



Cookham Nursery School Newsletter May 2024

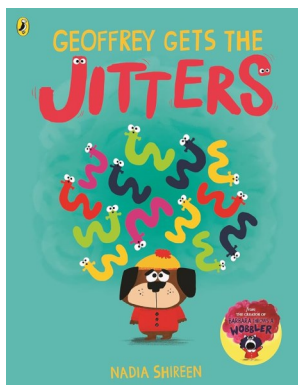
The Children's Learning

We were amazed by how much the children had remembered about parts of their brain and its' uses. We built on that learning this week when we talked about our Amygdala warning us of a problem. We discussed calming techniques and used our chime to practise deep breaths and thinking about a beach and water to relax our body and minds.

At 3 and 4 years old, children's brains are developing at a faster rate than at any other times in their lives and they start to think in greater depth. This can be a worry for them, particularly when many of our children are starting to think about a big transition— going to their new school settings. Learning techniques in order to manage a worry is a great life skill.

A wonderful book that highlights ways to manage a worry is called 'Geoffrey gets the Jitters.' It is beautifully illustrated and well told, about Geoffrey and how he overcomes his worries. We have several copies at Nursery and read it regularly to support the children's

personal, social and emotional education.



We made ice creams out of Bubbles! There were many conversations about favourite flavours and the merits of added sprinkles and sauces. It was also a fabulous activity to develop our fine motor skills.



The children made an ice cream shop in the cabin! They built walls and tables and found everything they needed for ice creams, money and a note book to take the orders!



Sunday 16th June

A note about Father's/Uncle's/Grandad's/ Relation's Day on the 16th June.

Please find a special stone that would act as a good paper weight (with a flattish bottom) and bring it to school after half term. We will be making them into something special.



Staffing News

We are very sad that Helen McHale (our SENCo) is retiring at the end of the academic year. Helen has been SENCo within our Nursery School Federation over a number of years and more recently at Cookham Nursery School this year. 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 alongside Sarah Cottle so she has been part of our amazing journey in building the Federation to be such a brilliant place for our children.

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

We have recruited Sacha Patrick as our new SENCo to join us in September, from a primary school based in Hounslow. We are really looking forward to welcoming her in into our team.

Moving on to School in September

If your child is leaving Cookham Nursery in July, please make sure you have told us their new school so that we can organise the necessary transition arrangements for all of the children. Due to the number of settings that some schools receive children from, it may not be possible for their next teacher to visit us so we



strongly suggest that you take up the opportunity to participate in any transition visits that schools offer. If your child's next teacher is visiting, we will inform you of the date so that you can ensure they attend Nursery on that day.

Polite Reminders

- ☺ Please check emails or our website for reminders, letters, weekly planning and newsletters.
- ☺ Please remember to call Nursery (**01628 520002**) on the first day of absence if your child is unwell. If your child has had a stomach upset (diarrhoea and/or vomiting) they should not attend Nursery for 48 hours from their last symptom.
- ☺ Please ensure that your child wears clothes that enable them to be as independent as possible with going to the toilet and changing themselves. Elasticated trousers /skirts are ideal.
- ☺ When it gets hot—we still need safe footwear for our outdoor environment—not flip flops or crocs please. Open toed sandals are risky with children carrying large blocks around, using bikes, swinging on tyres, balancing on the ropes and standing on pallets and crates. Trainers and close toed shoes are best!

Sun Safety It WILL get warmer soon!

Please apply sun cream to your child before their session and if they are staying all day, please leave us with a clearly NAMED bottle of sun cream to apply in the afternoons—we will need your signed permission to apply sun cream and it's much easier if it can be left here.



Dates

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 - Come and Play today. 8.45am - 10am or 12.30pm-1pm.
Wednesday 10th July - Farm visit today.
Wednesday 17th July - End of term singalong at 11.15am.
Thursday 18th July - End of term singalong at 2.15pm.
Wednesday 24th July - Break up for summer holidays at 11.45am. Please note that there is no lunch club session today.



Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Below are some ideas for supporting your child's learning at home linked to current Nursery themes:

Planting and Growing

- Plant a tomato plant, sunflower seed or cress seeds and watch them grow. Make and eat cress sandwiches!
- 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 for information on mini-beasts. What can you find out that you didn't know already?
- Talk about the caterpillar and butterfly life cycle with your child. Make a little information book to show the changes and put it into your child's book bag to share at Nursery.



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 "yes, 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 "yes I'm *kicking a big* ball."

Book recommendation of the month!

Hearing, repeating and finding words that rhyme is a key aspect of early literacy. We have immersed the children in rhyming activities including nursery rhymes and reading rhyming books. Oi Dog by Kes & Claire Gray and Jim Field is a funny rhyming story that really helps the children to explore the concept of rhyme, whilst enjoying a lovely story with great illustrations.

