



The Lawns Nursery School Newsletter November

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. The children have learnt so much already since the break both inside and outside.

We celebrated Diwali together by exploring the festival through stories, looking at artefacts and hearing all about it. The children made their own Diya lamps from clay, developing their fine motor skills as they patiently added tiny beads to their creations. We hope those of you who celebrate Diwali had a peaceful and happy time.

We have started our curriculum goal, 'To make up a story and act it out.' This week we introduced the story 'The Gingerbread Man' to the children and they have been using the story line in their role play. We are going on to explore and experiment some of the ingredients used in gingerbread and support the children to describe the changes they see happening. We will also continue to develop our story knowledge through Tales toolkit and next week will introduce actions and Makaton signs to our story telling, learning to retell the story using actions as well as words.

Miss Jones will be introducing some everyday Makaton signs to support all of the children in Nursery as part of a project to develop and support early communication and emotional well-being. She will be sharing more information about this soon!

Children in Need

Thank you to you all for your support in making today's Children in Need pyjama party such a success and for your generous donations.

The children have had a fantastic time dancing, sharing stories and drinking delicious hot chocolate, alongside learning about such a good cause. We've all had a wonderful day!



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 20th November - Shooting Starts Theatre Company - Search For Santa

Wednesday 27th November - "Come and Play" with a focus on Communication and Language

Monday 2nd December - Christmas Hamper Raffle opens

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas party in session time.

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

Monday 6th to Wednesday 8th January 2025 - Nursery closed for home visits and new entrants for the new children

Thursday 9th January - All children return to Nursery

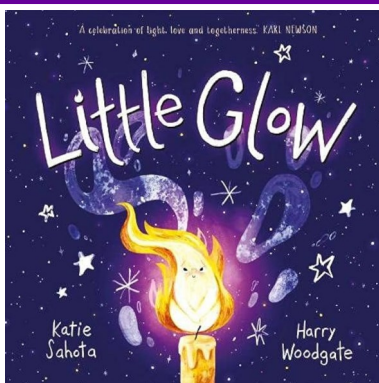
Friday 14th February - Break up for the February half term holiday.

A Couple of Reminders

****Please call/ email into the school office if your child is not able to attend Nursery.**

****Keep encouraging your child to practice putting on their scarf, hat, gloves, wellies and coat independently and make sure that they come appropriately dressed for the weather. Please make sure you name all of these items clearly.**

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.

School Applications

The online admissions are now open for children eligible to start school next September 2025.

Closing date - 15th January 2025

National Offer Day - 17th April 2025

Please [Click Here](#) for further information.

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.

Christmas Raffle



Every year at The Lawns Nursery School the staff team donate items to fill a children's and adult's Christmas hamper.

This is a lovely way to celebrate Christmas and all the money raised goes towards purchasing resources for the children to enjoy at Nursery.

Tickets will go on sale on Monday 2nd December for £1 each and the raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 17th December at 1pm. If you are a lucky winner we will call you.

Car seat safety

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead found when carrying out recent car seat safety checks that 80% of seats were incorrectly fitted or that the child was in the wrong size seat for their height and weight. They have produced some useful guidance to help keep children safe and secure when traveling [Click Here](#) for further information.

Music

Music is a wonderful medium for developing children's attention and listening skills and their understanding and expression of language. It is also great for enhancing early maths skills due to its repetitive and steady beat. Singing and dancing is usually very enjoyable for young children and unlike some adults they tend to throw themselves wholeheartedly into experiences. Whilst we encourage children to listen to and join in with recordings they have a fixed tempo and do not allow for adaptation whereas the live sung voice and the human interaction that comes with singing is irreplaceable. Some ideas to help you support your child's musical development are:

- Play sound matching games e.g. make sounds by banging utensils, putting different materials in containers that children can't see and invite children to make a matching sound or describe it.
- 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.
- Listen to music and watch dance when opportunities arise, encouraging them to focus on how sound and movement develop from feelings and ideas.
- If the opportunity arises experiment with a range of musical instruments that are used in different ways, for children to bang, pluck, blow, strum.
- Dance at every opportunity it releases endorphins and makes you feel happy!

