



Cookham Nursery School Newsletter September 2025

READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE

The children have been learning about our Nursery rules.

- **Ready** to learn (looking, listening), ready for Group Time (in right place), ready to go outside (e.g coats, hats, sunhat).
- **Respectful** e.g being kind and listening to each other, looking after the environment.
- **Safe** e.g walking inside, handling tools carefully, telling an adult if something looks or feels uncomfortable.

We explore their meaning with the children and we will be referring to the rules constantly in our positive behaviour management strategies. Adults have pictures on their lanyards as visual reminders. These rules are embedded further if they are also used at home, linked to your own household rules.

We will also be giving lots of praise in the form of WOW moments to those children who go **OVER AND ABOVE** our usual expectations.

Zones of Regulation

The **Zones of Regulation** are a simple and engaging way we help the children learn about their feelings and how to manage them. Through stories, visuals and teacher led Group Times we explore four colour zones—**blue, green, yellow, and red**—that represent different emotions like sadness, calm, excitement, or anger. This helps children begin to recognise how they feel and learn gentle strategies to feel safe, calm, and ready to learn.

We will continue to update you on these, alongside other Curriculum learning and development in our weekly updates which are emailed to you on Fridays. Please do let us know if you are not receiving them.

We are so proud of how the children are settling at Nursery, whether they have returned after the break, or are brand new to the setting, when you are 3/4 years old, leaving a parent/ carer and coming into a busy environment can be a little overwhelming. For some children it can take a little longer and we will always work with you to help your child to feel confident, relaxed and happy in our setting. If you leave them confidently and with a smile, it can really help them to feel secure.

All the children are already learning so much and we are all looking forward to our time together.



Early Years Pupil Premium

Your child may qualify for additional support with their education if you are claiming any of the following:

Universal Credit (earnings below £7,400), Income Support, Income based Jobseeker Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit or Working Tax Credit.

If you think you might be eligible for this, please see Lisa or Jade in the office for a form to complete.

The Nursery School Team

- Sarah Cottle is the Executive Headteacher across all three Nursery Schools. Mrs. Cottle splits her time between Cookham Nursery School, Maidenhead Nursery School and The Lawns Nursery School.
- Fiona Greenwood is the Deputy Headteacher; she does not work on Tuesdays.
- Kylie Harding is the key person for Yellow group.
- Mandy Harrison and Angela Stephenson are the key people for Purple group
- Hannah Cottle is the key person for Green group.
- Debbie Henwood, Alison Finnis, Tony Wilson, Michelle Paternoster, Leanne Everett and Caroline Turner support all the children in the Nursery. Mrs Turner works on a Monday only.
- Chloe Flavelle and Alice Pontin are new members of staff and join us from schools in Burnham. We are very excited to have them in our team.
- Lisa Macnamara and Jade Fowler work in the office.
- Our SENCo is Sacha Patrick who works across all schools in the Federation.

Snack times and Lunch

We teach the children about staying healthy through eating well, playing outside, washing our bodies, brushing our teeth and going to bed!

Thank you for all your fruit and vegetables that you give us for snack time.

Thank you also for making the children's packed lunches healthy. It's best not to overfill their lunch boxes as this can be a bit overwhelming. Please remember to cut grapes and cherry tomatoes as these are a potential choking hazard.

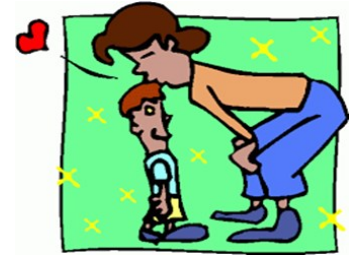
ALLERGIES — We have children who suffer from a nut allergy. We need all parents/carers to assist in keeping them safe. Please make sure that your child's lunch box does not contain any nuts, including spreads that contain nuts.



A Speech technique suggestion...

Be Positive

Try to use “NO!” less often and instead use a positive phrase that gives your child an alternative way of behaving.



For example, “No running” can be changed to “Please show me wonderful walking”.

If your child is doing something that you don’t want them to do say, “please stop” or “finish please”. Say, “Thank you” if they follow the request. It is very important to use please and thank you to model politeness.

Dates for your diaries

Thursday 23rd October—End of Term

Friday 24th October—INSET—**School Closed**

Monday 27th—Friday 31st October—Half Term

Monday 3rd November—INSET—**School Closed**

Tuesday 4th November—Term Starts

Wednesday 19th November—Stay and Play with your child 8:45—9:30am or 11:45—12:15pm.

Friday 19th December—End of Term. School closes at 11:45am—**NO AFTERNOON SESSION**

Monday 22nd December—Friday 2nd January 2026—Christmas Holiday

Monday 5th—Wednesday 7th January—Home & Nursery visits for new children. **School Closed**

Thursday 8th January—Term starts for all children

Friday 13th February—End of Term



Communication with Parents

In order to keep you informed of upcoming events in Nursery we email monthly newsletters and the weekly update (which are also added to our website). Please check your emails regularly and let us know if your email address changes.

We are happy to chat to parents at any time but it can be difficult at drop off and pick up time as we are with the children. Please do pass on quick messages but if you want a longer chat please do ask and we can arrange a time. We will also organise a time to discuss your child’s progress with you each term.

Please read the information sheet about how we inform you of your child’s learning at Nursery on the next page.

How we will share your child's learning and development at Cookham Nursery School



Settling In The First Few Weeks...

Following our initial phone calls, home visits and Nursery visits, the children's start dates are staggered so that each child has 1:1 time with their Key Person. We will share a 'settling in' sheet with photos about what they've been exploring and enjoying. We will gather information to understand your child's starting points. This will guide how we plan our Curriculum, environment, and activities to support their learning.



Progress Discussions

We track and monitor children's progress against our Curriculum Goals and the Statutory Framework as well as check their speech and language development. Each term your child's Key Person will meet with you to talk about their progress. We want to hear about how they are learning and developing at home so that we can work in partnership.

Curriculum

Our team have designed and planned a progressive Curriculum full of rich and challenging activities and experiences designed to spark the children's curiosity, engage them and encourage deep learning and thinking. It promotes a balance of child-led play based learning and adult-initiated activities in our indoor and outdoor environments. We value each child's interests and strengths, using them to inform our teaching while recognising children as capable learners. Parental involvement and a supportive home setting are crucial for every child's growth. Our ambitious Curriculum Goals set out the key skills, concepts and attitudes we want children to learn.



Learning Journey Folder

Your child's folder and sketch books will illustrate their learning journey through the year. We will add photos of special events and 'wow' moments. They will also contain a selection of your child's creations and mark making.

Adult-Led Time

During each session the children will gather as a group or individually for some adult-led learning as well as a daily story and singing session.



Environment

Our learning environment both inside and outside is planned for children's development across the Curriculum. The resources are accessible to support each child's own enquiry, curiosity and independence. Each day the adults set the environment up based on the interests, fascinations and learning from the previous day. Resources and displays are designed to develop skills, knowledge and vocabulary.



Emails

Our 'Weekly Update' is emailed with an explanation of the children's learning during both Free Flow and Group Times. We share ideas for how you can support your child at home to complement the learning at school. Our monthly Newsletters will be emailed and show you a snap shot of the learning alongside other important information. These are both available on our website.

Come and Play

Each term Parents and Carers are invited into the Nursery to join their child to play and learn together, focussed on a particular area of the Curriculum.



End of year leavers chat

If your child is leaving to go to school, we finish the year by having a meeting with you to celebrate your child's development in each area of our Curriculum and provide you with an end of year photo summary.

Ideas to Support your Child's Learning at Home



We wanted to explain about how we begin to teach Maths.

Young children have a remarkable skill: they can recognise numbers of things without counting. This is called subitising, and it develops from a very early age.

Children's ability to subitise is developed by teaching; children begin to see pattern in number and start to understand the concept of addition and subtraction.

To start with, we work on subitising up to 3. We make sure that objects we use are all the same size, shape and colour so that the maths is much easier to see. We don't count, we 'see the amount' and we talk about what is '3 and not 3.' We ask children 'what do you see' instead of 'how many?'

Teaching subitising this way help children to build images for numbers, to visualise and to learn number facts. Children then begin to see different amounts with a 'whole,' for example seeing 2 and 1 in 3. This is the beginning of addition and subtraction.

Number rhymes are also really important for teaching ordinality in number. Counting number names in order is an important skill but we don't use it to count objects yet – we subitise!

Ask children 'what do you see?' when you are out and about, or looking at picture books etc. Maths starts with noticing – and this is also a great way for children to build their vocabulary.