



Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter September 2019

A very warm welcome to all our children and their families. It has been lovely to see the older children returning from their summer break and also exciting to welcome the new children at the start of their adventure at Maidenhead Nursery School.



All the staff have been busy preparing the Nursery for the new academic year and getting to know the new children and their families with home visits and a new entrants day. It is important that we take the time to learn from you as parents and carers as you are the experts on your children, so please talk to us whenever you can and tell us about their favourite nursery activities and what they say about nursery at home. If you have a question or are worried about anything then please do come and chat to a member of the nursery team, either your child's key person, Hannah or Helen.

The team have also been busy planning some exciting activities, experiences and visitors for the children to enjoy as part of their learning. Please see the dates on page 3 of this newsletter and make a note of them in your diary/phone. We will be emailing out the group time planning each week so you know what the children will be focusing on each week and we will also include a fun activity you can do together to support their learning at home.

So far all the children have been settling well and we are concentrating on learning Nursery routines, getting to know each other and taking care of the Nursery environment.

The Classroom Team in Nursery

- Helen McHale is the Co-Headteacher. She splits her time between here, The Lawns Nursery School and working as Early Years Area SENCo for the local authority but staff can always get in touch with her when she is not on site.
- Hannah Diplock is the Assistant Headteacher; she does not work on Tuesdays.
- Amy Crowle is the key person for Dragonfly group.; she does not work on Wednesdays.
- Rose Scofield-Webb and Tracy Murray are the co-key people for Bumble Bee group. Rose works 3.5 days per week and is not in Nursery Thursday afternoons or Fridays.
- Bev Eaton is the key person for Ladybird group.
- Ulfat Khan and Nazeah Qayoom are the co-key people for Caterpillar group. Ulfat works Monday to Wednesday and Nazeah works Thursday and Friday but also covers Ulfat's non-contact time every other Wednesday morning.
- Lesley Cutting is a very experienced Family Worker and works 3 days per week Tuesday - Thursday supporting all of the children.
- Zoe Wright is a Learning Support Assistant working every morning.
- In the Nursery office Jan Moody works Monday - Wednesday and Karen Sorby works Thursday and Friday.
- Bisma a BCA Level 2 student and will be on a work experience placement each Tuesday.

A Few Reminders



- * Please try and name all clothing. This helps us to return coats, hats and other items to their owners.
- * Please be prompt at collection time; staff have a very short lunchtime and meetings to attend after school. The main red entrance door is locked from 11.50am - 12.30pm.
- * Please bring in nappies/baby wipes and spare clothes if your child requires them.
- * Please ensure your child wears clothes that allow easy access to the toilet. Tracksuit bottoms or leggings are preferable to tighter skinny jeans.
- * Please make sure that your child wears shoes that are safe to climb in. Velcro trainers are ideal but please avoid crocs, flip flops etc.
- * Office staff will be sending out lunch club invoices over the next couple of weeks and we would appreciate prompt payment. If you have any problems with accessing the School Money site or have any problems making the payments please speak to Jan or Karen. The time in lunch club is in addition to children's 15 hours free entitlement of education so the £3.50 charge is made to cover staffing costs only and parents/carers need to provide a packed lunch for their child. (The charge does not apply to those children receiving the 30 hour entitlement.)
- * Please remember to bring in named wellies and raincoats as needed. We do have some at nursery but not enough for all children and we do play outdoors in all types of weather. If you have any wellies that your child or older siblings have grown out of please bring them in for us to use.
- * Please remember your child's book bag each **Wednesday** as we change library books on that day. If your child does not attend on **Wednesday** please speak to their key person and we will make alternative arrangements. Thanks to Karen Freeland one of our governors who comes in every week to help change books. We couldn't do it without her!
- * Please return any outstanding admission paperwork to the Nursery office asap - Thank you

Health and safety issues

- Please make sure you close and bolt all gates when entering or leaving the nursery. Afternoon children and parents/carers collecting children from lunch club at 12.30pm please wait at the electronic gate until all the lunch club children are safely back in the classroom. We will then open the gate so you can come in through the main entrance door.
- Please be considerate towards our neighbours when parking in Harrow Close and for all children's safety avoid parking on the yellow zig-zag lines. The car parking spaces just outside the nursery gates are for staff and professional visitors only.
- Please telephone the nursery on the first day of absence if your child is unable to attend. The current advice from health professionals is that children should be clear from the symptoms of a stomach bug for 48 hours before they return to nursery. If we do not hear from you then we will telephone to enquire why your child is absent.
- Please can we remind all parents and carers that we operate a no mobile phone policy within the nursery. We operate this policy for safeguarding reasons and you will be asked to discontinue a call if you are using your phone in the indoor or outdoor area.
- If your mobile number changes please update us with an emergency contact asap.
- Buggies or scooters can be left in our buggy shelter (behind the chicken coop) if you don't want to take them home. Please do not leave them under the covered canopy.

Dates for your diaries



Monday 30th September — Celebration of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) New Year during session time.

Stay and Play date tbc w/c 14.10.19.

Wednesday 16th October - Bring Your Bear to Nursery day (details to follow via email).

Wednesday 23rd October - Cake and play dough sale to fund raise for Nursery (details to follow via email).

Friday 25th October - Children's last day before half term holiday.

Monday 28th - Friday 1st November - **NURSERY CLOSED FOR HALF TERM BREAK.**

Monday 4th November - **INSET DAY - NURSERY CLOSED.**

Tuesday 5th November - **NURSERY reopens to all children.**

5th - 8th November - Activities relating to Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night throughout the week.

Friday 15th November - Children in Need. Details to follow.

Wednesday 20th November - Zoolab reptile workshop visiting Nursery.

Stay and Play date tbc w/c 25.11.19.

Friday 6th December - Nursery trip to Norden Farm theatre (3 - 4 year old children only). **Nursery is closed all day today.** Theatre trip is in the morning. More details to follow after half term

Wednesday 11th December - Singing around the Christmas tree. Details to follow - save the date

Thursday 19th December - **Nursery is closed this morning.** Afternoon party for those children that attend nursery in the afternoon 12 noon to 2.30pm. Santa Claus is expected!

Friday 20th December - Morning party for those children that attend nursery in the morning. 9.15 am to 11.45 am. Santa Claus is expected! **There is no lunch club or afternoon session today.**

Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays. Children who attend for 2.5 days or 30 hours will be allocated a party.

'Learning to Read Stay and Play'

W/c 14th October

Sessions will be available to sign up to soon.



Research evidences that children who have been read to frequently in their early life achieve better at school in all subjects than those who have not been read to. Come along and watch one of our story or rhyme sessions to see how easy it is to make learning language irresistible to your child.

Come and spend some time in the comfy reading area with the children reading some of our specifically chosen high quality texts. If you have any favourite stories at home please bring them in to share with us. We love discovering new books! If you have any books from other countries and can read stories in another language that would be fantastic too!

Please watch out for sign up sheets in your child's group area.

Can you help?



*We welcome parent/carer helpers in the nursery. If you are interested in helping in the nursery classroom please speak to your child's key person. After half term, once all the new children are settled, we will have a parent helper timetable in the nursery entrance.

*Maidenhead Nursery School is very proud to be an eco-friendly School. As part of our eco-schools work we recycle and reuse lots of things at Nursery so please bring in any of the following:

- Used stamps. We send these to the Royal Institute for the Blind.
- Packaging e.g. plastic trays, cardboard boxes, cardboard cylinders, bubble wrap etc. The children use these to create marvelous models!
- Greetings cards, postcards etc. the children use these creatively to make collages.
- Any out of date dried foodstuffs such as rice, pasta, lentils, couscous etc. Again, these are fabulous sensory materials for collage.
- Any out of date fruit, vegetables or vegetable peelings - we feed these to the chickens and rabbits who thrive on them!
- Old newspapers, magazines and catalogues - again, good collage materials or great to cover tables and easels when we are doing messy activities.
- We will be having a 'Bags to School' collection just after the half term break (details to follow) so please start saving up any old clothes for us!

Learning Journey Folders

All of the children have a special learning journey folder which is kept at nursery at child's height. We would appreciate it if all children could bring in a few photographs of themselves and their families to start the folder off. Throughout their time with us the children will be encouraged to add pieces of their work to build up a diary of their time at nursery, and the staff will add photographs too. You can take this folder home at any time to share it with family and friends. Please remember to return it to Nursery as soon as possible as the children love to share them with their friends.



In the coming weeks we will be helping children to develop the skills they need to get the most out of their time at Maidenhead Nursery. They will be:

- Learning where everything is so that they can access toys, equipment and activities independently.
- Learning how to pour their own drinks and wash their hands before having a snack..
- Practising taking off and putting on their own coats, jumpers, shoes and wellies.
- Learning each others' names and the skills needed to share and take into account other people's ideas, likes and dislikes.
- Practising lots of nursery rhymes.

Our older children, who are already experts at nursery life, will be encouraged to help the new children and will be excellent role models for them. We will also be exploring Goldilocks and the Three Bears. If you have a version of this book at home please read it with your child in preparation. Lots of story repetition is great for young children's language development and fosters a love of reading.

Lunch Club



Maidenhead Nursery School prides itself on being a Healthy School. If your child stays for lunch club please ensure that their lunch box contents are as healthy as possible without any sweets, chocolate or crisps. We would ideally recommend a sandwich or a small container of a pasta, rice or couscous based dish, a yoghurt and some fruit. If lunch boxes are overfilled, the children can be a bit overwhelmed by the choices presented. We provide milk or water to drink so there is no need to pack a drink - they also tend to leak quite easily and make sandwiches very soggy and unappealing. We are able to heat food up in the microwave for the children if required. Please don't worry about how much your child eats as they will have a healthy snack at nursery in the morning or afternoon and occasionally we do 'cooking' activities and the products are usually eaten immediately. During lunch a member of staff is supported by lunch time assistants and staff sit with the children, encouraging them to eat. They will speak to you if they are concerned about how much your child is eating. It often takes a little while for children to get used to eating all together but as time goes on they will learn to concentrate on their eating rather than chatting to new friends! Lunch club staff are Louise, Gemma, Nazia and Nusrat.

ALLERGIES – We have children who suffer from a severe nut allergy and we need all parents/carers to assist in keeping them safe. Please make sure that your child's lunch box DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY NUT PRODUCTS (trace nut products are Ok). This includes chocolate spread as most contain nuts.

Birthdays



At Maidenhead Nursery School we understand how important a child's 3rd and 4th birthday are to them so we like to have a little celebration.

On or around their birthday you are welcome to bring in a healthy snack such as breadsticks, fruit, vegetables or rice cakes, for them to enjoy with their friends. They will be able to choose some friends to come and eat, sing and celebrate together. As we are a healthy school we kindly request that you do not bring in sweets and cakes.

Communication with Parents

In order to keep you informed of upcoming events in Nursery, we email you the link to monthly newsletters on our website; regular reminders of events coming up soon; health and safety reminders; good news messages and the weekly planning. It is important for us to be paperless both for the environment and financial savings! Please check your emails regularly and let us know if your email address changes. We also have a facebook page that you can access.

The way we will be assessing and communicating the children's progress has changed and once children have settled Hannah will be writing to inform you of our new systems. We are happy to chat to parents at any time but it can be difficult at drop off and pick up time as these are the times we need to be most vigilant, so please wait until a member of staff is available to speak to you. Quick messages can be left with the member of staff who greets you at the door. Key people are available to speak to you about your child's progress at the start or end of their non-contact time; (please book with them in advance) as follows;

Dragonfly group - Tuesday afternoon or Thursday morning; Ladybird group - Tuesday morning or end of Thursday afternoon; Bumble bee group - Wednesday or Thursday morning; Caterpillar group end of Monday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

Speech technique of the month

We also focus on a 'Speech Technique of the Month' which we would encourage you to practise at home too. September's speech technique is 'BE POSITIVE'.

Be Positive

Ban the word "NO!" from your vocabulary and instead try and use a positive phrase that gives your child an alternative way of behaving.

For example, "No running" can be changed to "Please show me wondrous walking". If your child is doing something that you don't want them to do, say "please stop" or "finish please". Say "Thank you" if they follow the request.

It is very important to use please and thank you to model politeness.



Can you help?

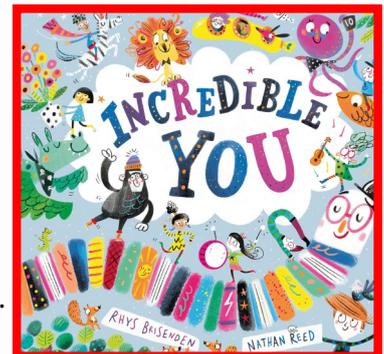
We would like to build up further collections of natural objects for transient art and counting activities. If you go out on a walk please collect conkers, fir cones and acorns for us. We would also appreciate any shells that you collected during the summer. Thank you!



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 a book recommendation in newsletters should you wish to purchase a new story to share with your child.

Our first recommendation is **Incredible You** by Rhys Brisenden and Nathan Reed. It is a colourful book about positivity and being yourself. You will love it if you enjoyed Dr Suess' **All the places you'll go**.

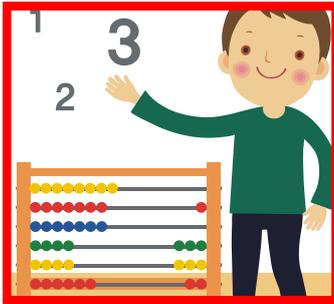


Ideas to Support your Child's Learning at Home

We are often asked by parents for advice on how to support their child's learning at home. Ways in which learning can be supported on an on-going basis include:-

*Sharing books at every opportunity and having lots of great conversations with your child.

*Encouraging your child to use toys and tools that help to develop their hand-eye co-ordination and control. Examples include small threading beads, small lego, lacing/sewing cards, using tweezers to pick up small objects, the use of scissors and appropriate cooking utensils.



*Counting objects around you. Show your child how to move objects to ensure that they have counted accurately. Compare quantities of socks in the washing basket, or conkers for example, using terms such as more, greater, fewer, fewest, greatest, most etc. Point out number symbols in the local environment such as numbers on birthday cards, houses, clocks, buses, price tags and tele-

phones etc.

*Developing your child's interest in writing by encouraging them to watch you write lists, messages and letters etc. Provide them with a range of suitable writing equipment. Chalk boards and white boards encourage children to make marks that they can easily rub out. Give them praise for any attempts at mark-making and "writing" as this will increase their confidence.



Nursery Rules

We will be having a focus on teaching the children our new 3 Nursery Rules.

READY
RESPECTFUL
SAFE

Ready,
Respectful,
Safe

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By ready we mean ready to learn (looking, listening), ready for group time (in right place), ready to go outside (coats, hats, sunhat etc.).

By respectful we mean being kind to each other, sharing, looking after the environment, saying please and thank you, looking after our pets, looking after toys and books.

By safe we mean wondrous walking inside, handling tools carefully, telling an adult if something looks or feels uncomfortable, using outdoor equipment sensibly, having kind hands.

We explore their meaning with the children and will be referring to the rules constantly in our positive behaviour management strategies e.g. "Remember we need to walk inside to be safe"; "Remember you need your coat to be ready for outside"; "Remember you need to share to be respectful" etc. It would be great if you could also use these words at home linked to your own household rules.

We will also be giving lots of praise in the form of WOW moments to those children who go **OVER AND ABOVE** our usual expectations.