



Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter November 2018

The Children's Learning

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term. We hope that you all had a super half term holiday break (seems a long time ago already) and have adjusted to the darker nights.

The children have been busy, busy, busy and Halloween provided us with the ideal opportunity to make potions and magic spells with coloured water, using a variety of tools to suck up water and create mixtures. The children showed vivid imaginations in thinking of the outcome of their spell!! Caryn found some Halloween pasta shapes and we used these with tweezers, tongs and different sized containers to develop the children's fine motor and counting skills.



The children loved learning our fireworks song and pretended to be fireworks with scarves as they sang the song. They also made a firework sky on the play ground floor using powder paint and brooms and have done lots of mark making with different media to produce firework pictures. This theme continued with the celebration of Diwali and the children also enjoyed tasting some Indian breads, dips and sweets.



We have been exploring our love of animals with the children. Karen, one of our Governors (also our library book helper!), sponsors 2 animals each year at the Living Rainforest in Newbury on behalf of Maidenhead Nursery. This year our animals are Cinnamon the sloth and Lennie the Carpet Python. As part of the sponsorship a free child ticket for a visit is available to each Nursery child. Do go for a visit: it is a really interesting day out. Zoolab, an animal workshop, visited Nursery on Wednesday 21st November. This was a great opportunity for the children to learn about some more unusual creatures and we are always amazed by the children's curiosity and the amazing questions they ask.

Fundraising

We would like to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to the Spoore, Merry and Rixman Foundation Trustees for agreeing to purchase us over £3000 worth of early literacy and maths resources. The Trust was set up in the Seventeenth Century by Abraham Spoore, Elizabeth Merry and Mary Rixman who left money derived from rents and investments to be spent for educational purposes on local children. Today the Trust is in the fortunate position of being able to extend its funds to support organisations who can demonstrate an educational need. The contribution will make a massive difference to our provision in such austere times.

Keep Reading!

The children love listening to stories together in our key groups and have been joining in with repeated phrases. One of main aims is to developing a love of reading in all children so please make sure that you share the library book they choose each week. If you child does not attend Nursery on a Wednesday please remind us to change their book on a different day. Our book recommendation this month is Diggersaurs. Its bold illustrations imaginatively blends diggers and cranes with dinosaurs to create an amazing set of creatures - DIGGERSAURS! A rhyming text also adds to ensuring that this a great story for sharing again and again. Girls love it just as much as boys!



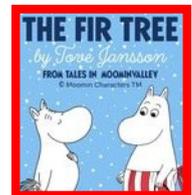
PARENT PARTNERSHIP

We hope you all welcomed the opportunity to talk about the progress your child has made at Nursery with their key person this week. It's a wonderful celebration of how well they are doing. Please always speak to us if you have any worries or concerns and remember key people have times set aside each week to talk to you if you wish to book an appointment. Please also remember to take your child's learning journey home from time to time to share with family and friends. It also makes a real difference if you can add photos, momentos from trips out etc. to the so your child can share home experiences with their friends at Nursery.

A couple of reminders



- Thank you for parking more considerately near Maidenhead Nursery - we have been complaint-free from our neighbours and we haven't caught anyone parking on the zig-zag lines recently!
- If children suffer from a stomach bug - diarrhoea or vomiting, the local Health Authority state that they should not return to School/Nursery until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.
- Please remember to book your child's place on the Norden Farm Theatre trip on Friday 7th December as soon as possible - spaces are limited. Details have been sent out by email please ask if you have misplaced or not received the information. The show this year is The Fir Tree an adventure set in the idyllic and peaceful Moominvalley. It features live puppetry and music and is a gloriously unselfish take on Christmas
- Keep encouraging your child to practise putting on their scarf, hat, gloves, wellies and coat independently and make sure that they come appropriately dressed for the weather.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 7th December - Nursery trip to Norden Farm theatre – please see email and book asap. Nursery is closed all day today.

Wednesday 12th December - Singing around the Christmas tree. Details to follow.

Tuesday 18th December - **Nursery is closed this morning.** Afternoon party for those children that attend nursery in the afternoon 12 noon to 2.30pm. Santa Claus is expected!

Wednesday 19th December - Morning party for children who attend nursery in the morning. 9.15 am to 11.45 am. Santa Claus is expected! There is no lunch club or afternoon session - **Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays. Children who attend for 2.5 days or 30 hours will be allocated a party.**

Thursday 3rd January - **NURSERY CLOSED - STAFF TRAINING DAY**

Friday 4th January - **NURSERY CLOSED.** Home visits for new children.

Monday 7th January - **NURSERY CLOSED.** New entrants day for new children

Tuesday 8th January - **ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO NURSERY.**

Speech technique of the month

In order to support the children's speech, language and communication development we focusing on one speech technique per month. These have been advised by Speech and Language Therapists and we would like you to support these techniques in the home when possible. This month's speech technique is to think about conditions for listening. Children need quiet and cosy areas for speaking and listening – make sure that background noise from the TV etc. is reduced to a minimum whenever possible.



Children in Need

We supported Children in Need on Friday 16th November. Children wore fancy dress and we had an array of superheroes, princesses and Pudsey Bears. We raised over £50 to help disadvantaged children throughout the UK. There is a news story in this week's Maidenhead Advertiser about it so please have a look!

THANK YOU for all of your clothes donations last week. Bags2School raised £73.20 for Maidenhead Nursery School.

School Applications

Online admissions is now open for children eligible to start school next September 2019.

Closing date - Tuesday 15 January 2019 (Midday)

Extended deadline for exceptional circumstances - Wednesday 30 January 2019

National Offer Day - Tuesday 16 April 2019

Respond to a school place offer - Wednesday 1 May 2019

Waiting list positions for all applicants and late applicant offers - from May 2019

Further information can be found :

https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4052/admission_into_primary_school_september_2019.pdf

Our advice is to look around a few schools during the working day and this should give you a feel for the school that will 'fit' your child best. In order to have more chance of getting the school at the top of your list make sure that you do not miss the application deadline.



Music area

Hopefully you have all noticed our new music area that the teachers set up under the outdoor canopy on the inset day on 29th October. For a while we have been researching and planning ways to improve our environment to incorporate more musical learning. All vocal **communication** is comprised of musical elements such as pitch, rhythm and timbre, demonstrating that musicality is an intrinsic part of being human. Music should be seen as a core component of children's learning and should be shared with young children to ensure they have broad, balanced and rounded experiences in early childhood and beyond. The four aspects of musical learning and development are - Listening and hearing; Vocalising and singing; Moving and Dancing and Exploring and playing. Musical development also helps children with early literacy skills and early mathematical skills. Some ideas to help you support your child's musical development are:

- Play sound-matching games e.g. make sounds by banging utensils, putting different materials in containers that children can't see and invite children to make a matching sound or describe it..
- Make some musical shakers using different materials e.g. yogurt pots filled with sand, rice, cotton wool, pebbles etc. Talk about whether the sound is loud, soft, quiet etc.
- Clap/stamp, tap out different rhythms using body parts - can your child join in, copy and continue the rhythm?
- Encourage children to listen to a wide range of music so that music is not limited to music for "types" of people. Talk about the different instruments you can hear.

