



Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter November 2023

The Children's Learning

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn term. We hope you all had a super half term holiday break and have adjusted to the darker afternoons/evenings.



Performance has been one of our focus words and the children have really embraced it this week! The theatre actors last week seem to have inspired the children who have been playing music and singing on the stage set up under the shelter. Together we have been practicing the focus rhymes for this half term. Some have chosen to accompany the music singing by keeping a rhythm with a tambourine or a steady beat on the lollipop drum.

Every day we come together as a whole nursery to dance, move to music and sing - read about the importance of music and dance at the end of this newsletter.



Thank you to the families who have sent in pictures and artefacts from their Diwali celebrations, we hope you had a peaceful and joy filled time. The children were fascinated to see the intricate divas and lanterns and asked questions about the photos of family celebrations. We have made our own divas using clay, decorating them with bright colours like we saw in the photos and books. Stories and non-fiction

books have given us opportunities to discuss how Diwali is celebrated. At nursery we are proud of our diverse community and think celebrations create a special opportunity for all of the children to learn about our differences as well as things we have in common such as the importance of spending time together with our friends, family and community.



Book Recommendation



Our book recommendation for this month is *The Leaf Thief* by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater.

The brightly coloured illustrations compliment the cute story about the magic of autumn. Squirrel loves the leaves on his tree and one day when he is counting them he notices one is missing, then another and another. The book is an exploration of change – this countries changing seasons as well as highlighting the anxiety that change sometimes causes.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11th November - <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

Friday 17th November - Come dressed in yellow or spots and bring a donation for Children in Need.

Wednesday 6th December - Parents are invited into nursery for Christmas Crafts and singing.

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas celebrations - Santa's Grotto will be visiting.

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

January Dates

Wednesday 3rd January and Thursday 4th January - Nursery closed for home visits and Nursery visits.

Friday 5th January - Term starts for children.

A Couple of Reminders

- * Please call/ email into the school office if your child is not able to attend Nursery.
- * Keep encouraging your child to practice 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.
- * **Remember to make sure your child has a spare set of clothes to change into every day including socks, underwear, trousers, tops. As the weather gets wetter and muddier and children are more confident to explore the whole environment they may need to change clothes. Please provide a bag for wet or dirty clothes.**

Christmas Craft and singing with Parents

Wednesday 6th December

Morning session—8.45-9.30am

Afternoon session—12.30-1.15pm

You are invited to come and join us to celebrate Christmas in the nursery. The nursery will be filled with Christmas and winter art and craft, stories and activities to explore together. We will then come together to sing some of our Christmas songs.



School Applications

Online admissions is now open for children eligible to start school next September 2024

Closing date - 15th January 2024

National Offer Day - 16th April 2024

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

Our advice is to look around at the schools websites and make contact with the schools to see if they are doing any visits as this will 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.**

It is also important that parents/ carers complete all the choices when completing the form as this has an impact whether you are able to join a waiting list should you not be given your preferred choice.



Disabled Parking Space

Please do not park in the disabled parking space at any point in the day. We have some families who need the space and recently it has been full when they have needed it.

A quick reminder that not all disabilities are visible.

If you have a need to use the disabled space this needs to be agreed with the nursery staff ahead of time. Thank you



November Speech and Language Technique



Limit Distractions

Give your child the best possible setting to support speaking and listening development by providing periods of time where distractions are limited.

Make time for conversations or reading when the TV is turned off and toys and other distractions are limited.

Music

Music is a wonderful 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 are 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, 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. 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.
- Sensitively introduce your child to language to describe sounds and rhythm, e.g. loud and soft, fast and slow. Sing familiar rhymes at different volumes and tempos.
- Listen to music and watch dance when opportunities arise, encouraging them to focus on how sound and movement develop from feelings and ideas.
- If the opportunity arises experiment with a range of musical instruments that are used in different ways, for children to bang, pluck, blow, strum.
- Dance at every opportunity! It releases endorphins and makes you feel happy!

