

Mapledean Nursery School News

Spring Term
1st Half



January
2026

Happy New Year!



Welcome back to our nursery children and their families. We hope you had an enjoyable time together over the Christmas holiday period, and we wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026. On behalf of our staff team, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to those families who have joined our school this half-term. We know that your child will have a wonderful time learning with us, and that you will soon feel part of the Mapledean Family. If you have any queries or concerns about settling your child, please don't hesitate to ask any member of staff.

Christmas Fun

It already feels like a very long time ago, but we look back with lots of smiles at the excitement and fun our children had at Christmas in Nursery. Christmas crafts, our show: 'The Sleepy Princess and her Christmas Dream' and of course our Christmas Party with a surprise visit from Santa Claus! We hope you enjoyed seeing the video and pictures of these special events on Class Dojo. Thank you for your kind gifts and thoughtful cards to staff. Also, because of your support, and the much-appreciated hard work of Annabel's parents in getting everything shiny and ready, **our Toys and Tinsel sale raised an amazing £155 for our school Play Club account.**



Starting Reception Class in September 2026



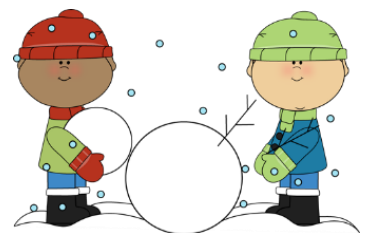
This is an important but timely reminder that if your child was born between the 1st of September 2021 and 31st of August 2022 you must urgently register interest in a school place ready for a September 2026 start. The online application process is simple to use, safe and secure.

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/ **Please Note:**

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MIDNIGHT ON 15TH JANUARY 2026

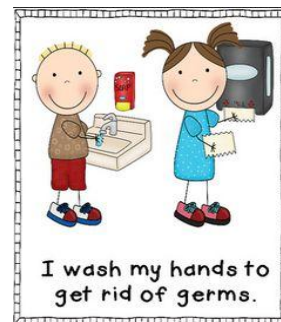
Winter Woes

During winter months is not uncommon for young children to suffer from a range of seasonal illnesses. While some of these present mild symptoms, a recent rise in respiratory infections are having a more serious impact on young children's health. Please read this important information on how to recognise key symptoms and protect your child into the future on the [NHS Healthier Together website](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-).



It can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school or nursery if they're unwell. There are, however, some helpful government guidelines <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too->

[ill-for-school/](#) advising when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school office on the first day of illness to let us know the reason why. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head-lice, please do let a member of staff know so we can apply measures to reduce the spread of infection to other children. Meanwhile, in school, we continue to encourage simple preventative measures such as supervised handwashing, careful disposal of soiled tissues and regular cleaning of toys to help reduce the spread of childhood infections. We employ these simple, but effective hygienic practices because we want to see our boys and girls here every day, fit and well enough to enjoy all the learning fun we have to offer! [A germ's Journey: Hints and Tips](#)



Give your child's lunch-box a lift!



...and talking of germs, did you know that your child's lunch box is a potential breeding ground for harmful bacteria which can cause stomach upsets and diarrhoea. In fact, a recent study has shown that almost three-quarters (73%) of fabric lunch boxes are likely to harbour high counts of these nasty germs. It also found that if lunch boxes aren't cleaned properly and regularly, they can become a breeding ground for [mould](#). This is also often found in the straws and mouthpieces of drinking flasks so it's worth inspecting these and cleaning them regularly. For tips and advice on how to keep your child's lunchbox and water bottles fresh and bacteria-free please visit: [How to clean your child's lunchbox](#)

'Wrap up Warm'!

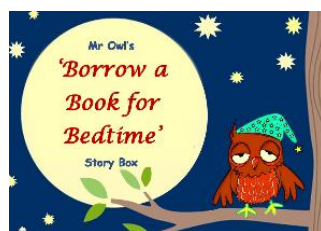


With the prospect of chillier weather arriving in the early months of the new year we ask you to provide your little one with extra layers of clothing as well as a warm hat, scarf, and gloves when they come to nursery each day. This ensures that they can stay toasty as they participate in all the learning fun we provide for them out of doors on cold days. **Please don't forget to write names on each item of clothing as well as other personal**

items so nothing gets lost! Should we need to close the nursery due to bad weather, every effort will be made to inform you as early in the day as possible via text message. We will also advertise the closure on the Buckinghamshire Council website. Log on to buckscc.gov.uk and click on 'schools' and 'school closures.'

Calling new parents: "Have you checked out our 'Talking Zone'?"

We hope you enjoy visiting **'The Talking Zone'** situated in our school reception. This specially designed parents' welcome area contains all kinds of useful information and resources to help



families **better understand the fascinating way young children develop their communication skills.** There are links to many useful websites and documents too – as well plenty of Top Tips on how to support this vital learning at home. We are delighted to offer families the use of our

small lending library where Mr Owl invites parents and children to 'Borrow a Book for Bedtime'. don't forget to pop a note in the **'Chatterbox'** too from time to time. We love to hear about some of the wonderful, often funny, or amazing things your young child says at home.



School Fund



We know money continues to be tight for families now, but we hope you don't mind us making a small request. **The School Fund** supports the purchase of additional resources to enhance children's play and learning. It also helps us to provide a healthy snack of fresh fruit or vegetables, a cracker or breadstick and a drink of milk option for our children. **We kindly ask parents to contribute £15 each term, if they can**, to help us meet these additional costs (see return envelope attached). If you would prefer, we

always welcome donations of tissues, baby oil, plain flour & salt (for making playdough), wet wipes etc. Thank you.

"Happy Birthday to You!"

Birthdays are very special times – and at Mapledean Nursery we like to celebrate them in style! Our friends sing us a song, we get to wear a fancy hat, blow candles out on a pretend cake – and of course, choose a present from the novelty assortment inside the 'Birthday Tub'. We know that many of our parents would wish to provide sweets or cakes for their child's nursery friends to share on their special day. As we are committed to promoting healthy eating and good dental health in our Nursery school, we kindly ask that you provide if you wish a treat of berries or breadsticks instead. An occasional sweet treat is lovely, but you can imagine how much sugar we would consume celebrating every child's birthday over the year! We do hope that you will support us with these initiatives and know that we are acting as always in the best interests of all children.



Great News for Working Parents!



Did you know that across the country, thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs? [The Best Start in Life](#) website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so that parents can get the help that best fits their family needs. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare or Universal Credit

Childcare – and more help is on the way! Find out more about the expanded offer to families including information about Wraparound care on the [Best Start in Life](#) website

IMPORTANT - Nut Allergy Alert!



We have been asked to bring to your urgent attention the fact that we have children new to the setting who have a severe nut allergy. **Please remember not to send any food containing nuts.** Many foods have traces of nuts in them without us realising so we would encourage you to read the labels carefully on all packed lunch items before sending them in to school.

Do remember to keep us up to date with any food allergies or intolerances should they develop in your child. It is important that we have this information recorded so we can share it with all staff. We would also ask that if your child stays all day at Nursery, you provide food which is as healthy and nutritious as possible. For some tips on how to pack a fun and healthy lunch box you'll find some great ideas on: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration> or you can check out our Nursery website under the tab marked [Daily Routine](#). [Get food safety advice for under 5s here](#)

Lateness and Attendance

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. It also disrupts the learning for the rest of the class. Also, we'd like to remind our families that **we expect our children to attend Nursery for every session that they are registered for.** This provides them with the very best learning opportunities on offer - enabling children to settle quickly, grow in confidence and develop their skills.



Introducing 'The Parent's Portal'

Buckinghamshire Council have partnered with specialist local charity **Autism Early Support** to offer parents unlimited access to a **FREE online tool** which provides early help, guidance and access to an online support community. This self-guided learning tool is designed for parents of children aged 2-17 years who have autistic children or have noticed differences in their child and would like to find out more about autism or ADHD. [Register here to find out more](#)



The Parent's Portal
by Autism Early Support

Keeping it Personal!



Please can we ask that **ALL** items of clothing, bags, lunch boxes and bottles are clearly named. The staff are amazingly talented, but it's very hard to remember every item that belongs to each child – and it makes handover a stressful time for both staff and parents when personal items cannot be easily found or have been mistakenly taken home by children with similar items. **We also ask that children do**

not bring into nursery any toys or items from home as these often become lost or broken which causes a great deal of distress.

Getting Off to a Good Start - New Parents Meetings



On **Thursday, 15th January at 9.15 am** (3 and 4 yr. olds) **and 2.30 pm** (2 yr. olds) I am inviting all parents new to the setting or whose child has moved from the Acorns to the Oaks Class this term to join me for a brief chat. This will enable us to share basic information about the routines and running of the school and offers everyone the chance to ask questions about their child's nursery transition experience. Please let the office know if you are planning to attend so we can have an idea of expected numbers.

CBEBBIES Parenting

[CBEBBIES have an amazing new website which has everything you need to support you with parenting and pre-school tips?](#) This useful resource provides excellent up-to-the-minute advice on a vast range of subjects relating to the challenging job of bringing up a young child and supporting their development and learning. Get ideas for creative activities and gain insights in to the educational value of the vast number of CBEBBIES shows.



'Go Potty' to help your child get ready for School!



Potty training is an important milestone in your child's development. We understand that all children develop at their own pace, but research shows it's best for your child's bowel and bladder health to stop using nappies, including reusable nappies, pull-ups and training pants, between 18 and 30 months.

It is also important that children are out of all nappies well in advance of starting Reception year in school. The only exception should be children with a diagnosed medical need, such as a bladder or bowel condition. Being out of nappies not only helps children to feel confident, healthy and part of the group, it also means teachers can spend more time teaching and supporting children's development in other ways. [To find out more about the importance of potty training and other ways you can help your child get on the right track for starting school, please have look at the new Starting Reception document!](#)

Talk Pants!

Meet [Pantosaurus](#) the friendly singing dinosaur and his friends who help adults start important conversations designed to keep children safe from abuse and sexual harm. Developed with children, parents, carers and teachers, the [TALK PANTS website](#) has advice, tips and tools to help children understand that their body belongs to them, and what to do if they feel up upset or worried. Children need to be aware that they have a right to say 'no', and also to have the reassurance that if they need to speak out, someone will listen. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you need advice on this or any aspect of keeping children safe from harm



Family Learning



Buckinghamshire
Family Learning



Why not come along to one of the local Family Learning courses running in a Family Centre or other location near you? These fun, friendly and free-to-attend

sessions for parents and carers of children age 2 – 4 help parents to understand what children are learning as they play – and how you can support them in their learning and development at home. [Click here to view early years courses you can attend with your child in High Wycombe](#) during January and February 2026 or ring **01296 383582 to book a place**. For more information, call Sarah on **07825 862029**

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 ahead.

With very best wishes,

Linda Lyons

Head-teacher, Mapledean Nursery School

Nursery Oaks Calendar

Spring Term 1: 2025-2026

Meet the **Feelings Monsters!**

Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 5th Jan		Monsters at Christmas by Laura Baker	We will be talking about			Feelings words	
			Inset Day	Stay and Play for new children	Stay and Play for new children		
2 12th Jan		Trouble at the Dinosaur Café by Brian Moses and Gary Parsons	We will be talking about			Feeling Angry	
						Welcome meeting new parents	
3 19th Jan		Hungry Monster by Ellie Wharton	We will be talking about			Feeling Well	
							
4 26th Jan		There's a Dragon in your Book by Tom Fletcher	We will be talking about			Feeling Happy / Festivals	
			ZooLab Visit				
5 2nd Feb		Big Scary Monster by Thomas Doherty	We will be talking about			Feeling scared	
				Review meetings for new parents			
6 9th Feb		The Dinosaurs' Valentine's Day by Jessica Brady	We will be talking about			Feeling loved	
			Random Act of Kindness Week				'Can Help' One-Can Trust Event



Half-Term Holiday



Spring Term 1: 2025-2026

Nursery Acorns Calendar

Spring Term 1: 2025-2026

Touchy-Feely Wonderful Words!

Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 5th Jan		That's Not my Lion! Usborne Books	We will be talking about		Zoo Animals		
			Inset Day	Stay and Play new children	Stay and Play new children		
2 12th Jan		That's Not my Dinosaur! Usborne Books	We will be talking about		Dinosaurs		
						Welcome meeting new parents	
3 19th Jan		That's Not my Puppy Usborne Books	We will be talking about		Pets		
4 26th Jan		That's Not my Dragon Usborne Books	We will be talking about		Dragons		
			ZooLab Visit				
5 2nd Feb		That's Not my Truck! Usborne Books	We will be talking about		Things That Go!		
				Review meetings for new parents			
6 9th Feb		That's Not my Monster Usborne Books	We will be talking about		Love Monster		
			Random Act of Kindness Week				 'Can Do' One-Can Trust Event



Half-Term Holiday





Mapledean
Nursery School
Proud member of the Growing Together Federation

Nursery Information for Families



Funded Sessions and Times

2024-2025

Session	Time	Cost
Morning Sessions Badgers and Squirrels	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	FREE
All Day Sessions Badgers and Squirrels	9.00 am – 3.00 pm	FREE
Morning Sessions Hedgehogs	8.45 am – 11.45 am	FREE
All Day Sessions Hedgehogs	8.45 am – 2.45 pm	FREE
Afternoon Sessions Owlets	12.15 pm – 3.15 pm	FREE

Extra Hours Provision and Times

Little Toasties Breakfast Club	8.00 am – 09.00 am	£2.00 per 15 min*
Lunch Club	12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	£4.00*
Hub Club After School Sessions	3.00 pm – 4.00 pm	£2.00 per 15 min*
Afternoon Sessions for children - 3-4 yrs.	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	£24.00*
Afternoon Sessions for children - 2 yrs.	12.15 pm – 3.15 pm	£24.00*



We offer extra sessions and before/after session care through our breakfast club and after school facilities. Please contact our nursery office for further information: admin@mapledean.bucks.sch.uk

*Please note that to take advantage of additional sessions at the prices stated above, places must be booked one month in advance to avoid additional administrative costs. (See overleaf for further details)

Mapledean Nursery School

**Dear boys and girls... Why not join
your friends at our**



Gardening Club ★ **Cooking Club**
Film Club ★ **Art Club** ★ **Games Club**

Monday to Friday 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Advance booking required.

Mapledean Nursery School



'Little Toasties' Breakfast Club

**Monday
to Friday**



**8.00 am
to
9.00 am**

The perfect way to start the day!

Advance booking required.

£8.00 per session or £2 per 15 mins

Spread the word!

**Our breakfast Club runs from
8.00 am – 9.00 am, Monday to
Friday.**

£8.00 per session*



Mapledean Nursery School
**'Little
Toasties'
Breakfast Club**



A perfect way to start the day!

***Advance booking required.**

Last minute bookings will incur an additional administrative charge of 50p for each 15 minutes of the session booked and £2.00 extra for the complete session. For further information or to secure a place for your child, please speak to a member of our friendly office staff.

