

Nursery Weekly News

9.9.24



A very warm welcome to all our new families. We hope you all had a good Summer. The visit before the summer break seemed a long time ago on Tuesday, so last week was very much about familiarising the children with us, each other, and the nursery. Although it was a four-day week, we appreciate it was probably a long week for some of the children as they adjust to a new routine. For some it might be that after lots of time at home with parents or family coming to nursery everyday might be quite an adjustment. Although a few started to tire towards the end of the week and a couple found it a bit hard to say goodbye in the mornings, I can honestly say that we were thrilled with how quickly the children settled and how calm they were. They have shown a great level of independence and have started sharing their thoughts and interests with us, giving us ideas from which to build teaching and learning.

As I said at the induction meeting the children are welcome to attend their full sessions if they are managing well, or you are welcome to drop some sessions if needed as they build up stamina. Please let me know what you feel would work best for your child if you don't think they are ready to attend all their sessions.

Thank you for getting the uniform for the children. We do have second-hand available uniform including polo shirts and jumpers. Some children prefer to wear a long sleeve navy t-shirt under the polo shirt as the weather gets colder rather than the jumper as some find it a bit restrictive. We also have some second-hand fleeces available if you think that is something your child might like as the weather gets colder.

The purpose of this weekly newsletter is to help us share child-related information and our educational aims with you. We recognise parents as children's first and most enduring educators, and we hope the newsletter is another way in which we can offer support. We are keen to involve parents in their child's learning. We spend lots of time this term observing and getting to know the children; what they enjoy and are interested in. We invite you to share any ideas you may have about activities that you think your child might enjoy or benefit from. We have already picked up some information from the All About Me information; thank you for completing those. Please feel free to use the nursery email address nursery@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk if there is any additional or new information you feel we should know, or you need to contact us about anything.

Through our provision we aim to stimulate the children's interest and curiosity and then follow their lead. We have a clear plan of where we need to be taking the children's learning and development through the curriculum we provide. Development Matters is the guidance that helps support the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and helps us design our curriculum. We hope through sharing information through this newsletter each week we will help you become familiar with the content of all the areas of our curriculum, and all areas of development throughout the EYFS.

Each week we will share a little of what children have been learning and enjoying. We hope this will give you expectations of the kinds of things nursery aged children may be learning to do. Some weeks we will give extra information about areas of the curriculum, child development, or ideas for activities to try at home. Please let us know if there is something you would like us to cover or any ideas you have.

We are looking forward to working with you and your children. Our aim is to always be helpful and approachable, so please do let us know if you have anything that you would like to pass on or any questions.

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy



Autumn Term in Nursery



The first term in Nursery is all about settling the children; helping them feel safe and happy in the nursery environment. During this term we aim to help increase children's independence in selecting and carrying out activities. We will be focusing on developing relationships and reflecting on our experiences to help promote communication and language.

Through a very broad overarching theme '*This is Me!*' we want to really get to know the children and for them to feel increasingly able to talk freely about their home and community and gain a sense of personal identity.

As much as possible will be using the children's natural desire to learn, explore and question in our teaching. Through offering core provisions and an environment that enables this activity we will capture moments of engagement for the children. We will observe and listen closely to the children to pick up on the things, places and people that spark their interest. We use open ended questions to promote deeper thinking. We also praise and reinforce positive learning experiences.

We use a core set of books and stories throughout the year, for the children to become familiar with. We will publish these in further newsletters so you can support learning at home. We will also be acknowledging 'special days' and 'special people,' as celebrated events from a variety of faiths and cultures as they occur.

Activities covering all areas of the Early Years Curriculum, will take place both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor learning is an important part of children's learning and development, and the children will be free to use the outdoor area daily. The children can move between being indoors and outdoors as they choose. Therefore, we ask that the children are sent in with clothing appropriate to the English weather! Thank you if you have already sent in spare clothes and wellies. If your child has a bag they love and don't want to leave it on their peg, feel free to send in a less exciting carrier bag with spare clothes in.

Last week and this week we are focusing on: -

Nursery routines (Hello time/ Registering/ Snack time/ Lunchtime/ Goodbye time), Finding where things are, Learning each other's names and getting to know each other, Recognising our own names in writing, Reading and discussing stories, Exploring paint & tools for mark making, Exploring indoor and outdoor activities, Number rhymes & simple counting games, Learning to role-play in the home corner and mud kitchen, Personal hygiene and handwashing and getting our wellies on and off.

Birthdays

In the coming weeks we will start to learn about how old we are and when our birthdays are. You may want to start to talk about this with your child, so they are more confident to contribute to activities. As we move through the year, we will obviously start to celebrate the children's birthdays. Parents who have older children who have been through nursery will remember as we are a healthy school some parents bring in a healthy fruit snack to share, something we do not have often such as strawberries or their child's favourite fruit to celebrate. Other parents who feel they would like to donate something to mark the occasion have donated a book to the class, to share and enjoy. The book is labelled with a special birthday inscription for the child. Please do not feel either of these are necessary. We also mark the occasion by singing, giving birthday stickers, and having a dip in the 'Birthday Box' for a small gift.

Safety Notice

Please be aware that we are a **nut free** school, and we do have children in the class with nut allergies. Please ensure that children's lunchboxes are completely nut free including any bars, thank you for help with this.

Grapes and cherry tomatoes are the third most common cause of death in under-fives who die in food related choking incidents. Because of their softness and shape, whole grapes and cherry tomatoes or similar sized fruit can block the small, tight airway of a young child. Sadly, last year a 10-year-old child in Oxfordshire died from choking on several cherry tomatoes. Doctors recommend that children are served 'long and thin' batons of food. Thank you for your help with this.

