



Cookham Nursery School February 2025 Newsletter

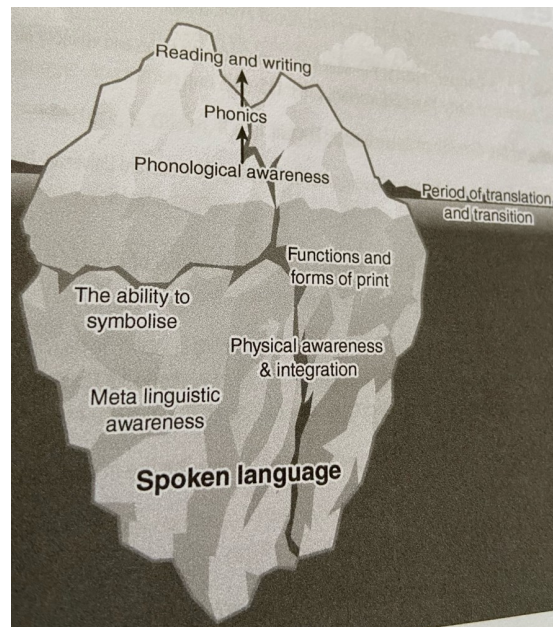
The Children's Learning

Our adventures with Tales Toolkit and The Message Centre!

You will have read from our Weekly Updates that we have been focussing on mark-making for meaning and making up stories. These knowledge and skills have been introduced in adult led Group Times and now the children are exploring their learning in Free Flow time. It has been wonderful to see their independence, focus and purpose. One photo below shows the symbols we use for Tales Toolkit and some ideas to help to extend their thinking into the world of story telling.

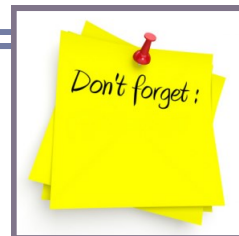


The important part to note is that The Message Centre and Tales Toolkit isn't about learning letter shapes or writing letter shapes. Children begin this scheme based approach at school. What we must focus on is everything that comes before phonics. Research shows that if there are gaps in the foundations of phonological awareness, children will find it harder to formally read and write. Children need to be able to tell—and love telling—fabulous stories—to have ideas to write at school. Children need to develop a love of mark-making and understand the importance of print—to want to write letters when they get to school. Our stage of learning these skills cannot be underestimated and is illustrated well in this iceberg.



Reminders

- Please collect your child promptly at the end of their session. If due to unforeseen circumstances you are likely to be late please call Nursery on 01628 520002
- Invoices will be sent out next week for payment of lunch club and additional sessions taken this half term. **Please check your emails for details and payment due dates. If you have any queries, please contact Lisa in the school office.**



We have begun our admissions process for new children who will join us in September 2025. If you are thinking of deferring your child's place at school then please let the office know as soon as possible. Your child's Key Person will be able to answer any questions or queries you may have about deferring. If we do not hear from you we will assume that your child is leaving us in July.

If your child is staying with us next year, you should have received an email asking you to confirm the sessions you would like them to attend from September. If you haven't received the email or you have any questions, please speak to Lisa.

Dates for your diary

Friday 14th February—End of Term (3.30pm)

Monday 24th February—INSET Day, Nursery School is closed

Wednesday 5th March—Come & Read—Parents and Carers are invited to come and read with the children

Monday 17th March—Mother's Day shop is open for donations (see more info on P5)

Monday 24th—Friday 28th March—children select their gift from the Mother's Day Shop

Friday 4th April — End of Term—Nursery School closes at 11.45am—no Lunch Club today

Monday 21st April—Easter Monday

Tuesday 22nd April—New children Home Visits

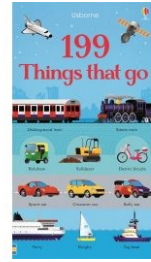
Wednesday 23rd April—New children Nursery Visits

Thursday 24th April—all children return to Nursery School



Book Recommendation of the Month

We have just purchased a set of non-fiction Usborne books called '199 things...' on a range of different topics from farms to dinosaurs and food. These picture books are proving to be a **fabulous** resource to stimulate quality conversations!



Supporting your child's learning at home – Top tips for sharing books

- *Put aside 10 minutes twice a day for sharing books, make this a special time with your undivided attention - turn off the TV, switch off your mobile phone
- *Allow your child to choose the book - make sure that you sit so that your child can see the pictures/text and is able to point things out that interest him/her. Allow him/her to hold the book. Talk about the picture on the cover - what will this story be about? How do you know?
- *Use special voices to represent different characters - your child will love this!
- *Explain any difficult vocabulary
- *Allow your child to stop you, turn back pages and make comments
- *Talk about the characters — what are they doing? What are they thinking? How are they feeling?
- *Create suspense using your voice. What is going to happen next?
- *Draw your child's attention to special features of the book e.g. rhyming words, text that may be written in bolder and larger print that tells you to read that part of the story louder, repeated refrains etc.



Speech Technique of the Month

Big
Huge
Massive
Enormous

Use a variety of words

Your child needs to hear lots of different words before they are able to put together long sentences.

Use a variety of words when you make a comment

Loud Quietly Noisy Softly

Beautiful
Pretty
Gorgeous
Fabulous

Sad
Excited
Lonely
Scared
Miserable

Mother's Day Shop

Every year we hold a Mother's Day Shop for the children to choose a gift for their Mummy/Grandma. The children will choose their present(s) the week before Mother's Day (24th—28th March) and then bring it home. Of course, it's supposed to be a surprise! Shhhh!

As well as being a special moment for the children, it is a fundraising event for Nursery. During the week commencing 17th March please could you bring in an item that any of the children can choose from. This could be chocolate, perfume, toiletries, hand cream, candles, scarves, socks etc! It's a good chance to clear out your cupboards!

Please can you also bring in a donation of £2 or deposit £2 (any donation accepted, thank you) into the Nursery Bank Account—please reference it with your child's name.

Your child will be able to choose a gift from the shop and we will help them to wrap it up and write a gift tag ready for Mother's Day on Sunday.

Thank you so much in advance.

Bank Account Details

Name: Cookham Nursery School

A/C No: 49388975 Sort Code: 60-13-35



Songs and Rhymes

Songs and rhymes are a key part of the Nursery curriculum as they are soothing, comforting, motivating and exciting. Songs can be to bring people together and create shared enjoyment which are both key factors in learning. We would recommend that you sing, participate in action rhymes and move to music regularly with your child. Benefits include:

- Build healthy and strong relationships and increases feelings of well-being
- Helps children to understand transitions and routines
- Develops attention and listening skills
- Helps develop understanding and expression of language
- Helps children to learn the back and forth nature of conversations
- Finger rhymes help improve fine motor strength and co-ordination
- Help to develop gross motor skills and when movements involve crossing the mid-line both sides of the brain work together to form new connections
- Rhythm helps to develop math skills



For further information see: <https://www.froebel.org.uk/uploads/documents/FT-Songs-Rhymes-and-Finger-Plays-Pamphlet.pdf>