



The Lawns Nursery School February 2025 Newsletter

The Children's Learning

This term the children have settled back into the routine of nursery and we have enjoyed watching them grow in confidence. The older children have been very kind supporting the new children in finding their way around the classroom and the outside area too. We have focused on getting to know each other and are seeing new friendships flourishing daily.

Miss Jones has continued to introduce more Makaton signs to the adults and children. It has been wonderful to see the children feeling confident to use them throughout their day. This term we have learnt the signs- please, thank you, sorry and toilet.

The children have been enjoying time together in our new reading and library area. We have developed the area with some new soft furnishings and themed baskets to make it more inviting and encourage a love of reading. Please do stop by for a story snuggle with your child on the way into nursery and choose a book to share at home.



At the end of January our children were excited to arrive at Nursery to find a fabulous new role play kitchen. They have been busy using their imagination and playing with friends, caring for the babies, making dinner and washing the dishes! It has been wonderful to hear their conversations when getting into role and sharing experiences from their own lives. Engaging in pretend play is also supporting the children to take turns and share the new resources with their friends.

Potty/Toilet Training

Many parents ask us about potty training. Once you feel that your child is **ready** for potty/toilet training and **the time is right**, we will be very happy to support this at Nursery. It is advisable to:

- Speak to your key person so we can work together;
- Ensure that your child is settled at Nursery and there are no other changes such as a house move or new baby etc;
- Read books about toilet training or use older siblings/peers as positive role models;
- **Don't use 'pull-ups'** - children need to experience being wet/dirty in order to understand and learn from 'accidents'. Pull-ups feel like nappies so they often confuse children and delay the toilet training process - mistakes are how we learn!;
- Have a good supply of pants/knickers at all times;
- Ensure your child is dressed in clothing that can easily be pulled down in a hurry (**no tight clothes, jeans or dungarees**) - tracksuit bottoms are perfect;
- **No reprimanding for accidents** as this will make the process stressful and may lead to more accidents!



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

We are looking forward to welcoming you into Nursery on Wednesday 5th March to read with your children. Here are some tips to support at home.

- *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.



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

At Nursery we have been creating musical shakers to support the children's rhythm and using them to sing nursery rhymes.

This video link shows you how to create your own at home!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/znyg9mn>

Top Speech Technique Tip

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

Big
Huge
Massive
Enormous

Beautiful
Pretty
Gorgeous
Fabulous

Sad
Excited
Lonely
Scared
Miserable

Loud

Quietly Noisy Softly

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 01753 865351.
- Please return your child's Learning Map sheet to their key person once you have added your comments. We value your contributions enormously and your comments help us to personalize your child's learning even more.



Dates for your Diary

Friday 14th February - Term ends - normal session times



Monday 24th February - INSET day - Nursery is closed today.

Tuesday 25th February - Term starts on - Children return to Nursery today.

Wednesday 5th March - 8.45am—9.30am and 12.30pm—1pm. Come and Read. Parents and Carers are invited to come in and share some stories with the children.

Friday 4th April - Term ends at 11.45am

Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April - Spring Holiday