



Cookham Nursery School

March 2019 Newsletter

The Children's Learning

The children have all settled back into Nursery quickly after the half term break and have already packed in lots of new learning.



On Wednesday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day. Parents came into Nursery to read stories to small groups of children. Thank you to the parents who were able to come. The children loved it and there was such a lovely atmosphere; they were fully focused on



listening to fantastic stories, looking at brilliant illustrations and talking all about books. We have also introduced 'Helicopter Stories' into the Nursery, which is a storytelling and story acting initiative in the Early Years. Children make up their own stories which the adults scribe and later, the group act out the story so that it 'comes alive' for them. As we extend this, children will consider setting, characters, a problem and how it gets solved as part of story writing in depth.



On Wednesday we welcomed "Earth Song Drummers" into the Nursery for the day. Storme and Jill run multicultural music workshops in schools and small groups of children joined them for trips to different parts of the world. We played African drums and listened to musical instruments which we had never seen before—Gourd shakers, a Kora (harp) and a Bala (a type of xylophone). It really was a special day and we all learnt so much.



Dates for your diary!

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief Day Children to wear RED

Monday 18th March - Children's progress chats this week

Wednesday 27th March - Mother's Day shop today

Thursday 28th March - Quiz night for Cookham Nursery School

Friday 5th April - Break up for the Easter holidays

Tuesday 23rd April - Home Visits for new children

Wednesday 24th April - New Entrants day today

Thursday 25th April - All children return to the Nursery today.

Monday 6th May - Nursery closed for Bank Holiday

Friday 24th May - Break up for half term holidays

Monday 3rd June - All children return to Nursery after the half term break.



Quiz Night

Tickets for our **Quiz Night** on **Thursday 28 March** at **Cookham Dean Cricket Club** are selling fast. If you would like to book tickets please either email jennylouiseknight@yahoo.com or speak to Jane/Cathy in the office. Tickets are £12.50 to include Fish & Chips, Brownies & a great quiz. There will also be a cash bar, raffle and a prize for the winning team.



REMINDERS



- Please ensure that you shut and lock all gates as you enter and exit Nursery.
- Please park safely and with consideration of our neighbours outside Nursery.
- Please ensure that your child wears clothes that enable them to be as independent as possible with going to the toilet and changing themselves. Elasticated trousers and skirts are ideal.
- For safeguarding reasons please do not use your mobile phone whilst in Nursery.
- Please remember to call Nursery (**01628 520002**) on the first day of absence if your child is unwell or not attending their usual session.
- Please remember that we have several children and a member of staff with severe allergies so **NO NUTS** or Sesame seeds (including humous) in lunch boxes. Can you please ensure that whoever makes your child's lunch is also aware of this?
Thank you.

Federation news!

We would like to congratulate our Federation colleagues at The Lawns Nursery School on their recent “Outstanding” Ofsted inspection. As you know we share leadership across the Federation so we were delighted that the inspector concluded that “... inspirational leadership ensures that the school continues to grow and develop. There is not a hint of complacency among staff, leaders or governors ...” The report also praised the way we share expertise across the Federation “the curriculum teams ... share expertise and exchange ideas very effectively ... This has been influential in securing a number of improvements in teaching and learning ... for example, strengthened teaching and learning in a range of subjects including science and mathematics.” The next steps suggested for The Lawns mirror those set for Maidenhead Nursery School last year - engaging in action research to inform and improve practice so we look forward to working together even more closely on exciting projects. The Federation now has a couple of years until Cookham Nursery School is due to be inspected but please rest assured that we will not be resting on our laurels we are committed to ensuring children achieve their best possible outcomes .



Learning stories

We hope that you enjoy the learning story that your child brings home each term. They provide a lovely portrait of your child whilst they are busy at Nursery. Their learning at school is only a small part of their learning and we really want to know what they find fascinating at home. We would be most grateful if you could comment on the learning stories either in writing or verbally to staff so we can record your thoughts. Please ensure that you return all learning stories in their folder as soon as possible as the children love looking at them at Nursery too. You will receive your child’s learning story folder when they finish at Nursery.

Parent Chats

Please remember to book an appointment time for your child’s progress meeting with their key person. They are due to be held next week and staff still have a few time slots available. If you need to arrange a different time please speak to your child’s key person for an alternative slot.

Mothers Day Shop—27 March

Don't forget to bring in your unwanted gifts Mother's Day gifts for our shop before Friday 22 March. Gifts such as chocolates, toiletries, candles, socks, scarves etc. On Wednesday 27 March, please send your child in with £2 to choose and buy a gift from the shop. We will help them wrap it and write a gift tag ready for Mother's Day. Many thanks to those of you who have already donated such lovely items.



Save the Date - Beale Park

We have booked our annual summer term trip to Beale Park for Friday 12th July.

Please do save the date as this is a lovely trip for parents and carers too. Pre-school children can also attend.

There is a coach available if families would like to use this as a travel option.

More details will be available nearer to the time however we wanted to let you know the date as soon as possible. Please note Cookham Nursery School will be closed on this day.

Supporting your child's learning at home Top tips for sharing books

*Put aside 10 minutes twice a day for sharing books, make this a special time with your undivided attention - turn off the TV, switch off your mobile phone

*Allow your child to choose the book - make sure that you sit so that your child can see the pictures/text and is able to point things out that interest him/her. Allow him/her to hold the book. Talk about the picture on the cover - what will this story be about? How do you know?

*Use special voices to represent different characters - your child will love this!

*Explain any difficult vocabulary

*Allow your child to stop you, turn back pages and make comments

*Talk about the characters — what are they doing? What are they thinking? How are they feeling?

*Create suspense using your voice. What is going to happen next?

*Draw your child's attention to special features of the book e.g. rhyming words, text that may be written in bolder and larger print that tells you to read that part of the story louder, repeated refrains etc.

