



Cookham Nursery School November 2023 Newsletter

The Children's Learning

Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join us for 'Come and Play' on Wednesday. We could see how proud the children were to show you the Nursery environment and the activities and resources that we use here.



You will have seen how we have books everywhere to promote a love of stories and reading. We have a huge variety of pens and pencils and all sorts of paper, note books, clipboards and diaries to encourage mark- making and early writing.



We have a 'number area' for practising subitising and number rhymes, resources and activities to develop gross and fine motor skills, a creative area for painting, drawing and building models, a woodwork bench, a quiet corner...not to mention the large outdoor area to develop our physical skills and risk taking.



The overarching principle is to maintain an outstanding environment that inspires talk, conversations and interactions with friends and adults and builds characteristics in children that help them to learn and develop throughout their lives. There are lots of photos of the sessions in the foyer.

Children in Need

Thank you to all who donated to the BBC Children in Need events, whether through Cookham Nursery School or elsewhere. We had a lovely day and will send the money collected directly to the charity.



Christmas Singing

The children would love to share their Christmas singing with their parents and carers.

The performance will take place on **WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER** at 11:15am.

If your child does not usually attend Nursery—we would be very grateful if they could come in at 11am on the 13th.

They can bring a packed lunch that day and then stay for the afternoon session, if that helps.

Please do email Cookham Nursery or speak to Mrs Greenwood so that we know who to expect.

Thank you!



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.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 13th December 11:15am

Christmas singing to parents/ carers. All welcome.

Friday 15th December

Last day of the term. Break up for Christmas holidays. Nursery closes at 11.45am. A reminder that there is no lunch club today.

Wednesday 3rd January

INSET day and home visits for new starters. Nursery is closed for children.

Thursday 4th January

New children and new parents/carers visit Nursery.

Friday 5th January

Return to school— Nursery opens for all children.

Music and Rhymes

Music is a wonderful medium for developing children's attention and listening skills and their understanding and expression of language. It also enhances early maths skills due to its' repetitive and steady beat. Every week we listen and dance to a different genre of music and sing nursery rhymes and songs.

Rhymes are fantastic vocabulary boosters. They feature a rhythmic pattern and simple repetitive phrases that young children find easy to remember and repeat. In order to develop their phonological awareness, children need to be repeatedly exposed to spoken language, and nursery rhymes provide the perfect way to do this. Research informs us that children who are secure with rhyme are more successful with reading.

- 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. Sing rhymes to them.
- 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.
- Sing the rhymes at home that we are practising at school. The song of the week is up on the board in the foyer.

