



## Maidenhead Nursery School

### Newsletter September 2021

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



The staff have been busy preparing the Nursery for the new academic year and getting to know the new children and their families with nursery visits. 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. If you have a question or are worried about anything then please do chat with your child's key person.

We are delighted to be able to invite parents and carers back into Nursery but we need to remain vigilant so please familiarise yourself with the Covid-19 risk assessment and contingency plan available on our website:

<https://www.nurseryfederation.co.uk/page/?title=Covid%2D19&pid=123>

The team have been busy planning some exciting activities and experiences for the children to enjoy as part of their learning. So far most of 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. We do expect a few tears initially but most children (and parents) do get over these quickly.

Please see the dates on page 3 of this newsletter and make a note of them in your diary/phone. We will be emailing information about the children's learning each week so you know what they will be focusing on and we will include a fun activity you can do together to support their learning.

## 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 and key person for Bumble Bee afternoon group; she does not work on Tuesdays.
- Amy Crowle is the key person for Bumble Bee group morning group; she does not work on Wednesdays.
- Rose Scofield-Webb and Tracy Murray are the co-key people for Ladybird group. Rose works 3.5 days per week and is not in Nursery Thursday afternoons or Fridays.
- Bev Eaton is the key person for Dragonfly 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.
- Learning Support Assistants - Zoe Wright and Gemma Cooper are working every morning; Sarah Vanstone-Wilson works every afternoon and Abbie Smith works Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday and Friday.
- In the Nursery office Jan Moody works Monday - Wednesday and Karen Sorby works Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday all day.
- Our lunch club assistants are Gemma Cooper and Nazia Bi Monday to Friday, Lousie Cawte Monday to Wednesday and Nusrat Islam Thursday and Friday.

## A Few Reminders



- \*Please try and name all clothing, bags, snacks, lunch boxes.
- \* This helps us return items to their owners.
- \* Please be prompt at collection time; staff have a very short lunchtime and meetings to attend after school.
- \* 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 and early drop 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 call and speak to Jan or Karen. The time in lunch club is in addition to children's 15 hour free entitlement and the £3.50 charge is made to cover staffing costs. (The charge does not apply to those children receiving the 30 hour entitlement). Early drop is always charged at £3.
- \* 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 telephone the nursery on the first day of absence 01628 623551 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. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer. If we do not hear from you then we will telephone to enquire why your child is absent.
- \*Please return any outstanding admission paperwork to the Nursery office asap - Thank you
- \*If your mobile number changes please update us with an emergency contact asap.
- \*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. The disabled space is for use by those with specific permission from Nursery staff and please remember not all disabilities are visible.
- \*Please ensure all gates are closed and locked when you enter or leave the Nursery.
- \*Please check emails or our website for reminders, letters, weekly planning and newsletters as we do not give out paper copies. <https://www.nurseryfederation.co.uk/maidenhead>

## Covid-19

We thank you for your support and patience as we continue to work according to government guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Due to our amazing staff and the support of our parent community we have been able to successfully implement our risk assessment procedures but as time goes on and with possible guidance changes we may need to be flexible and adapt them so please check the website when you are notified of updates.

<https://www.nurseryfederation.co.uk/page/?title=Covid%2D19&pid=123>

If your child is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 (these are still described as a raised temperature, a new or continuous cough and a change or loss of their sense of taste and/or smell) then please do not send them to Nursery but book a PCR test and await the results. Children are no longer required to self-isolate if a member of their family or a close contact tests positive but a PCR test is advised.

We have had questions regarding sending children to Nursery with 'runny noses'. This is not a Covid-19 symptom and many children will have runny noses at this time of year. However, if you feel that your child is unwell with this it is best to keep them off Nursery to monitor their temperature and see if anything further develops.

Please reinforce good hand and respiratory hygiene at home using the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it!' approach.

## Dates for your diaries

**Wednesday 20th October** - Wear it pink day (Raising money for Breast Cancer Research)

**Friday 22nd October** - Break up for half term holidays

**Monday 25th October - Friday 30th October** - Nursery Closed for half term.

**Monday 1st November** - Children back to Nursery.

**Friday 14th November** - Children in Need (Information to follow)

**Wednesday 24th November** - Individual photos (Christmas/winter themed)

**Wednesday 1st December** - Nursery closed - Visit to Norden Farm Arts Centre (Information to follow).

**Wednesday 8th December** - Singing around the Christmas tree

**Wednesday 15th December** - Last full day of Nursery before Christmas break.

**Thursday 16th December** - Morning session closed - **Afternoon Christmas Party 12-2.30pm.**

**Friday 17th December** - **Morning Christmas Party 9.15-11.45am** - Afternoon session closed.



## 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 an Instagram page that you can access that show you some of the exciting activities we are doing. .

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. Please do pass on quick messages that are relevant to that session but if you want a longer discussion please email to request a chat with your child's key person or wait until all of their group of children have left at the end of the session.

Key people are available to speak to you about your child's progress at the start or end of their non-contact time, please arrange a time with them in advance if you would like to do so. Times are:

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

You will also be invited to share examples of your child's learning with their key person each term as and when they have completed a photographic record to share with you. This will be arranged with you individually and can be done face to face, over the telephone.



## Birthdays



We like to celebrate the children's birthdays at Maidenhead Nursery School with a song and a pretend cake with candles. The children tell us all about their birthday plans and wishes and we wish them a happy birthday, sending them home with a card.

If you wish to bring in some food for them to share with their friends we ask that it is a small healthy snack such as breadsticks, raisins or carrot sticks. Thank you.

## Snack times and 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. Please remember to cut grapes and cherry tomatoes as these are a potential choking hazard. We provide milk or water 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. A member of staff is supported by lunch time assistants and they 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 together but as time goes on they will learn to concentrate on their eating.

**ALLERGIES** – We have children who suffer from a severe nut allergy and a sesame seed allergy. 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) or **PRODUCTS CONTAINING SESAME SEEDS**.

**Snack times** - We offer a choice of healthy snacks each day and milk and water to drink. Please bring in donations of food such as a bag of apples/carrots or a pack of breadsticks every couple of weeks and place in the baskets located in the entrance and dragonfly room.



## Speech technique of the month

We 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 wonderful walking".

## 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 favourite book for this time of year is *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas. It is a story all about feelings. One day the Colour Monster wakes up feeling confused with his emotions all over the place. He feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him his friend shows him what each feeling means through colour. It is a fantastic story to share with children so they can start to identify and talk about their feelings. As children settle at nursery they will experience a range of emotions and this is the perfect story to encourage them to talk.

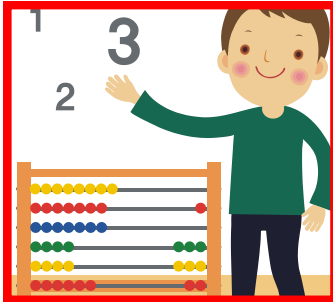


## Ideas to Support your Child's Learning at Home

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, 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.

\*Go to the Tiny Happy People website and do the weekly schedule for the appropriate age range:

<http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/Schedules100920.pdf>

## Nursery Rules

We will be having a focus on teaching the children our 3 Nursery 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, 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., washing our hands regularly, Catch it, bin it, kill it!

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.

We are often asked for advice on aspects of children's behaviour at home please come and chat to us if you have any worries or concerns.