

Mapledean Nursery School News

Summer Term
1st Half



April
2026

Hello - and Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome to children and families new to nursery this term who we hope you have a wonderful time with us at Mapledean Nursery School. We know it takes a little while to settle in to a new place and get to understand the 'rules' and routines but if you have any questions then please ask a member of staff or call in to the office where we will be only too happy to help you. Please speak to your child's key person to find out how your child is settling in.



Summer term begins....leaving a busy spring term behind.

I am sure, like us, you can hardly believe we are now entering the last phase of the academic year. The time has simply flown by in our busy nursery school – with so many exciting events taking place and special highlights to remember! Last term we enjoyed Communication Week which many of you became involved in by attending workshops and joining in with your child's language learning in so many fun ways. Our children enjoyed 'Funny Friday' – our Comic Relief Red Nose Charity event, and there was great excitement of course when our Living Eggs spent two weeks at our school, during which time we saw first hand the transformation of our eggs into fluffy energetic little chicks. We are delighted to tell you that our young chickens have now gone to live the rest of their lives on Teddie's Grandad: Mark's farm.



Other highlights included our lovely 'Tea and Treats' afternoon for our hardworking mums, the opening of our much-anticipated new adventure playground which has caused great excitement among our children – and not forgetting our Easter Egg-stravaganza with bouncy castle and a visit from the 'Easter Bunny' on the last day of term 😊

Lots more learning ahead!



This half-term we are studying insects, lifecycles and growing as part of our **Garden Stories** theme in the Oaks classroom, while younger children in the Acorns class enjoy stories and activities relating to their '**in the Garden**' topic. You can find out more about the different aspects of each planned learning topic captured in our half-term overviews at the end of this letter. Remember to look out for our '**Tiger Talk**' **Newsletter**, which is designed to give you plenty to talk about and share with your child relating to their nursery experiences. This is sent from our office to your inbox each week, while our **Tiny Tiger Talk Newsletter** specifically for under 3s is sent to our Acorns Class families. Remember to check in on **Class Dojo** to see some great learning in action week-on-week – **and don't forget to post details and pictures of the amazing learning you see happening at home!**

Plant and Share Month



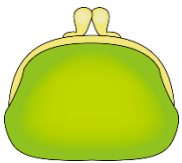
It's helpful that our garden topic coincides with national ['Plant and Share Month'](#). During this time communities are encouraged to involve their families in growing food which can be shared with neighbours and friends. In our nursery garden, we are going to be busy planting vegetables and fruit which the children will be helping to grow. Our boys and girls enjoy harvesting these when the time comes – helping to prepare them for cooking and eating at snack time with their friends! Find out some great ideas about how you can get involved in the [Plant and Share Month Toolkit](#).

Clear out clothing sale

We are now receiving donations of children's clothing in time for our sale on **Friday 24th April**. Please drop off any items in clean re-wearable condition to the school office as soon as possible. We are particularly keen to receive items of local school uniform – especially Chepping View Primary Academy items. Please ask family and friends who have older children to help our cause too! Money raised supports summer term activities for children in our nursery.



School Fund



As a new term begins we ask all parents to kindly consider making a donation of **£15** towards to our School Fund. This money is used to purchase items such as fruit, snacks, plants, play dough and cooking ingredients for the children. Your voluntary contributions are much appreciated and allow children to have better learning opportunities. If you are unable to make a monetary donation, we're always happy to receive items such as: tissues, plain flour and table salt (for playdough) and wet wipes. Thank you in advance for your contributions. Please use the envelope attached and hand to a member of staff.

“Look what I can do!”

It is vital to a **child's well-being and self-esteem** that they are encouraged to do an increasing number of things by themselves. This boosts their self-confidence and allows children to develop an increasing range of skills. Simple things like being able to put their coat and shoes on and off with little or no assistance helps children to feel they can successfully take on other challenges too! While it is always a pleasure to welcome families in to the nursery, we would politely ask that you **please avoid lingering in the cloakroom or gate area if your child is settled and happy to come in**. This can often prolong your child's dependency on you and may even cause undue distress. Speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns about your child's ability to settle and we will gladly provide additional support and advice to help you.



Healthy School and Birthday Treats



This is also a gentle reminder that as a **Healthy School** we discourage parents from gifting sweets or cakes to the nursery to celebrate their child's birthday. Healthy treats like melon, bread-sticks, strawberries, blueberries or grapes, however, are always welcome as an alternative. If your child stays with us for a full day, please provide a **healthy and nutritious packed lunch**, with an ice pack

inside if possible now that the weather is getting warmer. We kindly ask that parents of part-time children do not send snack boxes, flavoured drinks or food items to Nursery with their child. We provide a healthy snack and a choice of water or milk during each session.

Help - Cloakroom Chaos!

We are sorry to keep pestering, but can we ask that **you please write your child's name on items of clothing and water bottles sent in to Nursery**. This makes it much easier to return items that get left behind, and avoids confusion if another child has a similar item. Please can you also write your child's name on packed lunch boxes, drinks bottles – and any other containers that belong to your child.



'Walk to Nursery Week'

A reminder about **Walk and Talk on your Way to Nursery Week** which takes place during the **week commencing 18th May**. We would encourage you to leave the car and buggies at home, or park a few streets away, and walk with your children to Nursery. It has an 'Elmer' theme this year and there will be stickers and charts to record all our children's efforts! Walking brings so many benefits which combine to make a happy, healthy child – and with reduced car use, it helps the environment too! [Find out why walking to school is a good for your child and family](#)



Off to School!

We understand that parents of children transferring to school in the autumn will have recently been allocated a school place for the September 2026 start. Please remember that to secure your child's place you must respond to the offer either electronically or in writing. We hope you have been fortunate enough to have been offered the school of your choice and would ask, **if you have not already done so, we would ask you to kindly inform us of the school place you have been successful in securing**. This enables us to get off to an early start in making the necessary transfer arrangements for your child into your designated school.



Healthy Start – Important News about Help for Families



We are delighted to be able to tell you about [Healthy Start - a NHS food assistance programme for low-income households](#). It provides financial support to families and pregnant women to buy fruit, vegetables, pulses (such as dried or tinned beans, peas and lentils as well as milk and infant formula. Healthy Start is available to, people who are 10+ weeks pregnant, families with a child aged 4 and under, who qualify for certain benefits or are under the age of 18 and not receiving other

benefits. Pregnant people receive £4.65 per week, which increases to £9.30 each week from birth to 1 years old. Parents receive £4.65 per child aged between 1 and 4 years old. We want to ensure that our parents and families are aware of the scheme and can benefit from it should they need this additional support.

Meet the 'Transition Tigers' Team



On Friday 15th May at 2.30pm we will be holding a meeting for parents of children who are moving on to primary school in September. This will take place in **Mapledean Family Centre Plus**, where there will be a short presentation, tea, coffee, biscuits and the opportunity to ask questions about our **Transition Tigers** programme which helps ensure that our children enjoy a happy and seamless transfer into primary school. It is very important that you make every effort to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

'Healthy Body – Happy Me' Campaign



We would like to share with you some excellent resources produced by the National Day Nurseries Association designed to promote better health among under 5s. This year's theme which has run throughout March was entitled '[Healthy Heroes](#)' and you can find excellent resources and activity

sheets produced to promote childhood wellness through guidance and advice: [Munching Monday, Toothtastic Tuesday, Workout Wednesday, Thriving Thursday and Five-a day-Friday.](#)

'Drop-in at Drop off!' Every Tuesday 9.15 – 9.45 am

We hope to see more of you at our '**Tea-Time Tuesdays**' when we hand over our nursery staffroom for a while! You are welcome to pop in and stay to have a well-deserved cuppa and a chance to meet-up with other nursery parents. It's a great way to get to know other families whose children attend our nursery, and as staff members will be popping in and out from time to time, we can get to know you a little better in more relaxed surroundings. We hope you won't mind popping a few coins in the tin occasionally to help us top up the tea and coffee supplies, but for now – it's all on us and we hope you enjoy. Afternoon parents – you are equally welcome to pop in if you can!



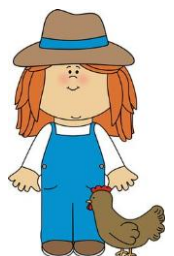
New Children Parent Consultation Sessions: Wednesday 6th May



We look forward to welcoming families of children who have now moved into the Oaks and Acorns classes to an informal meeting to discuss their child's progress to date. Arrangements will be made over the coming weeks to enable you to book a suitable appointment time to meet with your child's key person. These sessions will take place on **Wednesday 6th May between 3.00 and 4.00 pm.**

Special Garden Visitors Coming Soon!

We have been fortunate to secure a booking for Basil and Friends Mobile Farm to visit our nursery on the last day of this half term. This annual event at Mapledean Nursery is always hugely popular with children, staff and families alike! We kindly ask for a voluntary contribution of **£2 per child** to cover the cost of this wonderful educational



and fun visit which helps children to make an essential connection with the natural world in a stimulating, safe and supervised environment. Our children really enjoy and benefit from the opportunity to touch, see and learn about each animal group and look forward to this, one of the highlights of the nursery year!

Nursery Garden Party and Family Picnic. Friday 22nd May

Following the success of last year's family event, we are delighted to be planning another nursery garden party and picnic for parents and children to enjoy. This will take place in our nursery playground and gardens, weather permitting on



the last day of term when you will also be able to meet the animals visiting from Basil's Farm! On the day we ask you to bring along suitable picnic food and refreshments for your family group, together with a blanket or groundsheet to be placed as seating on the grass or hard surface. What a wonderful way to end our 'Garden Stories' and 'In the Garden' topic this term!



....and finally,

We look forward to another fun filled term ahead, with our Nursery now at capacity and bustling with lots of busy children. Please understand that our staff are extremely busy too and they may not always have the time you need to engage in a discussion about your child – particularly during handover periods where the safe transfer of children must remain our first priority. We are however always available to meet with you by arrangement should you wish to have a more detailed chat. Just pop into the office or telephone Mrs Thomas or Mrs Etienne who will be happy to set up an appointment for you.

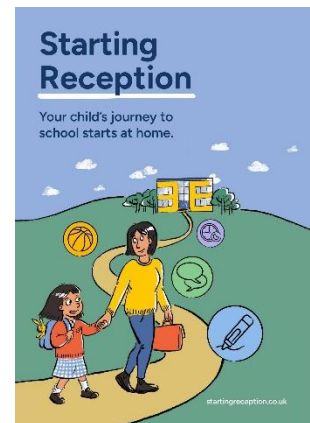
Happy Summer Term!

With my very best wishes,

Linda Lyons,

**Headteacher,
Mapledean Nursery School**

Useful links for Parents – just a hover and a click away!



'Garden Visitors'

'Garden Visitors'

In the Garden

In the Garden

Garden
/

Half-term Holiday: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May