

Maidenhead Nursery School

February 2024 Newsletter

The Children's Learning

This term the children have settled back into the routine of nursery and we have enjoyed watching them grow in confidence. The older children have been very kind supporting the new children in finding their way around the classroom and the outside area too. We are seeing new friendships flourishing daily.

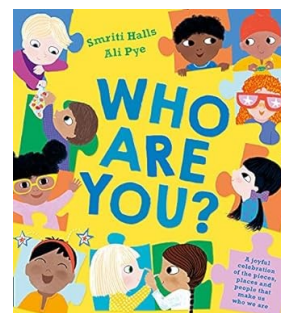
We have all been enjoying the warmer weather and have noticed some of the changes that Spring brings, such as beautiful daffodils popping up. The children mixed blue and yellow paint to create a bright green for their observational paintings. You may start to notice lots of dots everywhere as we been inspired by our focus artist Yayoi Kusama as well as the book, The Dot by Peter H Reynolds.



We welcomed our Persona Doll, Jo, back to the nursery. Before half term the children supported her by offering suggestions about how to deal with some worries she was having with her friends. They showed her our feelings area where we can find worry worms, worry people or an adult to talk to. We remembered from our story 'Geoffrey gets the Jitters' that worries can go away if we talk to someone about them. Jo came back to thank the children for their help.

Family Photos

If you haven't already please email or send in your family photos so we can add them to our group family books. We will be talking about our families next week as we focus on one of our core books 'Who are you?'.



Reminders

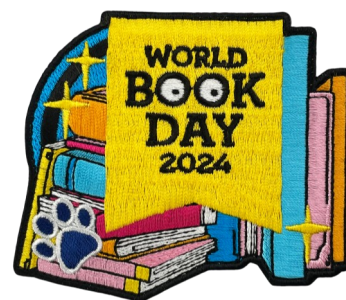
- Please collect your child promptly at the end of their session. If due to unforeseen circumstances you are likely to be late please call Nursery on 01628 623551.
- Please park sensibly in School Lane and Harrow Close. Parking over the pavements prevents pedestrians from using them. Several families have been forced to walk in the road and we are concerned that if it continues a child will be injured.
- Please only use the disabled parking space if you have an appropriate blue badge or have arranged use of the space with Nursery staff. Remember not all disabilities are visible.
- If you have buzzed us for attention at the electric gate please be patient. If office staff are on the phone it will take them a couple of minutes to answer. Thank you!



We are keen to begin offering our places to children starting at Nursery in September 2024. If you are thinking of deferring your child's place to infant/primary school then please can you let the office know as soon as possible. Your child's key person will be able to answer any questions or queries you may have about deferring. If we do not hear from you we will assume that your child is leaving us in July if they are eligible to start school.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 6th March - Come and Read for World Book Day - If you would like, you could bring in your favourite book to share with the children. Parents/ carers are invited into Nursery at the beginning of each session. (8.45– 9.30am) and (12.30– 1pm).



Thursday 7th March—World Book Day

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief - Children are invited to 'wear something funny for money'.

Thursday 28th March - Break up for Easter holidays. Nursery session finishes at 11.45am. There is no lunch club today.

Monday 15th April - Home visits for new children

Tuesday 16th April - Visits for new children—Nursery closed

Wednesday 17th April - Children return to Nursery today.



Staffing news

Rachael (Bumblebee Key Person) is currently completing her second placement for her teacher training at Alwyn Infants School. Rachael will be returning to Maidenhead Nursery School after the Easter break. Tracy will be in Bumblebee group on Weds and Fridays. The remaining days Hannah and Áine will be supporting the group.

We will miss Rachael over the coming weeks but wish her lots of luck as she completes her training.

Supporting your child's learning at home — Top tips for sharing books

- *Put aside 10 minutes twice a day for sharing books, make this a special time with your undivided attention - turn off the TV, switch off your mobile phone
- *Allow your child to choose the book - make sure that you sit so that your child can see the pictures/text and is able to point things out that interest him/her. Allow him/her to hold the book. Talk about the picture on the cover - what will this story be about? How do you know?
- *Use special voices to represent different characters - your child will love this!
- *Explain any difficult vocabulary
- *Allow your child to stop you, turn back pages and make comments
- *Talk about the characters — what are they doing? What are they thinking? How are they feeling?
- *Create suspense using your voice. What is going to happen next?
- *Draw your child's attention to special features of the book e.g. rhyming words, text that may be written in bolder and larger print that tells you to read that part of the story louder, repeated refrains etc.



Speech Technique of the Month

Big
Huge
Massive
Enormous

Use a variety of words

Your child needs to hear lots of different words before they are able to put together long sentences.

Use a variety of words when you make a comment

Loud Quietly Noisy Softly

Beautiful
Pretty
Gorgeous
Fabulous

Sad
Excited
Lonely
Scared
Miserable

Supporting Independence

Over the half term break we had our toilet area completely transformed and we hope you agree that it has brightened the whole environment up. During their time at Maidenhead Nursery School we encourage children's independence whenever possible. This starts from the day they arrive as we establish routines and they have autonomy throughout their nursery session to play and learn following their own interests feeling valued as individuals. To support their independence please encourage the children to put their coats and bags away at the beginning of the session. This means they know where they are when they go to get them later in the day.



Our new cloakroom and peg trolleys are working well. Please remember that spare clothes should be brought in the purple book bags as we do not have space for rucksacks on the pegs.

We request that parents do not enter the children's toilets for safeguarding reasons. If your child needs you for a particular reason please notify a member of the nursery and they can assist as necessary.

Songs and Rhymes

Songs and rhymes are a key part of the Nursery curriculum as they are soothing, comforting, motivating and exciting. Songs can be to bring people together and create shared enjoyment which are both key factors in learning. We would recommend that you sing, participate in action rhymes and move to music regularly with your child.

Benefits include:

- Build healthy and strong relationships and increases feelings of well-being
- Helps children to understand transitions and routines
- Develops attention and listening skills
- Helps develop understanding and expression of language
- Helps children to learn the back and forth nature of conversations
- Finger rhymes help improve fine motor strength and co-ordination
- Help to develop gross motor skills and when movements involve crossing the mid-line both sides of the brain work together to form new connections
- Rhythm helps to develop maths skills



“Movement, rhythm, rhyme and learning are powerfully connected “ (Tovey 2013).

For further information see: <https://www.froebel.org.uk/uploads/documents/FT-Songs-Rhymes-and-Finger-Plays-Pamphlet.pdf>