

Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter January 2024

Happy New Year

We welcome some new children and their families to Maidenhead Nursery School this term and look forward to getting to know them all; the older children will be such good role models as they know our routines and expectations so well.

The staff have been planning some exciting activities and experiences for the children this term.

In the unpredictable weather this week our studio has been a welcome shelter. The children have been developing their woodwork skills as we added wheels to some of our creations. They revisited the safety rules and had time to explore the different tools, some children chose to paint and decorate their creations.



We have continued learning about The Gingerbread Man.

The children have used their developing mark making skills to do amazing drawings full of tiny details and happy smiles! It has been lovely to see the children taking



their learning from group time into their own play as they run around pretending to be the Gingerbread Man singing "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man." Traditional tales are simple, repetitive

and a fantastic way of learning the structure of stories, story language and develop our love of storytelling. As the children build up a repertoire of stories this creates a solid foundation



for their future reading and writing.



Next week we will be creating our own Gingerbread Man story maps.

We will be using the language of size and shape, looking at the work of Wassily Kandinsky as he explored circles. As we learn about the techniques he used it will inspire our own art inside and outside.



Focus Vocabulary - travel, begin, circle, round and worry



A Few Reminders

Don't forget:

- Please remember to name your child's clothes, coats, gloves and hats. We can then return items to their owners quickly.
- Please encourage your child to practise putting their coat on at home. They are always so proud of themselves when they have achieved this self-help skill.
- Please ensure that over the next couple of months that your child wears layers of clothing to keep them warm outdoors but can easily be removed when inside.
- Please remember to park considerately outside Nursery, avoiding the yellow zig zag lines or blocking our neighbours driveways.
- Please remember to let us know on the first day of absence if your child is too unwell to attend Nursery.
- Remember absolutely no nuts in lunches due to allergies. Please be aware that there is often nuts in biscuits, chocolate spread and other similar products.
- We are in need of spoons and forks, please return any you have borrowed from lunch club or donate any spares you may have at home. Thank you.



Dates for your diaries

Friday 9th February - Break up for half term holidays

Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February - Nursery Closed - half term break

Monday 19th February - Nursery closed — INSET DAY

Tuesday 20th February - All children return to Nursery

Wednesday 6th March - Parents invited to 'Come and Read' to celebrate World Book Day (7th March). More details to follow

Thursday 28th March - Break up for the Easter holidays. Nursery closes at 11.45am today. No lunch club session today.



Bad Weather Closures

We always endeavour to open Maidenhead Nursery School however if the weather is extreme and staff are unable to get to school we may need to close for health and safety



reasons. In the event of bad weather parents should check the RBWM website - www.rbwm.gov.uk, our website - nurseryfederation.co.uk and/or listen to Heart Thames Valley or BBC Radio Berkshire for school closure announcements.

Speech technique of the month

Model language by **Repeat, Emphasise and Expand**

Enhance your child's use of sentences by:

Repeating back the sentence if your child's grammar is incorrect, e.g. "I goed park Nanny", you say "Yes, you *went* to the park *with* Nanny."

Emphasising key words and new vocabulary, e.g. "I've got mouses at home", you say "you've got *mice* at home."

Expanding on what your child has said by repeating it and adding 1/2 words, e.g. if your child says "kick ball", you say "*kicking a big* ball."

National Storytelling Week 27th- 2nd February

This historic week is used to increase public awareness of the art, practice and value of oral storytelling. Storytelling is not only fun but can be a way to make sense of our world as we create narratives based on our own lives and experiences.

We are pleased to be involved in a Tales Toolkit trial with the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) and the Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hub. We feel that the simple, eye catching resources and practical training for adults have made a real impact on the children's storytelling as we think carefully about the structure and order of stories. Next week as part of National Storytelling Week and we will be continuing to use these resources to create stories about different characters such as Princess Watermelon who sadly nearly got eaten by a dinosaur this week! Have you got any favourite stories you tell at home? We would love to hear them!

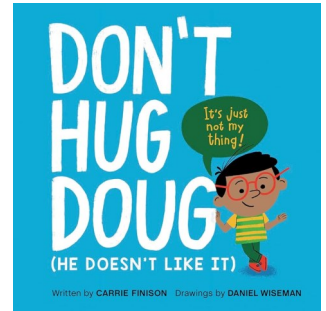


- Click on the link for some fun ways to have a go at storytelling at home

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/themes/celebrate-storytelling-week-at-home/>

Children's Book Recommendation

Our book recommendation this month is one of our core books. It is a funny story about Doug who thinks hugs are too squeezey, squashy and smooshy. He would rather give a high five. A funny, brightly illustrated story about consent and body autonomy - empowering children to say no to a hug if they want to. How do we know if someone wants to be hugged? There is only one way and that is to ask!



Our Curriculum - Our Goals and Milestones

As a team we have considered our curriculum and discussed how we can ensure that children achieve the best possible outcomes during both child initiated and planned adult initiated activities.

We have outlined some key goals and milestones that we feel are important for children to achieve through experiences during their time at Maidenhead Nursery School. These are tailored to the suit the uniqueness of our community and Nursery setting.

We have thought about the children in our Nursery School and the lifelong skills that we would like them to develop during their time with us. We feel it is important to develop their confidence and talk about what makes them special.

Alongside this throughout the year the children will have opportunities to learn in a range of adult directed activities such as following a recipe and know how to care for our chickens.

We will ensure that all children have the opportunity to be creative using a range of artistic experiences and make a woodwork creation at the woodwork bench. Early reading, writing and maths skills will be progressively planned throughout.

There is more detailed information on our website which also includes our assessment document. Please click [here](#)

Our 10 curricular goals

Confidence

- Become a confident learner

Communicate

- Communicate what makes them special

Follow

- Follow a recipe to bake a bread roll

Collaborate

- Collaborate using an obstacle course

Create

- Create an artwork using a range of stimuli

Care

- Care for our plants, allotment and animals

Construct

- Construct a model in the woodwork studio

Make up

- Make up a story and act out others

Write

- Write with a purpose in mind

Explore

- Explore numbers using a variety of resources