

Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter May 2019

The Children's Learning

It is amazing how quickly the children have resettled into Nursery routines after the Easter break. We hope you enjoyed the school holiday - let's hope we see some more of the Easter weekend weather soon! The children have all been busy engaging in the activities that staff plan to follow their interests on a day to day basis. Just prior to the Easter break the children were introduced to our new "Potion Station", which has proved to be extremely popular and well-used. Mathematical vocabulary and concepts relating to volume and capacity have been developed as well as physical control when pouring carefully, and imagination, as the children have thought of different potions and spells. The children have also developed their knowledge of regular two- and three-dimensional shapes, by learning shape songs and going on shape hunts, where they have identified and matched shapes in the environment.



There has been much interest and curiosity shown in mini-beasts, and the children have been on pond dips, observed tadpoles, and learnt about the life-cycle of the frog.

Superheroes were discussed at group times, last term and the children talked about what superheroes do, and came up with a set of rules for superhero play. We met some real-life superheroes too! Many thanks to Sarah and Sylvia's mum who came in to school to talk to the children about what a midwife does, ably assisted by James' mum. Also thanks go to Milan's Mum who came in to talk about being a dentist. This term we are developing a "Superhero Headquarters" in the small shed outside which will be equipped with masks, capes and a variety of equipment to aid rescuing and doing good deeds.



Following on from last term's interest in mini-beasts, our baby caterpillars are growing very fast and we have been learning about their life-cycle. We are looking forward to watching them change into butterflies.

Sun Safety

*Please can we remind parents/ carers to apply sun cream to children prior to their nursery session. We ask that parents/carers of children who stay for a full day bring in a clearly **NAMED** bottle of sun cream for your child to be applied if necessary at lunch time. Please give the sun cream to a member of staff as we keep them all in a central place. We can only apply sun cream to your child if this procedure is followed. Thank you.



*Please also ensure that your child has a named sun hat and is wearing appropriate and safe footwear (not flip flops or clogs please) for the nursery garden. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary



W/c Monday 6th May - NURSERY CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY

Wednesday 8th May - Group photographs

Thursday 16th May - Stay and Play featuring a bug hunt, pond dipping and butterfly release 9.15am - 10.15 am and 1 pm - 2pm.

W/c 20th May - Start to incubate hen's eggs

Thursday 23rd May - Cake and playdough sale to raise funds for Maidenhead Nursery School

Friday 24th May - Break up for half term holiday.

Monday 3rd June - Children return to Nursery.

Monday 8th July - Reports issued to children who are leaving Maidenhead Nursery

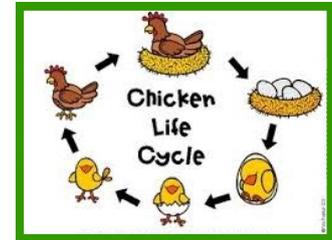
Tuesday 9th July - Grasshopper group parent chats

Wednesday 10th July - Bumble Bee group parent chats

Thursday 11th July - Caterpillar group parent chats

Friday 12th July - Ladybird group parent chats

Friday 19th July - Last day of the academic year.



Moving on to School in September



If your child is leaving Maidenhead Nursery in July please let us know which school he/ she will be attending and we can then organise the necessary transition arrangements for all of the children. We will email invitations to all next schools asking them to visit us so that the children have an opportunity to meet their next teacher in an environment in which they feel safe and comfortable. Due to the number of settings that some schools receive children from it is not always possible for their next teacher to visit so we strongly suggest that you take up the opportunity to participate in transition visits that all schools offer. We will inform you of the date if your child's next teacher is visiting so that you can ensure they attend Nursery on that date.

Learning Stories

The teaching team are beginning to think about the end of term reports for the children that are leaving us in July. Part of this process involves using the learning stories as a reference to remind the team of your child's learning journey with us. Please can we ask that any learning stories that have been sent home are returned before half term so that the team can collate them for their report writing process.

Learning stories do form an important part of our assessment of the children and your comments are so valuable in linking the nursery and home learning.



Fundraising

Our Easter Egg raffle raised an amazing £121 - thanks to all of you who bought tickets and to Karen Freeland our wonderful governor and library helper who donated the prizes.

Parent questionnaires

Next week we will be sending out 2 questionnaires and we would most grateful if you could complete them both before half term.

Firstly a Technology questionnaire in paper format. This information will be invaluable in assisting your child's key person to complete their end of term assessments. Please give the completed questionnaire to your child's key person.



Secondly a questionnaire that will be emailed to you regarding the quality of our service in different areas of teaching and learning. We value your honest comments as they enable us to reflect on the service we offer to children and their families. The questions are taken directly from Ofsted parent view but we have added in further information as some of the questions require some adaptation for Early Years. Please email your completed questionnaire back to us.

Staff changes

Ulfat Khan has now reduced her hours and works all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Nazeah Qayoom is now a permanent member of staff covering Thursday and Friday as co-key person for the Caterpillar group. She has already built up trusting relationships with the children so this transition should be seamless. We are pleased to have Caryn Blocksidge back after she successfully completed her placement at Cookham Dean Primary School. We have a new member of staff, Zoe Butterfield, who is working 9 am to 11.45 am Monday to Thursday until the end of the summer term. We have known Zoe for a long time as a parent and a creche worker and we are really pleased to have her working with us this term. We also have Sabiha volunteering every Wednesday and Thursday morning. Sabiha wants to gain further experience working with early years children whilst completing a teaching assistant course.

Cake sale

We are having a cake and play dough sale on Thursday 23rd May. The stall will be open at 11.40 am, 12.30 pm and 3.20pm. We would appreciate donations of either shop bought or home-made buns, cakes and biscuits but please just bring them in on the day of the sale. As we have a couple of children with severe nut allergies please ensure donations do not contain any varieties of nuts (traces of nut are permissible). All proceeds will go towards nursery resources and activities.



Toilet Training

We are often asked for advice on toilet training. This week another professional passed on the website address for ERIC, a children's bladder and bowel charity. The website has lots of fab guidance on toilet training and also ways in which to manage difficulties such as constipation.

<https://www.eric.org.uk>



We have printed off copies of their toilet training guide so please help yourself to a copy from the Caterpillar room. As summer is approaching this is the ideal time to start if you feel your child is ready! Please remember to speak to us about it too so we can continue your good work in school.



Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Below are some ideas for supporting your child's learning at home linked to current Nursery themes:

Planting and Growing

- Plant a tomato plant in your kitchen and use the fruit in a sandwich when it has grown.
- Plant a sunflower seed and watch it grow.
- Pull up some weeds in the park or garden and look at the different parts of the plant.
- Have fun watering the flowers and vegetables in your or a friend's garden.
- Collect some leaves, petals etc. and make a miniature garden on a plate.
- Use water leaves, petals etc. to make magic potions!

Minibeasts

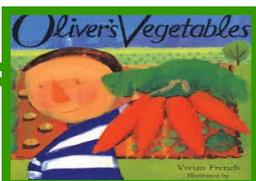


- Look for minibeasts in your garden or the local park - where do they like to hide? Can you identify them?
- Go to the local library and find a non-fiction book about minibeasts. What can you find out that you didn't know already?
- Talk about the caterpillar and butterfly life cycle with your child. Make a little information book to show the changes and put it into your child's learning journey.

Early Drop

We are delighted to inform you that Maidenhead Nursery School will be offering a chargeable Early Drop session starting from September 2019. Early Drop sessions will start at **8.15am** instead of the usual drop off time of 8.45am. These sessions will be charged at a cost of £3 per day and will be invoiced termly in advance. If you would like your child to attend these sessions please complete the booking form, sign the terms and conditions and return to the school office - these were set out via email last week.

Please note from September 2019 the following charges will apply: Lunch club £3.50 per session; 3 hour regular additional session £22.50; 3 hour ad hoc additional session £25.50.



Book recommendation of the month!

This month linked to our growing theme we would like to recommend Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French. Oliver only eats chips and definitely not vegetables. However his Gran and Grandpa's garden is full of vegetables. When Oliver comes to stay Grandpa comes up with an ingenious way to encourage him to try some of the vegetables. This is an attractively illustrated picture book which just might tempt reluctant (healthy!) eaters to try something new themselves. The same author has also written a book called Oliver's Fruit Salad that we heartily recommend too.

Speech Technique of the month

Beware of 'tag' questions

Sometimes it's tempting to make a 'model' into a question - we do it without even thinking!

Be careful about adding 'did you?', "don't we?", "isn't it?" tags onto the end of statements.

Your child needs to hear sentences being modelled, rather than questions.

'Tags' can leave children feeling a bit bewildered!



Tiny caterpillar on a leaf

There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf

Wriggle, Wriggle x2

There's a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar

A tiny caterpillar on leaf on a leaf

Wriggle, Wriggle

He will eat the leaf about him till he's full

Munch! Munch! x2

He will eat the leaf about him, eat the leaf about him

He will eat the leaf about him till he's full

Munch! Munch!

A cocoon is what he's spinning for his home

Spin, Spin x2

A cocoon is what he's spinning cocoon is what he's spinning

A cocoon is what he's spinning

Spin, Spin

Then he'll be a butterfly and fly away

Flap! Flap! x2

Then he'll be a butterfly, he'll be a butterfly

He will be a butterfly and fly away

Flap! Flap!

Wriggle, Wriggle! Munch, Much! Spin, Spin! Flap, Flap! x2