



## Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter November 2019

### The Children's Learning

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term. We hope that you all had a super half term holiday break (seems a long time ago already) and have adjusted to the darker nights.

Since being back the children have enjoyed exploring the different provocations set up around the nursery linked to Halloween and fireworks. The children loved listening to the repetitive, rhythmic story *Funny Bones* and were inspired to complete the skeleton puzzle together. This prompted lots of discussion about the different parts of the body and we have been researching in non-fiction books to find out even more information.



Hannah brought her pumpkins from home and the children loved cutting them open and scooping out the insides. We found many seeds and used different words to describe what we felt such as “goopy”, “cold” and “slimy”.

We had so much fun singing our fireworks song. We used ribbons to pretend to be fireworks, spinning our arms round to be whizzers and jumping up as high as we could to be rockets.

You may have noticed in our weekly planning that we have introduced the Numicon resources to the children in our key groups. We are focusing on the different sizes of the shapes and exploring the different ways that they fit together. We use Numicon resources in many different ways as we learn about number, counting, pattern, early calculating and size.



### Fundraising

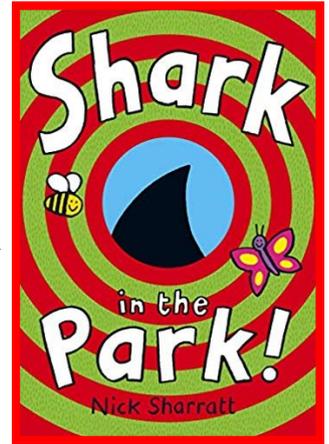
We would like to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of you for wearing pink or a onesie on 18th October and raising £43.32 for breast cancer research. Our cake and play dough sale on 23rd October raised £77.83.

Thanks to everyone who baked or bought treats for us to sell and those of you who made purchases. The money has been added to our Nursey fund and will be used to purchase some Christmas gifts for the children.



## Keep Reading!

The children love listening to stories together in our key groups and have been joining in with repeated phrases. One of our main aims is to develop a love of reading in all children so please make sure that you share the library book/ story bag they choose each week. This week we are recommending one of our favourite books ever! Shark in the Park! By Nick Sharratt. The children LOVE shouting the repeated phrase, "THERE'S A SHARK IN THE PARK". It is a short, repetitive, rhyming story that the children can get involved in by guessing what is on the next page. There are even other versions called Shark in the Dark and Shark in the Park on a Windy Day!



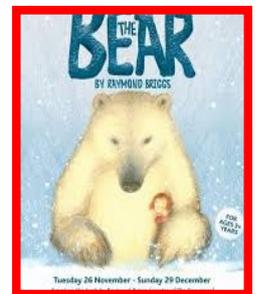
## Level crossing closure

Remember that the level crossing on Harrow Lane is closed from 18th November to 2nd December. If you are able to offer another family a lift during this period please let the school office know. A couple of parents have also expressed concern that they may be a little late getting to Nursery after picking up children from other schools due to traffic diversions. Don't worry we will be accommodating of this.

## A couple of reminders



- Please can we remind all parents to park responsibly, away from zig-zag lines, keeping our neighbor's driveways access clear and avoid using/obstructing the disabled space unless you have permission from Nursery to do so.
- For the children's safety please ensure that you always close the wooden gates as you enter and leave Nursery.
- Please remember to book your child's place on the Norden Farm Theatre trip on Friday 6th December as soon as possible - spaces are limited. Details have been sent out by email please ask if you have misplaced or not received the information. The show this year is The Bear, the story of a little girl who befriends a mischievous polar bear. The show features inventive design, original music, and magical puppetry.



- Keep encouraging your child to practise putting on their scarf, hat, gloves, wellies and coat independently and make sure that they come appropriately dressed for the weather. Please make sure you name all of these items clearly.

## Dates for your Diary

**Friday 15th November** - Children in Need. Wear as many spots as possible - please see flyer emailed out.

**Wednesday 20th November** - Zoolab reptile workshop visiting Nursery.

**Wednesday 27th November** - Storytelling and Rhyme Time Stay and Play 8.45 - 10 am and 12.30 - 1.45 pm.

**Wednesday 27th November** - Last day to bring in items for our Bags2School collection.

**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.

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

**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 & 30 hours will be allocated a party.**

**Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th January, Wednesday 8th January 2020** - Nursery closed for Home Visits and new entrants day for the new children.

**Thursday 9th January 2020** - ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO NURSERY.

## Speech technique of the month

In order to support the children's speech, language and communication development we focus on a speech technique per month. These have been advised by Speech and Language Therapists and we would like you to support these techniques in the home when possible. This month's speech technique is to think about conditions for listening. Children need quiet and cosy areas for speaking and listening – make sure that background noise from the TV etc. is reduced to a minimum whenever possible.



## Children in Need

We are supporting Children in Need on Friday 15th November.

The challenge is to wear as many spots as possible - we wonder who

will be the spottiest? Please bring a £1 donation for Children in Need to help those children and families less fortunate than ourselves. The children will also be invited to find the 10 Pudsey bears that we will be hiding around Nursery.

# School Applications

Online admissions is now open for children eligible to start school next September 2020.

Closing date - Wednesday 15 January 2020 (Midday).

National Offer Day - Wednesday 16 April 2020.

Parents/carers of children born between 1st April and 31st August 2016 can apply to defer entry into school by a year. Please see guidance on this in the Admission into Primary School guide on the RBWM website:



[https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4563/school\\_admissions\\_guide\\_primary\\_2020.pdf](https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4563/school_admissions_guide_primary_2020.pdf)

Our advice is to look around a few schools during the working day and this should give you a feel for the school that will 'fit' your child best. **In order to have more chance of getting the school at the top of your list make sure that you do not miss the application deadline.**



## Music

Music is a great medium for developing children's attention and listening skills and their understanding and expression of language. It is also great for enhancing early maths skills due to its repetitive and steady beat. Singing and dancing is usually very enjoyable for young children and unlike some adults they tend to throw themselves wholeheartedly into experiences. Whilst we encourage children to listen to and join in with recordings they have a fixed tempo and do not allow for adaptation, whereas the live sung voice and the human interaction that comes with singing is irreplaceable. Some ideas to help you support your child's musical development are:

- Play sound matching games e.g. make sounds by banging utensils, putting different materials in containers that children can't see and invite children to make a matching sound or describe it.
- Make some musical shakers using different materials e.g. yogurt pots filled with sand, rice, cotton wool, pebbles etc. Talk about whether the sound is loud, soft, quiet etc. Play stop and start games allowing your child to lead the game.
- Clap, stamp, or tap out different rhythms using body parts - can your child join in, copy and continue the rhythm?
- Encourage children to listen to a wide range of music so that music. Talk about the different instruments you can hear.
- Sing regularly and use a wide range of songs and rhymes.
- Make up songs for everyday routines - change the way you sing e.g. sing quietly, rapidly, slowly, sadly, joyfully etc.
- Make up new songs to familiar tunes.

