

Mapledean Nursery School News

**Autumn Term
1st Half**



**September
2025**

Hello – and Welcome to you all

A warm welcome to families and children old and new to our school. We hope that the children joining us for the first time are settling in well and that returning children are enjoying being back with their friends and teachers.



Settling your child at Nursery



Starting nursery is a big change for both you and your child and so it can often present families with some challenges in the early days of joining our setting. Other transitions such as moving up from the Acorns Class to the Oaks require a level of adjustment too, as children and parents become increasingly familiar with a larger, busier learning environment, different routines and new staff. The good news is that we understand and have lots of ways to help you and your child settle quickly and happily with us. If you are concerned about anything to do with your child's early days with us, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff. Please don't worry if your little one is struggling to settle in these early days. It takes time and patience to support a young child to make these adjustments and it is better to do this in small steps in the beginning, so that a strong, confident base can be made for future learning. [Click here for further information and useful tips on settling children at nursery.](#)

School Fund

Each term we kindly ask families for a donation of **£15** towards 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. Donations can be handed into the school office or given to a member of staff. If you are unable to make a monetary donation, we are always happy to receive items such as: tissues, wet wipes, antibacterial surface spray, cheap plain flour, vegetable oil and table salt (to make play dough). Thank you in advance for your contributions.



Car Parking on the Mapledean Nursery Site.



For the information of families new to our Nursery, and as a further reminder to others, please be aware that the car park outside our Nursery building is **strictly for use by Nursery and Family centre staff, and for visitors by appointment**. There is **no parking** for parents on our neighbouring Chepping View Primary Academy site either and parents who park or drop off in this area can expect to be approached and reprimanded by school staff.



Keeping your child and others well

We are all very aware that with the arrival of autumn and the winter months ahead, various colds and flu viruses are among us and so we are working hard with families to reduce the risk of cross-infection among children and staff. We want everyone to be well enough to enjoy the fun and learning available to children at our nursery – but we need your help.

Regardless of the underlying cause, it is important that if your child has a temperature, is otherwise unwell, or has required Calpol or similar medication prior to the start of their nursery session, you seriously consider keeping them at home until they are fully well. **Please be aware that if your child experiences any episode of vomiting or diarrhoea they must remain out of nursery for 48hrs following the last episode.** Thank you for your cooperation with these measures which we appreciate may cause you inconvenience from time to time - but are in place to protect other children, families and staff.



'Dress for Mess - Not to Impress!'



Our Nursery school provides many daily opportunities for children to have fun indoors and out of doors. On a typical day we might be digging in the giant sand pit, making 'chocolate' pies in our mud kitchen, splashing in puddles, chasing bubbles, painting or printing – or on

warm days perhaps running in and out of sprinklers or paddling pools to keep cool! Such wonderful times for children to remember in years to come – the stuff of childhood indeed, and hugely valuable learning for little ones! As you will realise, Nursery children engaged in these activities are naturally likely to get their clothes grimy or wet at times, so we kindly ask that you:



- **Bring your child to Nursery in shoes and clothing suitable for indoor and outdoor – sometimes messy, play** so that they can fully engage in the range of activities on offer. Soft canvas shoes are safer than open-toe sandals when children are using bikes or playing with wooden blocks for example, and wellington boots are essential when the weather turns rainy.
- **Send a complete named change of seasonal clothing and spare shoes to Nursery each day with your child.**

Toilet Talk!



We kindly ask parents of children who are not yet toilet-trained to please make sure your child's nursery changing bag contains sufficient nappies and baby-wipes as well as a full set of clothes. It is also helpful to staff if your child wears **taped nappies** rather than the pull-up type training pants, as these can make changing times much more difficult. We understand, too, that toilet-trained children can often have the odd mishap, or just need a little help when they go

to the bathroom. Our staff are of course very happy to do this, but we would ask you to consider providing your child with loose and comfortable clothes to make undressing/dressing easier and quicker. **Please remember to label clearly all items sent to Nursery belonging to your child.** Thank you for your understanding. Eric (the children's bowel and bladder charity) now have very accessible podcasts covering a range of topics to support parents struggling with toilet training or toileting problems. [You can access these here.](#)

Healthy Food for all

Our children are offered fruit at snack sessions every day and we encourage parents to provide nutritious and healthy packed lunches for their children. At Mapledean Nursery School every child is made to feel special on their birthday, however, we ask parents **not** to bring in any cakes or sweets for the children. We positively promote oral health and good dental hygiene and would welcome your support with this matter. **Drink containers must be named and should contain clear water.** Please avoid fruit juices or squash which are known to cause tooth-decay in children.



Keeping every child safe – Important information about nuts – and grapes!

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From time to time we have children in nursery who present with mild to severe nut allergies. We ask therefore that you do not send your child to Nursery with any foods 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.

It is lovely to see children with fresh fruit in their packed lunch box, however please can we ask that you prepare these by cutting each grape in half lengthways to reduce risk of children choking on them.

Tempting Toys –and other treasures.

We realise with such an Aladdin's Cave of wonderful resources to choose from and to play with, it is really tempting for little ones to want take a souvenir of their nursery day home with them. If you find 'surprises' in pockets of school bags that don't belong in your house we ask you to help them find their way back to Nursery for all our boys and girls to enjoy. Thank you for your help with this.



Pick up and Drop off

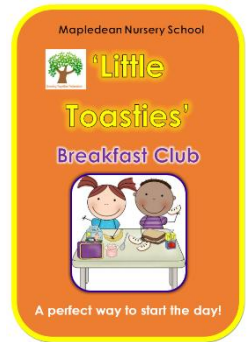


As you would expect of us, we take the safety of your child and the security of our nursery very seriously. We have rigid protocols in place therefore at times where children are potentially particularly vulnerable such as at drop-off and pick up at Nursery. **If you or other family members, already known to us, are unable to collect your child at the end of their session, we ask that you inform**

the nursery as soon possible to advise us of the change. We will need to know details of the adult who will be arriving at nursery in your place and we will help you set up a confidential password which you will share with that person so that we can identify them. We will never allow your child to leave the nursery with someone we do not know without your clear permission.

Breakfast Club

We are pleased to be able to offer our families our **Little Toasties' breakfast club** provision at Mapledean Nursery. This currently runs from 8.00 am to 9.00 am Monday to Friday. Children will enjoy a variety of breakfast options over time but will typically enjoy cereal, toast and fruit. The cost for a session is £8 but can be booked in 15min slots too for £2per 15mins. Please let Mrs Thomas know if you might be interested in booking a breakfast club place for your child.



After-school Fun at the new 'Club Hub'



In addition to our breakfast club option we are delighted to offer parents the convenience of our after-school **Club Hub** wraparound care facility. This **runs every day from 3.00 – 4.00 pm**, offering children a range of interesting extra-curricular activities such as gardening, cooking, arts and crafts and board games. The club is staffed and supported by various members of the nursery team. As with breakfast club, pre-booking is required, and payment must be made in advance. Please let Mrs Thomas know if you require further information and might be interested in securing an after-school club place for your child. Booking forms are available at

the school office.

New Parents Meeting



If you have recently joined our nursery or have children who have moved up from the Acorns to the Oaks class this September, you are invited to a short briefing session to be held in the nursery staff room on **Wednesday 24th September at 9.00-9.30** for morning only and all-day Oaks children and **2.30-3pm** for afternoon Acorns children. During these meetings you will have the opportunity to find out more about your child's nursery learning experience and have any questions you may have answered.

Family Photos

Thank you to those of you who have already provided us with a photo of your child together with other family members. We use these precious images to compile a Nursery Family Photo Album which the children enjoy sharing with their friends. This is a great conversation starter and helps settling children feel more secure having images of those they love to look at during their nursery day. In the Acorns Room we display the photos at low level around the home play area so that our two-year olds can reach out and touch the pictures that remind them of home when they want to. **Send your photos please to admin@bowerdean.bucks.sch.uk or alternatively pop a photo in an envelope so that we can take an enlarged copy.**

Here's to a successful and happy year ahead at Mapledean Nursery School!

With best wishes,

Linda Lyons,

Headteacher,

Mapledean Nursery School

Please see below links to information websites and publications designed to support parents with children's well-being and learning:



This edition of **Toddle** is a purely digital version of the magazine we would normally hand out to parents. You can see your local magazine for yourself here:

www.toddleabout.co.uk/magazine/buckinghamshire



7 Days – Many Ways is a fascinating resource offering a collection of ideas for parents to help their children build **resilience** – a vital skill as young children take their next steps into or back into early years settings, following the period of Lockdown.

<https://earlyyears.buckscc.gov.uk/media/56410/resilience-development-pack-ey.pdf>



Find out all about **funding for two-year olds** by clicking on the following links to films made by our own Buckinghamshire Council teams!

[2 year old funding intro to Kayleigh](#)

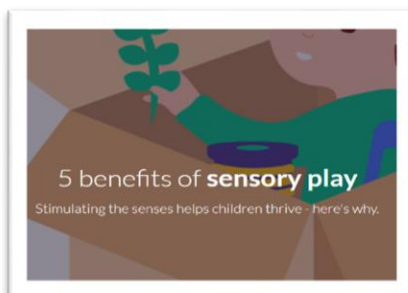
[2 year old funding - are you eligible?](#)

[2 year old funding postcard delivered to families](#)



The Outdoor Practitioner is a new online magazine from the Muddy Faces website. It is, full of articles, ideas and activities to support children's learning out of doors. Get your copy sent straight to your inbox here:

<https://muddyfaces.co.uk/content/images/Outdoor-Practitioner-Spring-2021-issue-1.pdf>



Sensory play lets children explore their sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste with new objects and textures – ranging from making mud pies in the garden to filling a box with dried lentils and dinosaur figurines. Giving children sensory play opportunities helps to develop essential skills they need to thrive.

[5 Benefits of Sensory Play](#)

Please see below links to information websites and publications designed to support parents with children's well-being and learning:



Following the Early Years Foundation Stage framework these programmes invite children to explore and engage with fun topics through: dance, singing, signing, learning and playing. Co-written and presented by talented young adults with learning disabilities. Find out more about how [TailfeatherTV](#) is aiming to be a truly inclusive learning channel for children.



Find out more about the following [Free Parenting Programmes](#) being run by Buckinghamshire's Family Support Service.

- [Little Talkers](#) (for parents of 18 months to 3-year-olds)
- [The Nurturing Programme](#) (for parents of 3 to 11s)
- [Talking Teens](#) (for parents of 11 to 18s)



Today, the problem of excess weight gain in young children is widely recognised as a worldwide epidemic with serious long-term health consequences. We know that the process of obesity can start as early as conception and is established by the time children start school. Check out resources from the **Infant and Toddler Forum** [here](#)



Children's social and emotional skills begin to develop from a very young age. Building a good understanding of emotions when you're young helps you relate to others and manage your own mental health later on. Talking openly with children about how they feel and why, enables them to start recognising and understanding different emotions. See below for some useful information and advice links:



- [NHS Every Mind Matters campaign: Top tips to support children and young people](#)
- [Anna Freud – Early Years in Mind](#) campaign which supports the mental health of babies, young children and their families.
- [Maudsley Charity – Families Under Pressure](#) – a selection of short video clips featuring simple tips and tricks about dealing with challenging behaviour at home and helping with negative emotions.
- [BBC - Talking to your child about emotions](#)

