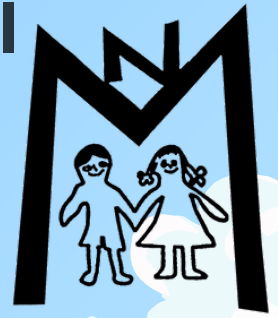


# Maidenhead Nursery School Newsletter

# May 2026

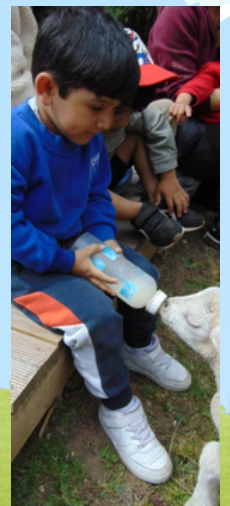


Farm day is always one of our favourites of the year and this year was just as full of awe and wonder as always.

The children took on the role of being farmers for the day; feeding, brushing and caring for the animals.

As always they had many questions and listened attentively as the adult farmers answered. Through these first-hand experiences of caring for animals and the nursery environment we hope children will go on to notice, value and care for the natural environment as they grow up.

**Bottle feeding the one-week old lambs will be a special moment we will all remember.**



# School Readiness

Some of our families will be starting to think about school readiness in preparation for September 2026.

'Starting Reception.co.uk' is a fantastic website newly created to provide advice and information for parents.

<https://startingreception.co.uk/useful-links/>



Sacha (our SENCO ) and Hannah will be running parent workshops focusing on preparing for school, in June. Please follow the link to sign up or book in with Jan or Karen in the office.

## Be ready for Reception



There's lots you can do at home to build you child's confidence and independence, helping them to feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.

This term we will be running workshops for parents and carers of children starting school in September 2026.

Tuesday 23rd June from 1.15pm-2.15pm

Monday 29th June 9.15am-10.15am.



Scan the QR Code to Book on to the workshops.

# Dates for the diary

**Thursday 21st May - Break up for half term holidays.**

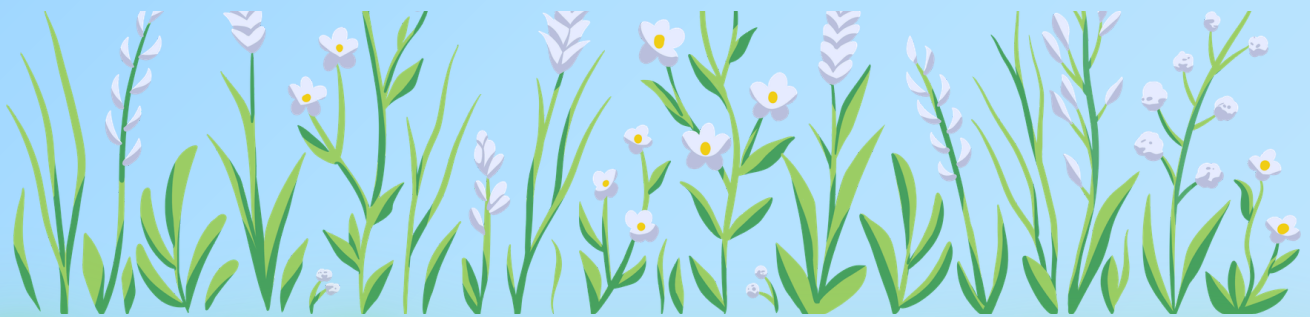
**Friday 22nd May - INSET day - Nursery closed**

**Monday 25th - Friday 29th May half term.** Nursery is closed this week.

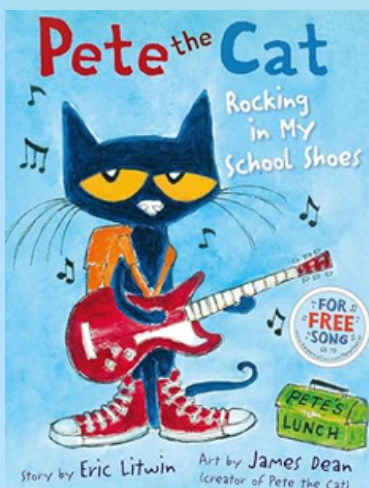
**Monday 1st June - Nursery open—Children return to Nursery**

**Friday 19th June - Reptiles visit**

**Tuesday 22nd July - Break up for summer holidays at 11.45am. Please note that there is no afternoon session.**



## Book Recommendation



We love the repetitive, fun and interactive aspect of the Pete the Cat books. When thinking about moving to Primary school in September, **Rocking in my school shoes**, is a wonderful book to start the conversation. Wherever Pete is and whatever happens Pete keeps singing his song because “its all good!”

# Borrow a balance bike

## Why we love balance bikes!

A balance bike is a small bike with no pedals that is pushed by the child's feet. Balance bikes are the ideal preparation for a normal pedal bike because it focusses on developing balance and coordination, making them agile and stable riders. A balance bike needs momentum or strength to stay upright and will fall over if not held onto. The children have been practising this skill that requires strength and confidence.



Some of our balance bikes and helmets are available to take home for the week. If you would like to borrow one just ask in the office or your child's key person and they can let you know when the next one will be available.

## Speech technique

### Model language - Repeat, Emphasise and Expand

Enhance your child's use of sentences by:

**Repeating** back the sentence if your child's grammar is incorrect, e.g. "I goed park Nanny", you say "Yes, you went to the park with Nanny."

**Emphasising** key words and new vocabulary, e.g. "I've got mouses at home", you say "you've got mice at home."

**Expanding** on what your child has said by repeating it and adding 1/2 words, e.g. if your child says "kick ball", you say "kicking a big ball."

# A GUIDE TO SCREEN TIME

UNDER  
5s

Discover tips, advice and screen swap ideas to help little brains develop healthy screen habits.



**The government has published new, evidence-informed guidance to help parents of under 5s navigate screen time, offering practical advice to support informed choices to help little brains develop healthy screen habits**

## **Key points from the guidance:**

- For 2-5 year olds, try to keep screen time to no more than an hour a day
- Choose slow-paced content with short stories and clear speech (a good example is [Musical Storyland](#) on iplayer)
- Fast-pace, over stimulating social media-style videos can affect how young children learn to concentrate.
- Try to keep mealtimes and bedrooms screen-free, swapping screens for reading, play and conversation.
- For more tips and advice and the full document of guidance please click on the picture at the top of the page.

# Summer 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.

