



# Maidenhead Nursery School

## March 2020 Newsletter

### The Children's Learning



The children have all settled back into Nursery quickly after the half term break and have already packed in lots of new learning. We had an action-packed week last week as we focused on developing a love of stories and books to coincide with World Book Day.

Every day the children had the opportunity to share even more books than usual! Each time we read a story we coloured in a section of our reading record. So far we have added over 700 to our story counter. Bring in your reading record so we can add yours too! As a country we have shared more than 1.6 million stories since the challenge was set!

On Pancake Day, Tuesday 25th February, the children had the opportunity to mix pancake batter with Tracy, measuring and counting out the ingredients. They especially loved cracking the eggs, and watching Tracy toss the pancakes in the pan, and then of course the best part, eating the pancakes! This year we tried a gluten and dairy free version and they were delicious!



Sport's Relief week has been very busy and full of healthy fun! We have been practicing different skills every day and have welcomed our yoga instructors Kayleigh and Leah for a second week. We have been learning different poses including very tricky bowe pose. Thank you to everyone who came to our sensory stay and play. We hope you had the chance to use one of our calming

baskets, see a sensory circuit happening and create a smelly painting!

This week we have been very lucky to find lots of frogspawn in the pond in our back garden! Our pond is a great sanctuary for a variety of wildlife including dragonflies, toads, frogs, newts etc. As the weather is drying up we hope to spend more time exploring our back garden.



### Staffing

As you are aware Ulfat is currently absent from work as she has had surgery to her foot. Although she is making good progress we do not expect her back until after the Easter break. I'm sure you all join us in wishing her a speedy recovery. In the meantime thanks to Zoe, Gemma, Nazeah and Nusrat for doing extra hours to ensure continuity in the children's learning. We also welcome Toni to our team. She is a teacher training student studying at Oxford Brookes University and is already proving to be an asset to the team.

## Dates for your diary!

**Wednesday 18th March** - Book Swap. Bring a book you no longer want and swap it for a new one.

**\*Postponed until after Easter Thursday 19th March and Tuesday 24th March** - Cake Sale - raising funds for the Nursery.

**W/c 23rd March** - Bags to school fundraising collection. Please return all bags by Wednesday 22nd April.

**Friday 3rd April** - Break up for the Easter holidays.

**Tuesday 21st April** - All children return to Nursery after the Easter break.

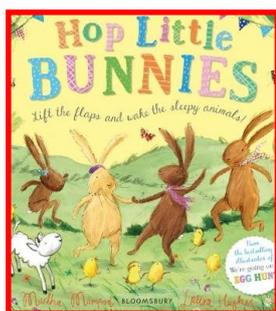
**Wednesday 6th May** - Photographer in to take group photos.

**Friday 8th May** - Nursery closed for Bank Holiday.

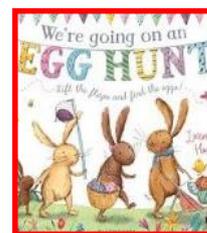
**Friday 22nd May** - Break up for half term holidays.



## Book recommendation of the month ...



Our book recommendation this month is Hop Little Bunnies by Martha Mumford and Laura Hughes. It is based on the popular song, 'Sleeping Bunnies' and verses have been added so it includes a variety of other animals. There are flaps to encourage some interaction when reading the book and different animal sounds to say together as you read the book. They have also written a book based on the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' but have given it an Easter twist!



## POLITE REMINDERS

- Please ensure that you shut and lock all wooden gates as you enter and exit Nursery.
- Please park safely and with consideration of our neighbours outside Nursery.
- Please ensure that your child wears clothes that enable them to be as independent as possible with going to the toilet and changing themselves. Elasticated trousers and skirts are ideal.
- For safeguarding reasons please do not use your mobile phone whilst in Nursery.
- Please leave the Nursery playground promptly once you have collected your child. After sessions when staff are not present in the playground the Nursery cannot be held accountable for any injury sustained on Nursery equipment.
- Please remember to call Nursery (**01628 623551**) on the first day of absence if your child is unwell.
- If you have buzzed us for attention at the electric gate please be patient. If office staff are on the phone it may take them a couple of minutes to answer. Thank you!



## Supporting your child's learning at home — Maths is everywhere!

\* Counting, measuring, sorting, calculating and using numbers are things we do every day. Involving your child as much as possible is the best way to develop their mathematical skills and understanding.

\* Cooking means following recipes together and involves a huge variety of mathematical skills such as measuring, counting and sorting.



\* Numbers are everywhere! Go on a number hunt when you are out of the house! House numbers, prices on labels, numbers on the back of football shirts or car registrations.

\* Measure your child's height and compare it to the rest of the family.

\* Create a birthday party for a favourite soft toy. How many candles will they need on their playdough cake? What number will they need on the front of their card?

\* Encourage your child to use their fingers when counting together. The importance of finger counting is backed by brain research - <https://dreme.stanford.edu/news/math-your-fingertips-easy-counting-activities-using-number-gestures>

\* We have just started on our journey with the Maths Champion Programme being run by Durham University, the University of York and the Education Endowment Foundation.

The staff at nursery will have access to training and up to date materials to support the children's overall mathematical development. We are all very excited to be a part of it! This website outlines typical progression across the main areas of early years maths if you are interested <https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/52500> .



## Speech Technique of the Month

# Have conversations

Making comments instead of asking questions will encourage your child to respond.

Pause between sentences to give your child time to process information.

Young children find it easier to talk about something they are looking at or doing.



# Coronavirus

We have had several enquiries relating to Coronavirus so we hope that the following answers your questions or concerns. We understand that this is an exceptionally worrying time for everyone but pleased be assured that we will remain up-to-date with government advice.

The Nursery is sent daily updates from Public Health England via the DfE to outline the procedures that all educational establishments should follow.

The general principles we are following are:

- Encouraging frequent hand washing - with soap and water, after messy activities, after going to the toilet, before snack/lunch, after using a tissue. We have shown children the effective way to wash their hands, ensuring they pay attention to the palms, between the fingers and the upper surface of the hands.
- Encouraging children to cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a silver pedal bin and then washing their hands - "catch it, bin it, kill it". If they cannot access a tissue we have modelled and advised them to cough or sneeze into their arm.
- Reminding children to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

We have made up songs to help reinforce these messages and to ensure that the children spend an adequate amount of time washing their hands thoroughly (see weekly planning emails). Please use these at home and model them yourselves.

It has now been recommended that children, staff and visitors should wash their hands on arrival at school and before leaving school. As these are the times that staff need to be most vigilant to ensure the safety of the children we request that parents and carers assist their child with this.

Please do not bring your child to Nursery if either you or they are unwell. If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or a family member please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

Should you need any further information please contact:

**Department for Education Coronavirus helpline**

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

### Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

*(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)*

Wash, wash, wash your hands  
Wash them nice and clean.  
Scrub them here  
*(with hand motion scrubbing together)*  
Scrub them there  
*(with hand motion scrubbing tops of hands)*  
And scrub them in between  
*(with hand motion scrubbing between fingers).*

Wash, wash, wash, your hands  
Play our handy game  
Rub and scrub, scrub and rub  
Germs go down the drain HEY!  
Wash, wash, wash, your hands  
Play our handy game  
Rub and scrub, scrub and rub  
Germs go down the drain HEY!



HSC Public Health Agency



**CATCH IT.**



**BIN IT.**



**KILL IT.**