



Maidenhead Nursery School

October 2023 Newsletter

The Children's Learning

What a fun-filled, busy first half term! We hope the weekly updates have kept you well informed about all of the wonderful things the children have been exploring, discovering and learning together. Please do try out some of the ideas provided to support your child's learning at home and send in any photos and artwork to Nursery so that we can add them to their learning journey folders. We love to celebrate the children's achievements.

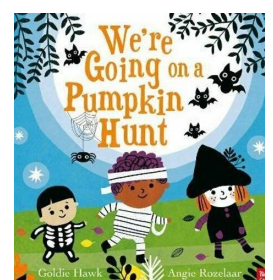
These first weeks have been focussed on building children's confidence with new children and adults as well as in the new environment. We have spent time in each area learning what to use, how to use the equipment, how to tidy up. The focus this week has been on the mud kitchen - a good reminder to bring in spare clothes every day.



We have been thinking about changes we are seeing in the natural environment as autumn arrives. The children were full of questions and comments as they looked closely at the autumn objects. They have made many interesting paintings and collages by rubbing and sticking with the leaves and rolling the conkers in the creative area.

The nursery team have been busy planning exciting activities for next half term. We will have many celebrations to enjoy with Diwali, fireworks and Christmas! When we return after half term we will be exploring the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears in preparation for the Hobgoblin theatre company coming to perform it on Wednesday 8th November for all of the children to enjoy.

☺ Our book recommendation for this month is We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt by Goldie Hawk and Angie Rozelaar. It follows a similar structure to one of our core books, We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Your child can join in with repeated phrases and have fun spotting different things in the bright, fun illustrations.



Please remember ...

☺ To name all clothing, bags and footwear. This really helps us to return coats, hats etc... to their owners.

☺ To make sure that your child has a warm coat, gloves, hat, wellies and appropriate footwear etc... as the weather starts to get colder.

☺ To bring in spare clothes for your child each day.

☺ To park with consideration for our neighbours. Remember to keep pavements and driveways clear from obstructions.

☺ Due to severe allergies in children and staff we ask for;

- NO NUTS PRODUCTS IN LUNCH BOXES OR SNACK DONATIONS.

- NO VICKS VAPORUB, OLBAS OIL, TIGER BALM ETC ON CHILDREN.



Important Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th October - Last day of half term

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October - NURSERY CLOSED FOR HALF TERM BREAK

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

Tuesday 31st October - Nursery reopens to all children

Saturday 11th November - Applications for Reception September 2024 open. <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-school-or-moving-junior-school-september-2024>

Wednesday 15th November - "Come and Play" with a focus on Communication and Language

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

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Celebrations - Santa's grotto will be here. Details to follow.

Friday 15th December - There is no lunch club or afternoon session today. Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays.



Progress Discussions - Learning Map Chat

Each term you will be invited for a progress discussion with your child's key person. Their learning, interests and achievements will be documented in a learning map to aid this discussion. Before the meeting you will be given a parent consultation sheet to take home. This sheet will help us have a deeper understanding of your child and will give you the opportunity to ask us about their progress and development. We will also ask you to take some photos of your child out of school and the activities they enjoy with family and friends. Together we can agree on possible areas to focus on in the future and think about how we can support your child with these.

We hope you find these progress discussions informative. The whole process enables us to get to know your child better and plan for them as an individual.

What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage

On our website there is a link to a useful document from the DfE and East London Research School which supports parents in their understanding of child development and curriculum for children from birth to 5 years old. It is a large document but is very informative so you can flick through and pick out the sections relevant to you.

Click [here](#) to view the document on our



Speech Technique of the Month

Be face to face

Whenever you are talking to your child try to get face to face, e.g. having a conversation, zipping up a coat, giving instructions.

Be at the same level as your child, e.g. when reading a story, speaking to them.

Remember: If you're not face to face with your child they may not be able to take on board everything you are saying!

Supporting learning at home:

☺ Encourage your child to recognise their coat and attempt to put it on independently,. This will help them to develop their self help skills at Nursery. Look up 'Montessori coat flip' for an easy way that we teach at nursery.



☺ If you are out and about talk about what you can see in the natural environment. Model, to your child, noticing when the weather changes, unusual items and investigate together. When you find items such as conkers, acorns, different coloured leaves, seeds etc talk about what you think they are, use language to describe how they feel, smell and look, and model asking questions to find out new information. Encourage asking questions and repeating new vocabulary. If you don't know the answer think of ways to find out together —the internet, books, asking other people.



☺ Read together every day. Create routines that include reading, such as a story at night time as part of a relaxing bedtime routine. This only needs to be 5 minutes.

Vocabulary of the Week

At Maidenhead Nursery School we spend our day engaging children in back and forth conversations as we know the importance of developing language and communication. Through the conversations and interactions we model, support and extend language development. We also explicitly teach new vocabulary.

Each week the nursery team select a few key words that will be our focus vocabulary for the week. These words are at the bottom of the weekly update so you can also use them at home too.

By choosing focus words all adults will be giving children the opportunity to hear and use words repeatedly in a range of contexts so they are embedded in their memory and become part of their conversational, play and storytelling language.

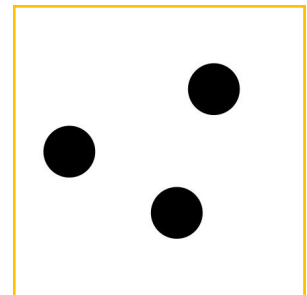
Supporting Maths Learning at Home

During your child's time at Maidenhead Nursery they will be taught to become masters of the numbers 1-5. Focussing on these early numbers in depth gives them a solid foundation for their mathematical development through school.

From a very early age children have the ability to see a number of objects instantly without needing to count them. This is called subitising and it comes from the Latin word for suddenly.

At nursery the adults will encourage and extend children's ability to subitise by noticing patterns. So far we have been working on subitising to 3. We don't count we 'see the amount'. Instead of asking 'how many?' we ask 'what do you see?'

We will look at 3 objects and comment, "I can see 2 and 1 more" or "I can see 1 and 1 and another 1". These discussions and activities help children build images for numbers, visualise and learn number facts. This is also the beginning of addition and subtraction.



We say number names in order when we sing Number rhymes or songs. Counting number names in order is an important skill but we don't use it to count objects **yet**—we **subitise**!

The Number Blocks on CBeebies reinforce this way of learning. Through the different characters, songs and engaging visuals they show patterns in numbers, simple calculations and then move on to counting.