



## Cookham 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 Cookham 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 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, Mrs. Cottle or Mrs. Greenwood.

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 in 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.

## The Team at Nursery

- Mrs. Cottle is the Co-Headteacher. She splits her time between here, and The Lawns Nursery School but staff can always get in touch with her when she is not on site.
- Mrs. Greenwood is the Assistant Headteacher; she does not work on Tuesdays.
- Mrs. Hayford is the key person for Yellow group.
- Mrs. Hirst and Mrs. Cowie are the co-key people for Green group. Mrs. Hirst does not work on Friday.
- Miss O' Regan is the key person for Purple group.
- Mrs. Hassan works every morning supporting all of the children in Nursery and at lunch club.
- In the Nursery office Jane Yuill works Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Cathy Salter works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Miss Grove will be supporting all the children on a Tuesday as part of her level 3 qualification.
- Jill, Kae, Val and Carol support the children during lunch club

## 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 entrance door is locked from 11.50am - 12.25pm.
- \* 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.
- \* Please return any outstanding admission paperwork to the Nursery office asap - Thank you

## Health and safety issues

- Please make sure the entrance door is closed when you come in or out of Nursery. It often catches and needs a good push to close it. Thank you.
- Please make sure you close and bolt all gates when entering or leaving the nursery.
- Please be considerate towards our neighbours when parking near the Nursery. Please do not park in the disabled space near the layby.
- 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.

We are so pleased with how the new children are settling in and how the older children are helping them understand the routines and accessing our resources. When children are happy and fully focussed on an activity, the neurons in their brains are connecting and they are learning. We have observed great levels of engagement, concentration, creativity, energy and persistence both indoors and out since the children have returned. Our workshop style environment allows the children to engage in their own interests, further promoting high quality teaching and learning.



## Dates for your diaries



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

**Monday 22nd - Friday 1st November** - **NURSERY CLOSED FOR HALF TERM BREAK**

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

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

**Wednesday 6th November** - **Come and Play session 8.45 - 10am and 12.30 - 1.30pm**

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

**Wednesday 4th December** - Save the date to watch us 'Decorate the Christmas tree.' Details to follow.

**Friday 6th December** - Nursery trip to Norden Farm theatre (3 - 4 year old children only with a parent or carer). **Nursery is closed all day today.** Theatre trip is in the afternoon.

**Friday 20th December** - Christmas party for ALL children. 9.15 am to 11.45 am. **There is no lunch club or afternoon session today. Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays.**

**ADVANCE WARNING:**

## Communication with Parents

In order to keep you informed of upcoming events in Nursery we email you monthly newsletters; regular reminders of events coming up soon; health and safety reminders; good news messages and the weekly planning each Friday. 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 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/ or in the office. 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).

Yellow and Purple - Thursdays

Green - Mondays



## Birthdays

We like to celebrate the children's birthdays at Cookham Nursery School in the children's group time. There is no need to bring in anything as we celebrate with the children with a happy birthday song and some candles.

## Nursery Rules

The Group Time planning this week described learning about our 3 rules...

### **READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE**

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, and looking after our toys and books.

By safe we mean 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.

Ready,  
Respectful,  
Safe

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## 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. You will be given these to keep when your child starts school.

## Lunch Club

If your child stays for lunch club please ensure that their lunch box contents are as healthy as possible. 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. 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. 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 altogether but as time goes on they will learn to concentrate on their eating rather than chatting to new friends!

**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.**

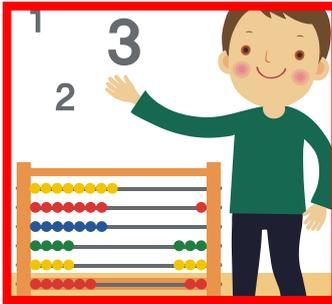


## Ideas to Support your Child's Learning at Home

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, 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, less, greater, fewer, least, fewest, greatest, most etc. Point out number symbols in the local environment such as numbers on birthday cards, houses, clocks, buses, price tags and



telephones 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.

## Fundraising Group

Last year we held our first Quiz Night to raise money for Cookham Nursery School. It was a huge success and through the generosity of the parents/ carers and the local community we raised £2,500. We have put some of the money towards a new water area which is being built the week beginning the 14th October. We are excited to see how this will enhance the children's outdoor learning experiences.

The Governors and leadership team have long term ambitions to lower the age range for the children at Cookham Nursery to include 2 year olds, however we lack the space inside suitable for this age group so would need an extension/ building. We are doing all we can to raise money by continuing to appeal to the local authority for capital funds, applying for National Lottery funding and also to local charities.

We are hoping to run the quiz night again this year in March 2020 but need some parent helpers to co-ordinate together to ensure the smooth running of the event. Do you have some free time to help out? Do you attend regular quizzes and might be able to support? Are you passionate about supporting Cookham Nursery School? Please speak to Sarah Cottle or Fiona Greenwood if you feel that you can offer some time/ support. Thank you.