As part of our outdoor theme we decided to hold a scarecrow festival.

Not realising what competitive staff we had it was a hard fought battle from which Pre-School 1 were the well-deserved victors!

The children and staff worked really hard to ensure that the foyer and scarecrows not only looked superb but offered some fabulous learning opportunities as well.

Well done everyone, definitely one of the best!
What an eggsperience

Staff, children, parents and colleagues across the University all thoroughly enjoyed our first chick hatching experience in many years.

After taking delivery of our eggs on Monday 27th April it didn’t take long for the first chick to arrive, quickly named Orville, the rest of the brood followed over the next few days.

Thanks to our friends in ISS we didn’t miss a moment of the whole experience due to a webcam being set up at a minutes notice!

A fantastic experience for everyone can’t wait to do it all again next year!

Eddie the Elephant moves into Crèche 2

We have recently introduced a home link teddy to the children, his name is Eddie the Elephant.

Eddie is a familiar toy that lots of the children enjoy playing with.

We are going to send Eddie home with a child each week as this will help us to continue to build bonds with the children and their families, it is a tool that will also help us to incorporate home life into their day to day activities in Crèche.

Eddie has a diary that will go home with him and we would appreciate if parents could write all about Eddie’s adventures and maybe even pop in some photo’s.

Each week we will share his adventures with the children to help develop understanding of families and communities.

Outdoor experiences with Babyroom

The babies have been making the most of their new outdoor area! With extra space and new resources we didn’t need any encouraging once the weather improved!

Thanks to Adele’s husband who designed and built our new crawl in sand tray the babies have been able to access the sand with ease and have enjoyed crawling in and out and making marks with their hands.

The babies can also now be more sociable and are able to interact with the Nursery children through the clear panels.

Over the next few months we are hoping to offer more outdoor experiences and we will be planting some flowers and herbs for the babies to explore.
Hungry Caterpillar

The children in Nursery 2 have been looking at the story of the ‘Hungry Caterpillar’ enjoying naming and counting all the different fruits and they loved see the caterpillar turning into a cocoon and finally into a butterfly!! We have also sang the song about the tiny caterpillar at circle time. We took the children’s interest a bit further and decided to make a ‘Very Hungry Caterpillar’ display. We added a number line using fruits that the children made with collage material, paint and glue.

Caterpillar Special Delivery!!

The Pre-School received a special delivery last week for which the Pre-School children were very excited to receive!!

In the packages were caterpillar’s for which the children will care for and watch the life cycle of them changing into a cocoon then to a butterfly which they are very excited about.

We will follow their progress and watch this space for an update!!!
Primary School Excitement

This term Pre-School 3 the children have been finding out what school’s they will be going to in September. It has been a very exciting time for us all and this has brought lots of questions from the children about what happens next. So we have been doing some investigating, we read ‘I am too absolutely small for school’ and we found out that numbers (for counting elephants) and letters (for understanding secret messages on the fridge) are useful at school and so we began......

We are having fun finding out about sounds and letter, their names, making them and putting them on our phonics tree. We have letter hunts to find our letter of the week and the children are good at thinking of word as well.

The first letters we are looking at are S, A, T, P, I, N as these make a lot of three letter words that are easy to sound out.

We have also been using our maths bags if you want to borrow one for home please speak to the staff in Pre-School 3.

Maths is all around us

Throughout the centre we have been focusing on enhancing our maths provision.

Over the last few weeks the children have been working with the staff making number lines and other maths resources and have enjoyed playing with and exploring these.

The Crèche rooms have been providing different sized containers to encourage filling and emptying and engaging children with all types of construction to create their own simple structures and arrangements.

The Nursery rooms are creating number bags to support children with number names and sequence, and are also creating measuring baskets which will give children the opportunity to extend their learning of space and measuring.

The children in the Pre-School rooms have showing off their skills in counting in English, French and many other languages!

They are also working towards displaying the numbers throughout their room and are enjoying investigating and exploring a range of 2d and 3d structures.
A busy term in Pre-School 1

The children in PS1 have been very busy this term. We began by creating our Jaspers Beanstalk display and exploring the days of the week. We carried out our own experiment, planting beans in two different ways, Group 1 in soil and Group 2 in cotton wool. We waited and watched to see which beans grew quickest and tallest. The results were the same for both groups, but the children thought it was more exciting to see the roots growing in the ones planted in the cotton wool.

Gary the Goldfish is our new pet and the children have all enjoyed taking turns to feed him. The children are becoming very good at taking turns and listening to each other.

The children have been accessing our new interactive math's board exploring 2d, 3d Shapes and numbers.

They quickly grasped the names of the shapes and can accurately identify them.

We have also been looking at time and how to measure time using sand timers, egg timers and a clock.

Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud! International Mud Day

On Monday 29th June, we will be joining children all around the world to celebrate nature by getting really, really muddy!

We will use our mud kitchens to make mud pies, cakes and gloopy drinks concoctions. We will create mud paintings, mud sculptures, make mud slides and jump in muddy puddles.

Just to be on the safe side, Adele has ordered extra soil for us so we can make lots of mud! Please help us to enjoy the day by sending us in our old clothes with a spare change for going home.

Beach Life

Now that summer is finally here the children in Crèche 1 are able to enjoy the beach area that has been created in the outdoors!!

The children have had fun playing with a variety of toys in the beach such as buckets and spades, diggers and tractors.

The children are able to climb in and out of the area and explore the area fully!! All that's missing is a few seagulls!
On Wednesday 17th June we were visited by Ruthie Boycott. Ruthie has been commissioned by the Big Imaginations Children’s Theatre Network to create and deliver a performance for children specifically designed to be performed in children’s centres, nurseries and libraries.

The piece is still in the development stage and Pre-School were very happy to provide an opportunity for Ruthie to see how her ideas translated in this environment

_Pom_ is a life size puppet and provided the children with a sensory exploration of the greek myth Persephone. The children explored the themes of Spring, feast, underworld and growing up using sensory objects, storytelling, music and puppetry.

The sessions were delivered in the Babyroom, crèche 1, Nursery 2 and Pre-School 1. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and after some initial concerns about the puppet they were happy to engage and explore Pom and the many sensory resources she had brought along.

Thank you to both Ruthie, Alice Booth and LICA for affording the children another fantastic opportunity.
The purpose of this booklet is to help you as a parent/carer find out more about how your child is learning and developing during their first five years, in relation to the EYFS. Children develop more rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time. This booklet has been written to help you as a parent know what to expect during these vitally important years by focusing on the seven areas of learning and development which are covered in the EYFS.

http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/

Talking Point gives parents and carers information they need to help their children develop their speech, language and communication skills.

It is a useful source of information and advice and allows you to check your child’s progress and development with access to a range of free resources.

http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/?utm_content=buffer005fb&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Competition Winners

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Laura McGowan and her family on winning the draw for a family meal at The Winning Post located in Barker House Farm.

We were delighted that a family from the Pre-School Centre won the competition and hope that they enjoyed Bonington Bear’s surprise visit!!
Can parents who access the Pre-School Lay-by please refrain from stopping/dropping or parking on the yellow zigzag lines. Doing so is creating a hazard for drivers and pedestrians especially children.

When the lay-by is full there are a number of additional spaces marked in yellow on the above map which have been designated as Pre-School spaces. Please use them.

Security have been asked to monitor the situation and move on anyone posing a hazard, in addition new signage will be displayed discouraging this unsafe practice.

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**Parent Information/Reminders**

**Dates for your diary**

- **Graduation Party for School leavers:** Saturday 1\textsuperscript{st} August @ the Sports Centre from 1pm until 4pm.

**Term Dates:**

- 13\textsuperscript{th} April until 28\textsuperscript{th} August 2015
- **Undergraduate Terms:**
- 20\textsuperscript{th} April until 26\textsuperscript{th} June 2015
- **Term Dates 2015/16**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} September until 18\textsuperscript{th} December 15
- 4\textsuperscript{th} January until 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 16
- 4\textsuperscript{th} April until 24\textsuperscript{th} August 16
- 5\textsuperscript{th} October until 11\textsuperscript{th} December 15
- 11\textsuperscript{th} January until 18\textsuperscript{th} March 16
- 18\textsuperscript{th} April until 24\textsuperscript{th} June 16

**Invoice dates**

- 6\textsuperscript{th} July until 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2015
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} August until 28\textsuperscript{th} August 2015

- Parents of children who are leaving the Pre-School Centre can you please ensure that you hand in your door entry card on your last day.