

Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter November 2024

The Children's Learning

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term. We hope that you all had a super half term holiday break and have adjusted to the darker evenings.

It has been a month full of celebrations and special occasions as we have explored Diwali, Halloween, Fireworks night and Remembrance Day. Our 'Communicate what makes them special' goal is one of the ten curriculum goals we work towards with our children throughout their time with us. Thank you to those of you who sent in photos of your celebrations—the children proudly talked with their friends and adults about what they had done.

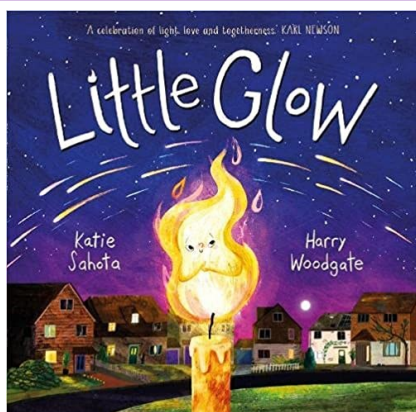
Many of the celebrations included fireworks and we were inspired by what we saw and heard. The children have created different pieces of art work using all different media. During one of our group times we listened to classical music as we used colourful oil pastels to draw shapes and lines; making marks in time with the music.



Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for our 'Come and Play' session. It was lovely to see the children proudly showing you around our environments and we hope it was a good opportunity to meet Susan Fenn, the health visitor linked to our nursery. She is available all year to support with things such as sleep, eating and behaviour. She will come and visit the nursery once every term but we can contact her at any time if needed. If you would like to speak to another health visitor any other time their duty line is open Mon-Fri 9am-4.30pm on 03003656523.



Book Recommendation



Our book recommendation for this month is Little Glow by Katie Sahota and Harry Woodgate.

Little Glow is a heartwarming, rhyming story about some of the different gatherings that celebrate light including, Diwali, Eid, Christmas, Hannukah and Bonfire night.

It is a celebration of diversity, inclusion and most of all the importance of finding moments to be together with our family and community.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th November - Fun and collection for Children in Need.

Friday 29th November - Shooting Stars Theatre Company visiting (If your child does not normally attend on a Friday we can arrange for them to come for the performance.)

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Celebrations - Santa's grotto will be here.

Wednesday 18th December - Parents invited in for Christmas crafts and singing - 11am and 12.30pm.

Friday 20th December - There is no lunch club or afternoon session today. Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays.

Thursday 9th January - Term starts for children.

Friday 14th Feb - Half Term holidays.

A Couple of Reminders



* **Please call/email into the school office if your child is not able to attend Nursery.** We know this is the time of year where children pick up bugs and germs and we currently have quite a few children off with chest infections, high temperatures and coughs. Please only bring your child to nursery if they are well enough to come in to prevent spreading these illnesses.

* Remember to make sure your child has a spare set of clothes to change into every day including socks, underwear, trousers, tops. As the weather gets wetter and muddier and children are more confident to explore the whole environment they may need to change clothes. Please provide a bag for wet or dirty clothes.

Christmas Craft and singing

Join us on Wednesday 18th December at 11am or 12.30pm to create something festive and sing along with some Christmas songs.



School Applications

Online admissions is now open for children eligible to start school next September 2025

Closing date - 15th January 2025

National Offer Day - 17th April 2025

Our advice is to look 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.

Staff Training on 4th November

During our recent staff training we considered the research showing the value of playing and learning outdoors. We also reflected on the importance of risk and challenge for children. As you know, at Maidenhead Nursery we place great value on children learning outdoors no matter the weather, and it was fantastic to be able to deepen our knowledge even further. Research shows these are some of the reasons why being outdoors is such an essential part of child development.

- 1. Indoor pollution is worse than outdoors.***
- 2. Children's stress levels reduce.***
- 3. It's better for children's eye development***
- 4. Children get some Vitamin D.***
- 5. It will help children sleep.***
- 6. It will get children moving.***
- 7. It will improve children's attention and memory.***
- 8. Children will have more energy.***
- 9. Children feel happier.***
- 10. It will boost children's immune systems.***



In pre-school children, higher physical activity is associated with fewer days of upper respiratory tract infection symptoms. A change in the average number of steps per day by 1000 changed the number of days with symptoms of coughs and colds by 4 days.

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. Play stop and start games allowing your child to lead the game.
- 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 so that music is not limited to music for "types" of people. 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.
- Sensitively introduce your child to language to describe sounds and rhythm, e.g. loud and soft, fast and slow. Sing familiar rhymes at different volumes and tempos.
- Sing our focus rhymes at home together. The songs were sent home with last week's update and are on our rhyme board near bumble bee area.
- Dance at every opportunity! It releases endorphins and makes you feel happy!

