

Mapledean Nursery School News

Spring Term
2nd Half



February
2026

Spring has just about Sprung!

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable half-term break. As I write this newsletter, we are thankfully all beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel after all the dark months of winter. For those families who joined us at the beginning of the year, we hope you already feel part of the Mapledean Nursery Family and that your little one has settled in well with us at our wonderful nursery school. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's time with us, please never hesitate to speak with us so we can help.



Lots of Learning

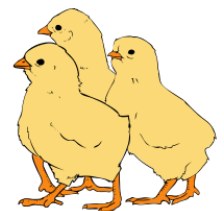


This half-term in the Oaks Class, within our learning topic **Out and About with Maisy Mouse** we will be exploring the various ways we can take care of ourselves and others. We will also be meeting lots of grown-ups through visits and stories whose job it is to look after people or animals.

The Acorns class children will enjoy a range of Farmyard Friends stories linked to a range of fun learning activities designed to meet their individual developmental needs and interests. You can find out more about the different aspects of our planned topics in our **Nursery Calendar** half-term overview which is captured at the end of this newsletter. Watch out too for our **'Tiger Talk' Newsletter**, which is designed to give you an insight into your child's nursery experiences week-on-week. This bulletin gives you plenty to talk about and share with your child and is sent directly to your inbox every Friday. Remember to check in on **Class Dojo** to see some great learning in action across each term – and don't forget to post details and pictures of the amazing learning you see happening at home with your child.

Some very special little visitors!

To round off our current learning topic in the Oaks and Acorns Class, we look forward to a very exciting end to our spring term! As we do every year at this time, we will be taking delivery of ten little chicks who will be delivered as eggs during the second last week of term. Our children will delight in watching the eggs successfully hatch in the incubator and then helping to take care of the little chicks as they quickly grow and change over the following ten days. We purchased the entire kit from a company called **'Living Eggs'** who supply us with everything we need to hatch the eggs and look after the chicks in their first two weeks of life. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for our children and we are always sad to say 'goodbye' to our happy little brood when they are collected at the end of term to live out the rest of their lives on local farms or allotments.



Toilet Training Trouble?

We are aware that many families are busy working hard to potty-train their children, with the important prospect of school looming for many parents in September. Using the toilet is a skill to be

learned just like any other and requires patience and lots of practice! As always, our staff are eager and ready to support your toilet training efforts here in Nursery School. Please feel free to share your strategies, struggles and success stories with your child's key person so that together we can achieve success! Here are some links to websites you may find helpful, offering advice and top tips on a range of early toileting matters. Good luck!



[The Potty Training Guide - Starting Reception](#)

[Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](#)

[Advice for children with constipation - ERIC](#)

[Toilet training made easy: A parent's step-by-step guide | Health for Under5s](#)

New! Hotline to Health Advice for Parents of Young Children

Did you know Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust runs a confidential secure **text messaging service for parents** of children aged 0-5 years called **ChatHealth**. The service

operates **Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm**, excluding bank holidays. All texts will be responded to by a health visitor within 24 hours. Outside of the service working hours, you'll receive a message back to inform you that your text will be responded to once the service reopens. **Just send a text to Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust on 07312277363**



A Spot of Bother: Measles Information



We have been asked to make all parents aware that there are a growing number of measles cases currently across Buckinghamshire. Measles is an infectious disease which spreads very easily and can cause serious illness, particularly in babies, pregnant women and people whose immune system is not working normally. The best way to prevent measles is through vaccination. If left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a

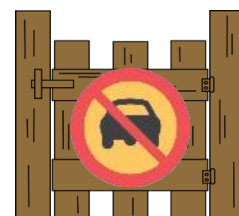
school can catch the disease if just one child is infectious. The most common symptoms of measles are: a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, a cough, red, sore, watery eyes, spots in the mouth and a rash on the face and body. For more information about what to look out for please visit the [NHS Measles webpage](#). Please contact your GP if you think that you or your child may have measles or if you wish to have your child vaccinated.



School car parking matters

Our secure car park is for use by staff, registered Blue-Badge holders and individuals with a pre-booked appointment at the Nursery or Family Centre. This system was implemented with the safety of children and other pedestrians in mind. Please do not access the driveway leading off Cressex Road or park anywhere on the school grounds of Chepping View Primary Academy. Can we also politely remind parents that children

should be carefully supervised when entering and leaving the nursery grounds. It is unsafe for children to be using scooters in the car park or to be allowed to run around freely in this area. Please encourage your child to hold hands with you until they are safely handed over to a member of staff - and do remind your little one not to run ahead of you when they have been collected at the end of the session.

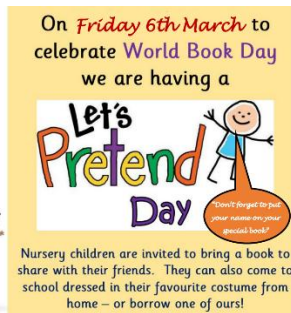


A further reminder about timings!

It is important that all children arrive on time for Nursery as it is very unsettling for your child to enter the classroom after the session has started and disrupts the learning for the rest of the class. Currently, too many of our children are arriving halfway through the adult-directed teaching session and missing out on vital aspects of learning. We do understand that from time to time things get in the way of our plans, but please make every effort to bring your child on time each day.



World Book Event – 'Let's Pretend' Day



It's World Book Day on Thursday 5th March but we are holding our special 'Let's Pretend Day' on **Friday 6th March** when children are invited to bring along their favourite book to share with nursery friends – and dressed in their favourite costume if they wish. Please don't go to the expense of buying story-book character outfits – anything goes so long as it doesn't stop energetic play indoors and out! We have plenty of costumes children can borrow if they need to, and every child will receive a book and token to bring home.

Communication Week' 2nd – 6th March 2026

Join us in Nursery for various fun language boosting activities – and discover lots of further information about [Communication Week - including top tips for sharing and enjoying books with your child.](#) together with news about events happening near you!

[Early Years Communication Week 2026 | Family Information Service](#)



Our Mothers' Day Surprise – 'Tea and Treats Tuesday'



Just a little note to say we are planning something special on **Tuesday 17th March** for our hard-working Oaks class mummies to thank you for all the love, support and care you give to your little ones all year round. Please save this afternoon for tea, cakes and surprises. Acorns mums we haven't forgotten you – your little ones have something nice planned for you too 😊



Come to a 'Cuppa and Catch-up' Every Tuesday 9.00 – 9.30 am

We are delighted to be able to offer parents the opportunity to pop into our staffroom and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee after morning drop off. Small voluntary contributions towards refreshments and biscuit supplies will be welcomed but are not compulsory. The important thing is that our families enjoy this facility and use it to connect with others in our school community. Please come along and make some new friends, meet other people who work in and around the nursery, and find out what support is available to families locally from [Buckinghamshire Family Support](#)



Food: Find out about Fads and Facts



Through our carefully chosen books and stories we share with children daily, we make the most of every opportunity to talk to children about the importance of eating and drinking the right things to keep our bodies healthy. Please consider this when choosing food items for packed lunches and keep sugary, salty and fatty foods to a minimum. We know that this can be difficult where there are picky eaters in the family, but help is at hand! **Please click on the links to these helpful blogs:**

[Problem Feeding and Sensory Challenges Webinar Part one:](#)

[Problem Feeding and Sensory Challenges Webinar Part two:](#)

[Problem Feeding and Sensory Challenges Webinar Part three:](#)

Can we ask that packed lunch boxes are properly cleaned between uses to keep them germ-free, remember to prepare grapes by cutting them length-ways to reduce choking risks and lastly, please **don't forget we are a nut-free school.**

'Funny Friday' 20th March. Comic Relief Appeal.

Once again, this year, we will be raising money for the Comic Relief charity. This year, children's favourite Hey Duggee character will be leading our fun-filled Friday at Nursery. We invite our children to come to Nursery wearing a funny hat, red nose or headband – or with a joke they can share with their friends in class. We ask you please to kindly support this cause as it helps to improve the lives of vulnerable children in both this country and overseas. Watch out for our posters as they pop up around the Nursery. You can use the QR code to donate online.



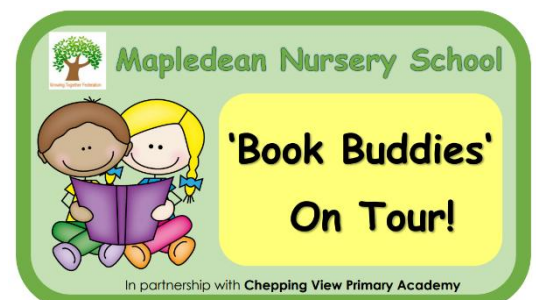
Parent Consultation Sessions



Following the meetings for parents of children new to the setting or who moved up from the Acorns last half-term, we will shortly be inviting all parents to book an appointment with their child's Key Person to review their progress. These will be held on **Tuesday 24th** and **Wednesday 25th March** with slots available between **3.30 pm** and **5.00 pm**. As you know, we are happy to arrange for you to discuss your child's learning experience with us at other times too. We value this important sharing of each parent's input, thoughts and unique understanding of their little learners so that we can give each child everything they need to make progress and get the very best out of their precious time at nursery school

Here Come the 'Book Buddies'!

At Mapledean nursery we are always seeking exciting ways to support children's developing language and literacy skills. Developing an early love of books and stories in children is proven to have significant and lasting impact on their later learning. 'Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns' *National Literacy Trust*



We are delighted therefore to share with you the news that this half-term sees us revisit a successful initiative we ran last year with Chepping View Primary Academy, designed to promote books and positive attitudes to reading with young children. Our **'Book Buddies'** project involves us taking small groups of children in turn next door to Chepping View Primary Academy to enjoy hearing a story read by selected Year 5 and 6 pupils. Our children take a favourite story from nursery in their special book bag to share and then enjoy a second book selected from the school library. Each session will last approximately 20 mins and children will be accompanied by a member of nursery staff throughout. **Please do let us know if you do not want your child to take part in these visits**

Easter 'Egg-stravaganza'

We are celebrating the end of the spring term on **Friday 27th March** with a special morning of Easter-themed fun at nursery! We will have our inflatable Bunny-Bounce castle up for children to enjoy, egg-hunts with prizes and an indoor cinema where we will be showing a seasonal children's film. Please note that our **school closes for the Easter holidays at 12.00 pm** to allow for routine cleaning and maintenance. Afternoon children are therefore welcome to join their morning friends on that day.



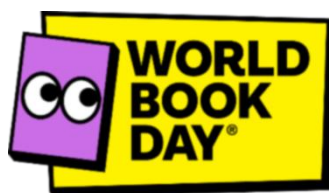
And finally,

Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you need advice or have any questions about your child's nursery experience. We are always ready to work together with you to ensure your child's learning time with us is one which they will remember with happiness in the years that lie ahead.

With best wishes,

Linda Lyons, Head-teacher, Mapledean Nursery School

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



Nursery Oaks Calendar

Spring Term 2: 2025-2026



Out and about with Maisy Mouse



Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 23 rd Feb		Maisy Gets a Pet Lucy Cousins	We will be talking about:		Looking after our Pets		
							'Furry Friday'
2 2 nd March		Maisy Goes to the Library Lucy Cousins	We will be talking about		Looking after our book		
				'Communications Week'		'Book Buddies' go on Tour!	Bring-a-Book to Nursery Day
3 9 th March		Maisy Goes Shopping Lucy Cousins	We will be talking about		Looking after our bodies –healthy choices		
4 16 th March		Maisy Goes to the Dentist Lucy Cousins	We will be talking about		Looking after our teeth		
			Living Eggs arrive	Mums' Tea and Treats	Nutrition and Hydration Week		Red Nose Day 'Funny Friday'
5 23 rd March		Maisy Goes to the Farm Lucy Cousins	We will be talking about		Looking after farm animals		
				Progress Review Meetings			Easter Fun Day

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026

Nursery Calendar Spring Term 2

Nursery Acorns Calendar

Spring Term 2: 2025-2026



Farmyard Mummies and Babies



Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 23 rd Feb		Portly Pig Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about:		Pigs and Piglets		
2 2 nd March		Gobbly Goat Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about		Goats and Kids		
				'Communications Week'			Bring-a-Book to Nursery Day
3 9 th March		Cuddly Cow Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about		Cows and Calves		
4 16 th March		Higgly Hen Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about		Hens and Chicks		
			Living Eggs arrive	Mummy treat Tuesday	Nutrition and Hydration Week		Red Nose Day 'Funny Friday'
5 23 rd March		"Guess how much I love you" Sam McBratney	We will be talking about		Rabbits and Kits		
				Progress Review Meetings			Easter Fun Day

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