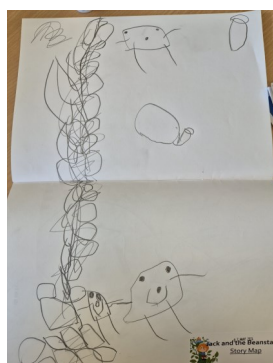




Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter May 2024

The Children's Learning

Our amazing caterpillars have been so busy, the children have been fascinated to see them transform from tiny caterpillars to their chrysalis. They have developed excellent observation skills as they looked closely at them moving around, munching their food and growing before our eyes. Learning about lifecycles through first hand experiences is working towards our **Care** goal.



At Maidenhead Nursery School we love listening to, retelling and making up our own stories. We use story maps as a tool to retell a story, starting from the beginning and going on a journey to the end. Jack and the Beanstalk inspired our story maps this week and the children used their developing mark making skills to draw the story. We were amazed by the details added to their maps.

Next week we will be visited by Basil and Crew who will be bringing different reptiles for the children to observe and interact with in small groups. We will be continuing to think about different ways of being healthy, focusing on the benefits of eating a 'rainbow' of food!

Focus words - gentle, question, reptile, nutritional, syllable

Sun Safety

* Thank you for bringing in hats, water bottles and sun cream (for those who stay all day). The children are learning how to stay safe in the hot, sunny weather and bringing those in has supported their independence.

* Please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate and safe footwear as they will still be accessing the climbing resources, bikes, scooters, large wooden blocks, wood work area etc. We suggest trainers, no flip flops, crocs or sandals.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 15th May - Reptiles visit

Friday 24th May - Break up for half term holidays.

Monday 27th May-Friday 31st May-Half term. Nursery is closed this week.

Monday 3rd June- Children return to Nursery.

Wednesday 12th June - Earthsong drummers visit

Wednesday 19th June- Farm visit today.

Wednesday 26th June - Come and Play today*. 8.45am-9.30am or 12.30pm-1pm

Wednesday 24th July - Break up for summer holidays at 11.45am.

Please note that there is no lunch club session today.

Come and Play – Health Visitor

* During our Come and Play session Wednesday 26th June, Susan, our health visitor will be available to meet with you. Previously she has supported many of our families in a wide variety of ways, including: behaviour, sleep, food and even more general support for the family. Please let Hannah or your child's key person know if you would like to arrange an appointment with her.

Moving on to School in September

Thank you for letting us know where the children are moving to next year. We will email invitations to all next schools asking them to visit us so that the children have an opportunity to meet their next teacher in an environment in which they feel safe and comfortable. Due to the number of settings that some schools receive children from, it may not be possible for their next teacher to visit so we strongly suggest that you take up the opportunity to participate in any transition visits that schools offer. We will inform you of the date if your child's next teacher is visiting so that you can ensure they attend Nursery on that date.



Staffing News

We are very sad that Helen McHale (SENCo) is retiring at the end of the academic year. Helen has been SENCo within our Nursery School Federation over a number of years. She is a fountain of knowledge in all things early years and SEND and we are going to miss her very much. Helen used to be our Co-Headteacher and was primarily based at Maidenhead Nursery School, so she has been an integral part of our amazing journey in building Maidenhead Nursery School to be such a brilliant place for our children to flourish.

Helen is moving to Yorkshire to live near her family and enjoy being near her son and Granddaughter.

We have recruited Sacha Patrick as our new SENCo in September and joins us from a large primary school based in Hounslow. She has worked over many years in early years education with children from babies to five years old. We are really looking forward to welcoming her into our team.

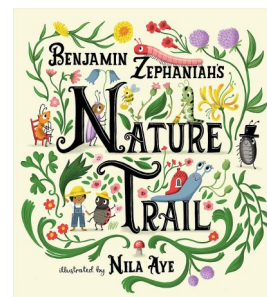


Balance Bikes

The children have been developing their balancing and riding skills all year and many are getting very proficient on the balance bikes. Remember that our balance bikes are available to take home for the week. If you would like to take one just ask in the office or your child's key person and they can let you know when the next one will be available.

Book recommendation of the month!

Our recommendation this month is Benjamin Zephaniah's book called 'Nature Trail'. It is a joyful rhyming celebration of the natural wonders on our doorstep from an award winning poet, who sadly passed away this year. It is full of brightly coloured, beautiful illustrations by Nila Aye.



Our Core Books - Each term we focus on 12 core books which we share with the children and revisit over the term so that they get to know them really well, joining in and practicing telling them to themselves. By the end of the year each child will have enjoyed 36 core books in addition to all of the other quality books we share.



Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Planting and Growing

- Plant a tomato plant in your kitchen and use the fruit in a sandwich when it has grown.
- Plant a sunflower seed and watch it grow.
- Pull up some weeds in the park or garden and look at the different parts of the plant.
- Have fun watering the flowers and vegetables in your own or a friend's garden.
- Collect some leaves, petals etc. and make a miniature garden on a plate.
- Use water leaves, petals etc. to make magic potions!



Minibeasts

- Look for minibeasts in your garden or the local park - where do they like to hide? Can you identify them?
- Search the internet (with an adult) for information on mini-beasts. What can you find out that you didn't know already?



Grapes

If you are sending grapes in as part of your child's lunch please make sure they are cut in half or quarters.

Grapes are the third most common cause of death in food-related accidents. The size and shape of them can completely plug a child's airway.

Speech Technique of the month

Model language

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."