

Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter January 2026

Happy New Year

Our persona doll, Jo, came back to nursery this week. She told us about her Christmas holidays in Ghana visiting her grandparents. We talked about our own families and celebrations at Christmas, noticing the similarities and differences between our families and lives. We looked up the different countries on a map of the world and globe and this led to discussions about transport such as planes and boats.



Maidenhead Nursery School is lucky to have a diverse community with families from all over the world. The subject that young children know most about is their family so we use this to start conversations and relate to different areas of the curriculum. Each key group has their own family album so if you haven't already please send in a photo of your child's immediate family. We would also love to hear from you if your child has visited or has family abroad.

Our 'Talk' curriculum goal details the milestones children work through during their time with us to celebrate our differences, recognise our similarities and solve conflicts by being aware of other people's feelings.

Next week

Jo will be telling us about her visit to the dentist. We will be continuing our focus on copying and creating repeating patterns, mark making to music and talking about how we feel and spotting and making up our own rhymes. Pantosaurus will be telling us all about keeping our bodies safe by teaching us a fun song and story.

Focus Vocabulary - safe, dentist, emotions, rhyming string & unit of repeat.





Parent sessions with our nursery health visitor - Toilet Training Wednesday 4th February

New guidance on toilet training was recently released and Susan (our health visitor) provided an informative training session for the nursery staff. She will be coming to provide the same training for any parents who are interested on the morning of Wednesday 4th February. Please speak to or email Hannah to sign up.



A Few Reminders

- Please remember to name your child's clothes, coats, gloves and hats.
- Please ensure that over the next couple of months that your child wears layers of clothing to keep them warm outdoors but can easily be removed when inside.
- Please remember to park considerately outside Nursery, avoiding the yellow zig zag lines or blocking our neighbours driveways. Do not park on the pavement outside the nursery—it endangers our children and families.
- Please remember to let us know on the first day of absence if your child is too unwell to attend Nursery.
- Remember absolutely no nuts in lunches due to allergies. Please be aware that there is often nuts in biscuits, chocolate spread and other similar products. 
- We advise water only in bottles - no squash please.
- Mobile phones cannot be used in the nursery garden or building. This is not only for safeguarding reasons - to protect the safety of all of our children but also to make sure your child has your full attention as you are saying "Goodbye" or "Hello". 

Dates for your diaries

Friday 13th February - Break up for half term holidays

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February -

Nursery Closed - half term break

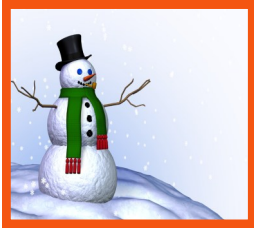
Monday 23rd February - All children return to Nursery

Wednesday 4th March - Parents invited to 'Come and Read' to celebrate World Book Day (*Thursday 5th March*). More details to follow.

Friday 27th March - Break up for the Easter holidays. Nursery closes at **11.45am** today. No afternoon session today.



Bad Weather Closures



We always endeavour to open Maidenhead Nursery School however if the weather is extreme and staff are unable to get to school we may need to close for health and safety reasons. In the event of bad weather parents should check the RBWM website - www.rbwm.gov.uk, [our website](#) - nurseryfederation.co.uk and/or listen to Heart Thames Valley or BBC Radio Berkshire for school closure announcements.

National Year of Reading 2026

The Department of Education has declared this year the National Year of Reading. Recent surveys show reading for pleasure is at an all time low for children and young people and they have introduced this UK-wide campaign designed to inspire people to make reading a regular part of our lives.

We are all passionate about early reading and love books so we have chosen some of our favourites as core books. Find out about them on the next page.

* Remember to bring your library book back every Wednesday to change at nursery!

2026 Book Missions is a fun calendar of challenges to complete from the Book Trust - click on the picture to link to the website.

The National Literacy Trust also have an amazing selection of videos and activities to promote a love of reading at home. Click on the icon to find out more.

2026 book missions

BookTrust
Getting children reading

January Read a book that makes you laugh! <input type="checkbox"/>	February Tell someone about a book you love <input type="checkbox"/>	March Join the World Book Day celebrations <input type="checkbox"/>
April Read a book because you love its pictures <input type="checkbox"/>	May Read a poetry book or a verse novel <input type="checkbox"/>	June It's a summer of sport! Read a sporty book <input type="checkbox"/>
July 7 July: A new Children's Laureate is here! Read one of their books <input type="checkbox"/>	August Read a book outside! What's the most unusual place you can find? <input type="checkbox"/>	September Send a letter or a drawing to your favourite author or illustrator <input type="checkbox"/>
October Read a scary book for Halloween! <input type="checkbox"/>	November Read a non-fiction book and tell a friend a cool fact <input type="checkbox"/>	December Swap your favourite book with your friends <input type="checkbox"/>

My favourite books of the year are...

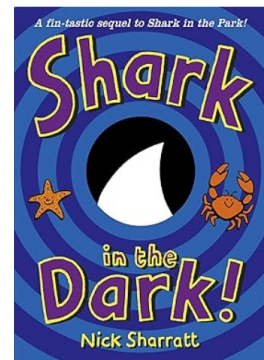
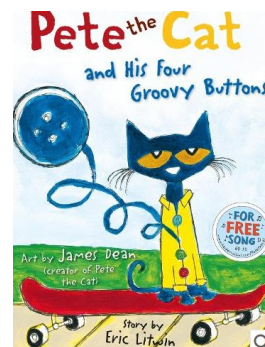
“**Words for Life**”

National Literacy Trust
Change your story

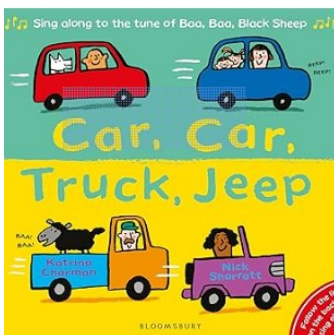
Spring Term Core Books

Each term we explore a selection of different 'core books'. These are the texts that we want our children to know well by the time they leave nursery. We select books so they can be re-visited again and again, on different levels, to support language development.

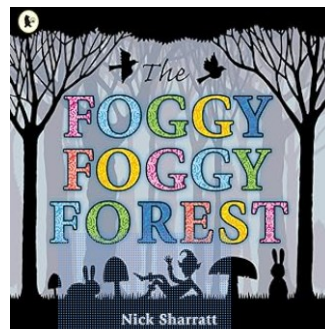
The idea of our 'core books' is that children gain a love of books as well as developing their listening and language skills and increasing their vocabulary. They become so familiar with them that they remember and can re-tell them.



The books above are all simple texts full of repeating phrases that children can quickly learn and join in with. They introduce a variety of descriptive language and have wonderful illustrations to discuss. These books have very familiar characters that we already know from our previous core books.

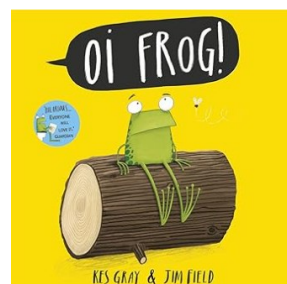


A funny rhyming story about a frog trying to find a comfy place to sit!

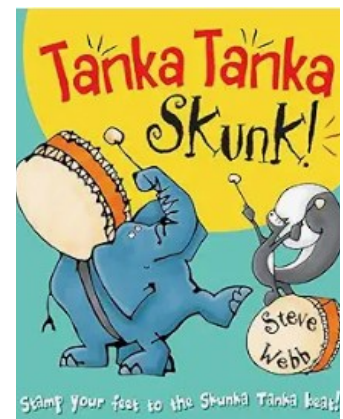


Meet Tanka and Skunk—their names sound like drums. Say them together and explore beat, pulse and rhythm.

A fun book that can be read or sung to the tune of 'Row, row, row your boat'.



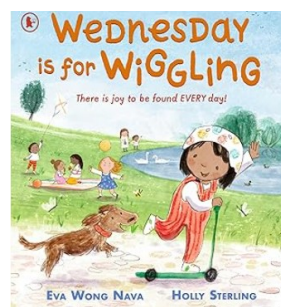
A unique book of guessing what is coming up using rhyming skills.



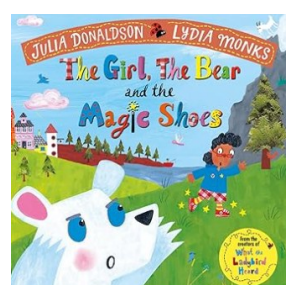
A little bit DIFFERENT



A fun, magical story about some very special shoes. It repeats so becomes easy to join in.



A book full of cute characters who learn that it is ok to be different.



An uplifting book about daily family life with opportunities to join in with sound effects throughout the story.



Our Curriculum - Our Goals and Milestones



Within our curriculum we have outlined some key goals and milestones that we feel are important for children to achieve through experiences during their time at Maidenhead Nursery School. These are tailored to suit the uniqueness of our community and Nursery setting. For more information about our curriculum go to our website by clicking on the sunshine.

Maidenhead Nursery School



Our three curricular goals for 2 year olds

Regulate

- Regulate emotions by finding ways to cope

Exchange

- Have a back and forth exchange with an adult while sharing a book

Manage

- Manage my body with increasing spatial awareness

Our ten curricular goals for 3 and 4 year olds

Regulate

- Learn how to self-regulate and become a confident learner

Talk

- Talk about and celebrate differences and similarities in our diverse world

Build

- Build and use an obstacle course

Create

- Create artwork using a range of stimuli

Notice

- Notice and talk about the natural world

Use

- Use a range of woodwork tools to construct

Spatial Reasoning

- Talk about where their body is in space and how this relates to objects and people around them

Make Up

- Make up a story

Write

- Write with a purpose in mind

Explore

- Explore numbers using a variety of resources