

# Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter

## Our Learning

We hope you have enjoyed reading our weekly updates letting you know all about what we have been up to during our first few weeks. The children are settling well and enjoying creating new friendships while they explore the indoor and outdoor environments.

The staff worked hard to prepare the Nursery for the new academic year and spent time getting to know the new children and their families with home and 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 interests at home as well as 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 returned to Nursery to discover that what we planted last year had been busy growing over the summer. The children have enjoyed picking and eating the plums, apples, raspberries, tomatoes and cucumbers. It's always magical to see them enjoying the fresh fruit and vegetables which they grow each year and this week even made apple crumble together!

On Wednesdays we are extremely lucky to be supported by one of our governors, Karen. She encourages each child to choose a library book to take home, taking the time to help them choose a book that excites them.



At Maidenhead Nursery School we all understand the importance of reading to support development in all areas of learning as well as simply being an enjoyable way to spend our time. Please take time to share the book each week with your child; create a quiet place by turning off the TV or radio and find somewhere comfy like the sofa or bed to enjoy together. Reading together is a great way to learn new words and practice using new vocabulary. Through the year we focus on core books that have been specifically chosen by the nursery team and you will receive information about these books in the weekly updates. Our focus rhymes/songs for this term are on page 6 of the newsletter.

## The Team at Nursery

- Sarah Cottle is the Executive Headteacher across all three Nursery Schools. Mrs Cottle splits her time between Cookham Nursery School, Maidenhead Nursery School and The Lawns Nursery School.
- Hannah Diplock is the Deputy Headteacher and will be supporting all of the staff and children in the Nursery.
- Áine Sadler is the key person for Ladybird group.
- Rachael Garston and Tracy Murray are the co-key people for Bumble bee group.
- Bev Eaton is the key person for Dragonfly group.
- Ulfat Khan and Nazeah Qayoom are the co-key people for Caterpillar group.
- Tara Vaughan, Gemma Cooper, Justyna Fowler and Rida Abbas help to support all children. Helen McHale is SENco at Maidenhead Nursery School.
- Jan Moody and Karen Sorby work in the school office.
- Jade West, Louise Cawte and Nusrat Islam support the children at lunch club.

## 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.
- \* 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.
- \* 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 Nursery.
- \* If your mobile number changes please update us with an emergency contact asap.
- \* Please can we ask that older children do not play on the outside equipment at the end of the sessions, thank you.
- \* Please check emails or our website for reminders, letters, weekly planning and newsletters <https://www.nurseryfederation.co.uk/maidenhead>

## Communication With Parents

In order to keep you informed of upcoming events in Nursery we email monthly newsletters and the weekly update (which are also added to our website). 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 times as we are with the children. Please do pass on quick messages but if you want a longer chat please ask and we can arrange a time.

We will also organise a time to discuss your child's progress and share their learning map with you each term, this will be arranged with you individually. Please share any photos or examples of your child's learning at home with their key person so that they can be included in their learning journey folder and help us to plan for their interests and fascinations.

You will have received an information sheet on how we will be informing you of your child's learning at Nursery. This information is also available on our website [Nursery Federation - Sharing Learning with Parents](#)



## Dates for your diaries



**Monday 2nd October-Friday 6th October**—Harvest Food Collection for Foodshare (see parents board for details).

**Friday 20th October** - Children break up for half term

**Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October** - Half term holiday

**Monday 30th October** - **INSET day**. Nursery is closed to children today.

**Tuesday 31st October** - Children return to Nursery.

**Wednesday 8th November** - Hobgoblin Theatre Group in to perform 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

**Wednesday 15th November** - Communication and Language Come and Play

**Friday 17th November** - Collection for Children in Need. Details to follow.

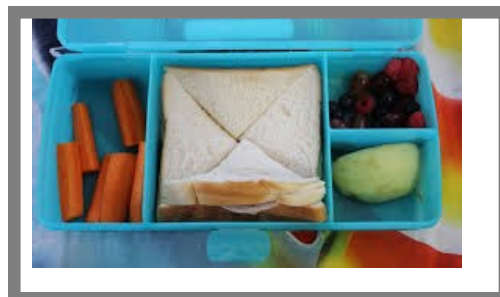
**Wednesday 6th December** - Parents invited in for Christmas fun! Details to follow.

**Wednesday 13th December** - Christmas celebrations and Santa's Grotto visiting Nursery.

**Friday 15th December** - End of Term 11.45am (No lunch club)

## 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 their snack at Nursery in the morning or afternoon.



A member of the team supports at lunch time and all adults 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** — Some children 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**. Thank you.

**Snack times** - We offer a choice of healthy snacks each day and milk and water to drink. Please bring in donations of fruit or food such as a bag of apples/carrots or a pack of breadsticks every couple of weeks and place them in the basket under the notice board, thank you. Due to the generosity of parents we have a chart on each of the external classroom doors informing you when we have enough snack for now or when we are running low, this is to save wastage. Thank you.



## Nursery Rules

Ready,  
Respectful,  
Safe

PrimaryEducation.com

We will be focusing on teaching the children our three 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).

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 sensible 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 continue to give lots of verbal praise to those children who always go **OVER AND ABOVE** our usual expectations.

## 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:-

\*Singing together! You can practice our core songs at home. We choose a 5 or 6 every half term to enjoy and repeat with the children and enable them to learn them off by heart.

\*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.

\*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.

\*Young children can recognise numbers of things without counting, this is called subitising. You can help your child begin to see pattern in number and start to understand the concept of addition and subtraction by helping them to see amounts of similar sized, coloured and shaped objects to 3 while you're out and about, eg daisies. We don't count we 'see the amount' and we talk about what is '3 and not 3.' Ask your child 'what do you see?' instead of 'how many?' Number rhymes are also really important for teaching ordinality in number.



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 School. 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 how to take themselves to the toilet if already trained.
- Learning each others' names and the skills needed to share and take into account other peoples ideas, likes and dislikes.

Our older children, who are already experts at Nursery life, will be encouraged to help the new children and will be, we're sure, excellent role models for them.

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 'OWL'. This stands for:

Observe

Wait

Listen ... **THEN RESPOND IMMEDIATELY!**



## Early Years Pupil Premium

Your child may qualify for additional support with their education if you are claiming any of the following:

Universal Credit (earnings below £7,400), Income Support, Income based Jobseeker Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit or Working Tax Credit.

If you think you might be eligible for this, please see Jan or Karen in the office for a form to complete.

## 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.

When it is your child's birthday, 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.



# Our Focus Rhymes / Songs

Chop Chop Choppity Chop



Driving Along In A Big Red Bus



Row Row Row Your Boat



Tommy Thumb



Wind The Bobbin Up



Old MacDonald had a Farm

