

Maidenhead Nursery School

Newsletter January 2019

Happy New Year

We hope that you had a relaxing Christmas break and wish you all a Happy New Year. We welcome new children and their families to Maidenhead Nursery School this term and look forward to getting to know them all; the older children will be such good role models as they know our routines and expectations so well.



The end of last term was very busy with our singing around the Christmas tree, the trip to see The Fir Tree and the Christmas parties with Santa's grotto. It was a very special time for the children and lovely to see their faces when they visited Santa in his grotto to receive their gift. He even came in and spent some time in the nursery with the children and enjoyed their wonderful singing. Throughout the run up to Christmas the children

participated in creative activities such as making Christmas cards and decorations and were able to practice and extend their mark making skills and understanding of number and shape.

The staff have been planning some exciting activities and experiences for the children this term. Our initial focus will be on a couple of traditional tales -The Gingerbread Man and The Three Little Pigs. Traditional tales are great for inspiring children's love for stories and help develop their



imagination, critical thinking - through thinking through problems and difficulties faced by the characters – and helps them to consider what is right and what is wrong. The texts also include rhymes, repetition and onomatopoeia (sounds) that help to develop early reading skills. Please also see the dates on this letter that inform you of forthcoming

events. For children who attend 2.5 day sessions please remember that they are always welcome to attend special events if they do not usually attend nursery on that day but in order to maintain safe adult to child ratios we do have to ask that they are accompanied.



Numicon Stay and Play



**Monday 28th January - 10.30 - 11.30am and
2.00—3.00 pm.**

The session will have a mathematical focus on Numicon - a resource that helps to develop early counting and calculation skills. Please come in for an hour and take part in activities with your child. You will learn lots of tips about how to support your child's early maths skills in the home. No need to book, just turn up on the day.

We will be having a further Stay and Play with a storytelling focus on Friday 8th March so please make a note of it in your diary.

Learning stories

The children will continue to bring home learning stories to share with you. The story will be about a learning experience that has taken place at nursery and the journey of the learning. The children enjoy hearing their story and we do hope that you will share it with them at home. Please add some comments to the learning story or chat to your child's key person about their learning and return it to a member of staff. We keep the stories in your child's folder as a reminder of their learning at Maidenhead Nursery School. The stories are used to plan the next steps for the children and staff plan the activities and experiences around the children's interests. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoy writing them. If your child has taken home a learning story recently please return it to your child's key worker as soon as possible. Also please remember to take your child's learning journey file home from time to time. It would be great if you could add things to the files such as mark making or painting that they do at home, photos of special family events /times and souvenirs e.g. information leaflets, maps etc. from places you have visited as a family.

IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGES

We have a child in Nursery who, due to medical treatment, currently has a very low immunity to common childhood illnesses. Contracting an illness such as Chicken Pox could be a very serious risk to this child so please let us know IMMEDIATELY if your child or one of their siblings contracts chicken pox.

We also have a couple of children who have severe nut allergies so may I remind you that we have a no nuts policy in Lunch club. Thank you for your co-operation and support with these matters - the health and safety of all our children is paramount.

A Few Reminders

Don't forget:

- Please remember to name your child's clothes, coats, gloves and hats. We can then return items to their owners quickly.
- Please encourage your child to practise putting their coat on at home. They are always so proud of themselves when they have achieved this self-help skill.
- Please ensure over the next couple of months that your child wears layers of clothing to keep them warm outdoors but which can easily be removed when inside.
- Please remember to park considerately outside Nursery, avoiding blocking our neighbours driveways.
- Please remember to let us know on the first day of absence if your child is too unwell to attend Nursery.
- If your child is 4 before 31st August 2019 remember to return his/her school application to RBWM by midday on **Tuesday 15th January**. Tuesday 16th April is the national offer day when you should hear which school they have been allocated.

Dates for your diaries

Monday 28th January - Numicon Stay and Play 10.30—11.30am and 2.00– 3.00pm

Tuesday 5th February - Chinese New Year celebration

Friday 15th February - Break up for half term holidays

Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February - Nursery Closed - half term break

Monday 25th February - All children return to Nursery

W/c Monday 4th March - Focus on storytelling - parents invited to come into Nursery and read with children. Details to follow.

Tuesday 5th March - Making pancakes to celebrate Pancake Day

Wednesday 6th March - Earthsong drumming workshop. Details to follow.

Friday 8th March - Storytelling Stay and Play 10.30– 11.30am and 2.00—3.00 pm

Thursday 14th March - Cake Sale for Comic Relief. Details to follow.

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief fundraising

Tuesday 19th March - Grasshopper children's progress chats

Wednesday 20th March - Bumble Bee children's progress chats

Thursday 21st March - Caterpillar children's progress chats

Friday 22nd March - Ladybird children's progress chats

Friday 5th April - Break up for the Easter holidays.



Bad Weather Closures



We always endeavour to open Maidenhead Nursery School however if the weather is extreme and staff are unable to get to school we may need to close for health and safety reasons. In the event of bad weather parents should check the RBWM website - www.rbwm.gov.uk, our website - nurseryfederation.co.uk and/or listen to Heart Thames Valley or BBC Radio Berkshire for school closure announcements.

We are also legally required to have an Emergency Plan and have recently updated it to include a Lock-down situation. This would occur for example if an undesirable person tried to access our site or there was a chemical leak in the locality. In a Lockdown situation parents/carers would not be allowed to enter or leave the school building and we would communicate with you on when and how to collect your children once the danger had subsided as advised by the emergency services.

Speech technique of the month

Model language by **Repeat, Emphasise and Expand**

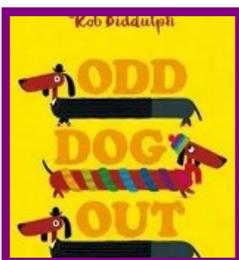
Enhance your child's use of sentences by:

Repeating back the sentence if your child's grammar is incorrect, e.g. "I goed park Nanny", you say "Yes, you *went* to the park *with* Nanny."

Emphasising key words and new vocabulary, e.g. "I've got mouses at home", you say "you've got *mice* at home."

Expanding on what your child has said by repeating it and adding 1 or 2 words, e.g. if your child says "kick ball", you say "*kicking a big* ball."

Children's Book Recommendation



Sharing books with children regularly is one of the best ways to enhance their vocabulary, attention and listening skills, their early reading skills in understanding story sequences, characters etc. and their love of books. There are some great new children's books on the market and we will provide you with book recommendations in newsletters should you wish to purchase a new story to share with your child. This month's recommendation is 'Odd Dog Out' by Rob Biddulph. It is a simple story about being proud of who you are!

Please also remember your child's book bag each Wednesday so they can choose a library book.

Please note regular times for conversations (in addition to informal chats at drop off and pick up time and formal termly meetings) with staff are as follows:

Grasshopper group - Amy - Tuesday morning between 8.30 - 9am

Bumble Bee group - Rose - Tuesday morning - 8.30 - 9am

Ladybird Group - Bev - Wednesday morning - 8.30 - 9am

Caterpillar Group - Ufat - Thursday afternoon 12.30 - 1pm

To arrange please speak to the member of staff concerned a week in advance. Please note from time to time these weekly appointments will be unavailable if staff are going on training courses, visits to other settings or have meetings etc. They will not be available the week commencing 18th March.