



The Lawns Nursery School Newsletter January 2024

Happy New Year

We welcome some new children and their families to The Lawns 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.



We have been making the most of the learning opportunities presented by the recent cold weather this week.

The children have been exploring the ice that formed overnight in our pre-filled water trays.

They discovered the different ways of breaking the very hard ice using a range of tools and this provided us with some new rich science vocabulary, some of which became our

key words of the week, frozen, melting, crystals, solid, liquid.

We set up experiments in our group corners to investigate the effect of heat on the ice. The children were intrigued and excited to



watch the ice melt from a solid to a liquid before their eyes.



We shared the story "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. The story is about a little boy who puts a snowball in his pocket and is sad when the next day it has disappeared.

The children were able to explain why this had happened and Miss Jones even carried ice around in her pocket all day to demonstrate what happened!

A Few Reminders



- 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 let us know on the first day of absence if your child is too unwell to attend Nursery.
- If your child grows out of their socks we would be very grateful for donations please, many thanks.

Dates for your Diaries

Monday 29th January - Friday 9th February – family and friends volunteers in Nursery sharing their musical talents.

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 28th February - Belinda Crocker, Community Nursery Nurse in 8.30am-11.30am, speak to your child's key person if you'd like a slot to speak with her about any sleep, eating, toileting, behaviour issues you may be supporting your child with.

Wednesday 28th February - Earthsong Drummers visit Nursery.

Wednesday 6th March - Come and Read. More details to follow.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day, the children will receive a book token.

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



Bad Weather Closures



We always endeavour to open The Lawns Nursery School however if the weather is extreme and the site is unsafe 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 - [Click here](#) and/or listen to Heart Thames Valley or BBC Radio Berkshire for school closure announcements. We will send a message via our parent emailing service so please do check for updates.

Tales Toolkit

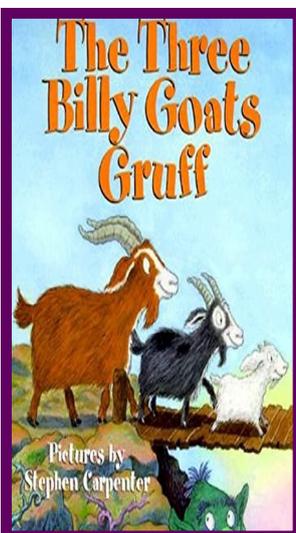


The children have been making up brilliant stories using our new Tales Toolkit resources. We are fortunate to be taking part in a pilot study funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hub.

It's wonderful to see how quickly they have grasped the concept of story building using the prompts 'character, setting, problem and solution'.



The Three Billy Goats Gruff



Each term we like to explore a traditional story in depth with the children. This term our story is 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'.

We have been sharing many different versions the book, listened to the story being told, acted out the story and watched puppet shows. Next week we will be drawing illustrations and mark making aspects of the story as well as learning sign language to support the story.

By the end of the term the children will become very familiar with this traditional tale and as we introduce new tales the children build up a repertoire of stories to support them with their early reading and writing skills both now and in the future. They develop a solid foundation on which to build their own story writing skills as they progress.

Our Curriculum Goals

Our Curriculum at The Lawns Nursery School —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 The Lawns Nursery School. These are tailored to the suit the uniqueness of our community and Nursery setting.

Confidence	• Confidence to find help when solving problems
Talk	• Talk about what makes them special
Follow	• Follow a recipe to make a bread roll
Climb	• Climb the cargo net
Create	• Create an artwork using a range of stimuli
Grow	• Grow a vegetable, nurture and eat it
Make	• Make a model at the woodwork bench
Make Up	• Make up a story and act it out to others
Write	• Write a message to someone
Explore	• Explore numbers using a variety of resources

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, talk about what makes them special and to celebrate our similarities and differences. Alongside this throughout the year the children will have opportunities to learn through a range of adult directed activities such

as following a recipe and mastering climbing the cargo net. We will ensure that all children have the opportunity to be creative through a range of artistic experiences and make a woodwork creation at the woodwork bench. Early reading, writing and maths skills will be woven progressively throughout all experiences and opportunities.

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