



Maidenhead 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.

We had an action-packed week last week. The Earthsong drumming workshop was a great success. Children played African drums, an African harp, and listened to the sounds of a South American wind instrument, an ocean drum and a didgeridoo from Australia. They had great fun moving to music, taking it in turns to be the conductor and playing the drums loudly, quietly, and to fast and slow rhythms.

On pancake day, Tuesday 5th March, the children had the opportunity to mix pancake batter with Tracy, measuring and counting out the ingredients. They especially loved cracking the eggs, and watching Tracy toss the pancakes in the pan, and then of course the best part, eating the pancakes!



During our storytelling Stay and Play day last Friday Bev showcased some of our beautiful story sacks and also used some home-made props to really bring 'Room on the Broom' to life. As always the children were entranced due to Bev's brilliant use of intonation and facial expression! The parents who attended came away with lots of ideas to enliven story telling at home. We'd love to see photos of any story props you make or find! The 'Bedtime Reading Challenge' is underway and we hope you are enjoying cuddling up with a good book every night.

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.

Dates for your diary!

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

Tuesday 23rd April - All children return to Nursery after the Easter break.

Friday 3rd May - Last day to bring in Bags2School donations

Monday 6th May - Nursery closed for Bank Holiday

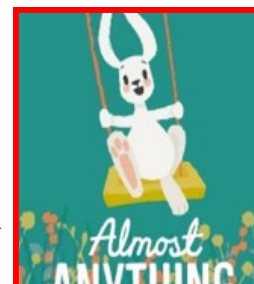
Friday 24th May - Break up for half term holidays

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



Book recommendation of the month ...

Our book recommendation this month is *Almost Anything* by Sophy Henn. George is a young rabbit who watches his friends enjoying painting, skating, reading and dancing but doesn't want to join in: he just doesn't think he can. This is a delightful picture book about not being afraid to have a go at something new, persevering if new things are a bit difficult at first and having fun too. It might prompt nervous children to try new things and you could have fun making your own 'magic' hats too. Having a go and keeping trying is something we really focus on at Nursery - the sense of achievement is immense for children when they finally succeed and a big motivator for future learning.



POLITE REMINDERS

Don't forget:

- Please ensure that you shut and lock all wooden 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 leave the Nursery playground promptly once you have collected your child. After sessions when staff are not present in the playground the Nursery cannot be held accountable for any injury sustained on Nursery equipment.
- Please remember to call Nursery (**01628 623551**) on the first day of absence if your child is unwell.

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 .



Speech Technique of the Month

Have conversations

Making comments instead of asking questions will encourage your child to respond.

Pause between sentences to give your child time to process information.

Young children find it easier to talk about something they are looking at or doing.



Can you help?

We are requesting donations of the following items for collage and attention building activities:

- Lentils
- Dried pasta
- Different types of rice
- Tapioca
- Couscous (small or giant)

We would also like donations of old toy cars; our stock is currently very depleted. Thank you in anticipation of your kind donations.

Thank you to those of you who donated points as part of the Green Redeem scheme to Maidenhead Nursery School. We received £115.78 from the initiative which we will be using to help pay for the necessary repairs to the monkey bars.

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.



Thank you for supporting our Comic Relief cake sale!



So far we have raised £86!!