



Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter June 2019

Our Learning



We welcome back the children after the half term holiday and hope you all had a lovely break. After patiently watching the baby caterpillars grow and metamorphose into butterflies the children were excited to wave them goodbye as they flew away in our back garden. The whole lifecycle has been an amazing learning experience leading to many questions, discussions and lots of mark making.



The children have loved listening to Jack and the Beanstalk and you may have seen photos of many of them climbing up our own beanstalk to the entrance of caterpillar room. This fantastic traditional tale has led to so much learning and the children particularly enjoyed the challenge of making their own props to retell the story using playdough and other materials. We were inspired to measure ourselves, and use mathematical language to compare, as we thought about how high the beanstalk grew. We have also taken the opportunity to learn about plants and how they grow. We plant-



ed our own beans and observed them as the roots and stems grew.



Have a look at our Jack and the Beanstalk folders in the entrance area to see what we have been up to.

Last week we had a wonderful time celebrating Eid together and we hope you had fun as you celebrated at home. Special thanks to Fatima's, Millan's and Nusaybah's mums and Nusaybah's cousin for decorating our hands with some beautiful, intricate mehndi patterns. Thank you so much for the yummy food, the children loved it and the staff particularly enjoyed the extra spicy pakora!

For many children this will be their last half term with us. We have invited all the children's next teachers to Maidenhead Nursery School so the children can show them the things they love to do in Nursery and share their learning journeys with them. We will let you know when your child's teacher is visiting a week or so before it is scheduled so you can make sure that they don't miss it. Unfortunately not all teachers will be able to visit. Please let us know when your child is going to visit their next school so we can chat to them about it.

Sun Safety

*Please can we remind parents/ carers to apply sun cream to children prior to their nursery session. The children staying all day can bring in sun cream to be applied if necessary. Sun cream must be named and should be handed directly to your child's key person and not left in their bag.



*Please also ensure that your child has a named sun hat and is wearing appropriate and safe footwear for the nursery garden. Thank you.

Our Allotment Needs You!

Are you a keen gardener? Would you like access to a large allotment space to plant and grow your own fruit and vegetables? Unfortunately the gardener who helps us is unable to any more so we are in need of help. Please speak to Hannah or Lesley if you are interested in more information.

Staffing

I'm sure you will all have been pleased to see Hannah, Assistant Headteacher, back after her maternity leave earlier this week. We would also like to congratulate Caryn on successfully completing her teacher training. She has secured a job in a Reception class in Reading and unfortunately the school would like her to start on 1st July. We have of course agreed to this as it will give her a headstart for September. We will miss her greatly and wish her all the very best for her future career. Her legacy will be the amazing Superhero shed that the children love!!



Children's progress meetings

In order for you to discuss your child's progress we have arranged parent chats for the week beginning 8th July for all key person groups.

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

Key people will have sign in forms from Monday 24th June so please book in for a time allocation.



Thank you for your donations of buns, cakes and biscuits just before half term. Our cake and playdough sale raised over £86 for Maidenhead Nursery School. Bags2school also raised £60.80 for our school funds - thank you to all of you who took this opportunity to have a clear out. We have already earmarked several resources for purchase.

Please remember ...

- * Staff and children tidy the playground at the end of the session. If you bring older siblings with you to collect your child they should remain with you and not be left unsupervised in the playground. Staff are upset at having to tidy the playground once more before they go home as older children have got resources out and not put them away.
- * To park with consideration for our neighbours and other road users at drop off and collection time.
- * To bring a change of clothes for your child - at this time of year water play outdoors is very popular and we do not have enough spare clothing to go round.
- * To take your child's learning journey home at the end of term. For children who are leaving it is a lovely keepsake, recording their time at Nursery. Children who are returning please add photos etc. over the summer so we can talk to your child about their experiences when they return in September.
- * To call and let us know if your child is not going to be at Nursery for their session. It takes us a considerable amount of office time each day to call families of absentees.

Dates for your Diaries



Wednesday 19th June - Healthy picnic day

Wednesday 26th June - Basil's Barnyard travelling Farm visiting Nursery

Tuesday 2nd July - Trip to Beale Park. **NURSERY CLOSED**

Monday 8th July - Nursery reports to be issued to children who are moving on to school in September.

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 - Grasshopper group parent chats

Friday 19th July - Last day of the academic year. Children's magician here. All children to attend morning session 8.45 to 11.45. Nursery closes at 11.45 am

WEDNESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER - Current children return to Nursery (following inset, home visit and new entrant's days.



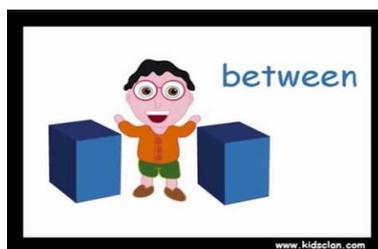
Speech technique of the Month

Use a range of positional language

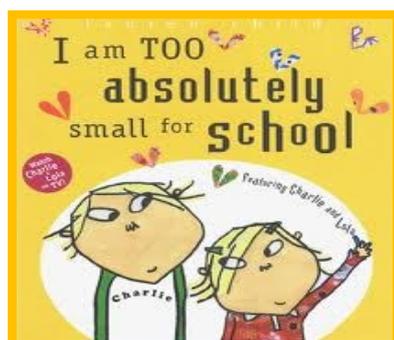
Make sure your child has 'in', 'on' and 'under' established before working on other prepositions.

Play 'hide and seek' with toys and objects, e.g. "the bear is *in* the box/*behind* the box", etc.

Make it active - "You are jumping *over* the leaves", "You are going *down* the slide!"



Book recommendation



A great book for those children who are moving on to school in September. Starting school is a big milestone in any child's life – not to mention a parent/carer's too! Sharing engaging stories and picture books about starting school is a great way to gently prepare your child for their first day. This amusing story in the Charlie and Lola series explores Lola's reluctance to go to school and her older brother Charlie's attempts to counter all her reasons for not going. Children who are just about to start school will be able to relate to Lola and Charlie and enjoy talking about Lola's feelings.

Parent Questionnaire Feedback 2019

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the parent questionnaires. We had a 44.7% return rate I have collated the results as below. The team are overwhelmed by the lovely comments that you have added and we are very proud that our parent community values our hard work.

We are always striving to be the very best we can be and your feedback helps us review our provision and practice so we can continue to be an outstanding Nursery School. We will be considering some of the lower strongly agree percentage areas to come up with strategies that will hopefully help us to improve our service. I will send out information on our Anti-Bullying Policy with this newsletter. If you have any suggestions on how we can make things even better please jot them down and put them into the silver box in the reception area - thank you!

	(Please tick)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
	My child is happy at Nursery	88.2	11.8			
	My child feels safe at Nursery	82.4	17.6			
	My child makes good progress at Nursery	73.5	23.5			2.9
	My child is well looked after at Nursery	67.6	32.4			
	My child is taught well at Nursery and activities take into account my child's interests	73.5	20.6			5.9
	The Nursery gives me ideas to support my child's learning e.g. in newsletters, learning story feedback etc. (My child receives appropriate homework for their age)	85.3	11.8			2.9
	The Nursery makes sure its pupils are well behaved	73.5	23.5			2.9
	The Nursery deals effectively with bullying	55.9	11.8			32.4
	The Nursery is well led and managed (school ethos, Co-Head, Assistant Head, Governing Body)	73.5	26.5			
	The Nursery responds well to any concerns I raise	85.3	14.7			
	I receive valuable information from the Nursery about my child's progress e.g. through informal chats, learning stories, opportunities to attend parent meetings	76.5	20.6			2.9
	I would recommend this Nursery to another parent	91.2	8.8			