



AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER



MAIDENHEAD NURSERY SCHOOL



What a half term so far! It has been lovely to welcome new families to our Maidenhead Nursery School community. Each half term we will email a newsletter with information for parents / carers including reminders, dates for your diary and messages. You will also receive weekly updates called "Learning adventures". These will all be available on our website but check your emails regularly and please let us know if your email address changes.

We are so proud of how the children are settling at nursery. Within the next few weeks you will meet with your child's key person for their settling chat, if you haven't already.

STAFFING 2026-2027



- Sarah is the Executive Headteacher across all three Nursery Schools. She splits her time between Cookham Nursery School, Maidenhead Nursery School and The Lawns Nursery School.
- Hannah is the Deputy Headteacher and will be supporting all of the staff and children in the Nursery.
- Áine is the key person for Ladybird group.
- Kae is the key person for Grasshopper group.
- Justyna and Ulfat are the co-key people for Caterpillar group.
- Alisha supports those children.
- Rachael is the key person for Bumble bee group.
- Bev is the key person for Dragonfly group.
- Gemma and Sophina support those children.
- Jade, and Louise help to support all children.
- Sacha is SENco at Maidenhead Nursery School.
- Jan and Karen work in the school office.
- Louise and Nusrat support the children at lunch club.





WEEKLY UPDATE - LEARNING ADVENTURES

Each week you will be emailed a weekly update including the children's learning adventures for that week. Research shows the importance of developing communication skills and a wide vocabulary during these early years of childhood so we have based our weekly communication with you around our focus words for the week. Please find opportunities to use them at home too!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6th October - Susan Fenn (Nursery Health Visitor) at nursery at 8.45 drop off.

Friday 23rd October - Last day of term. Nursery closes for half term.

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - October half term holiday

Monday 2nd November - INSET day

Tuesday 3rd November - Term begins for children

EXTRA SESSIONS AVAILABLE NOW

Did you know we offer early drop and afternoon top up sessions?

8.15am - Early Drop = £5

2.45-3.30pm Afternoon top up = £7.50

There are only limited spaces so to guarantee availability book as soon as possible.

Speak to Karen or Jan in the office for more information.



REMINDERS



SAFETY AT THE GATES

A member of staff welcomes parents / carers at the beginning and end of the day and they can monitor the gate.

Please do not keep the gate open to let other parents in if a member of staff is not there. It may seem rude to close the gate behind you but we need everyone to buzz in so we know who has arrived.



PARKING

Thank you for parking so safely this term. We realise it can be difficult but it is important that we leave space on the pavements so pushchairs can fit through. Please do not park on the yellow zig zag lines or writing outside the nursery - it is illegal for safety reasons.



PARENT COMMUNICATION

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



The next page informs you how we support your child's learning.

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



Settling In

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 to support their settling. In their first few weeks your child's key person will meet with you and give you a photo sheet showing what they have been doing. This information will be used for initial starting points and informs our planning of the provision, curriculum and environment.

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.



Emails

A weekly update entitled 'Learning Adventures' is emailed each week. It highlights our learning around our key words of the week. We also share ideas for how you can support your child at home to complement the learning at school. Our termly newsletters will be emailed and show you a snap shot of the learning alongside other important information. These are both available on our website.



Learning Journey Folder

Your child's folder will illustrate their learning journey through the year. The adults will add photos of special events, wow moments and termly photo sheets from your progress discussions.



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 as we acknowledge this is just as important as their time at nursery.

Curriculum

Our teams 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 both 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.



Environment

Our learning environment 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.



End of year leavers chat

At the end of the year, parents and key people meet to celebrate your child's progress and development.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH MATHS AT HOME

We are passionate about early maths development at Maidenhead Nursery School and have all been fascinated during training to find out simple ways to support children's mental maths skills. These skills will lay the foundations to support their mathematical development through their education.

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

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

To start with, we work on subitising up to 3. "We don't count, we see the amount."

We talk about what is 2 and not 2



We ask the children "What do you see?" instead of "how many?"

At home: When you are out about, playing at home or looking at books, ask "what do you see? Maths starts with noticing - and this is also a great way for children to build their mathematical vocabulary. Acknowledge what they notice and comment on what you notice. "I notice 2 conkers. One and another one." It may be hard initially but try to avoid asking how many? This has a definite answer and stops the conversation - whereas "what do you see?" can open up a conversation.

BUILDING UPDATE

We are very excited to see how the new building extension is taking shape. Our new reception welcome area was ready for our return in September which has made a huge difference to the office team. This new entrance area provides a welcoming space for visitors to wait and for parents to meet the staff and give messages too.

The nursery is operating in one area of the building whilst the builders are busy working on the other half. The roof is now complete and the windows will be in soon which means the internal areas can now be completed as we work towards the handover of the building during mid November.

The new area of the nursery will be used for our youngest children to play and learn. This area will provide them with their own entrance, classroom and toilets. We also have a new staff kitchen alongside a sensory room and small library area. It is amazing for the local community to have such a new space built for the next generation of children. We are very lucky as a Maintained Nursery School that we have been partially funded to build this from the Department of Education and the local authority.

We can't wait to show the children and parents the new spaces.