

Mapledean Nursery School News

Spring Term
2nd Half



February
2025

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.



Did you know?



Following our successful [Ofsted inspection](#) in November 2023 and our existing [ICAN Early Talk accreditation](#), Our school was awarded **Communication Champion** status by **Buckinghamshire Council Early Years** in recognition of the specialised work we do to develop children's language acquisition skills. We are proud to welcome many visitors throughout the year from schools and settings eager to learn about the work we do here at Mapledean Nursery. You can find out lots of useful information about how you can support your child's developing language in our **Talking Zone** situated within our school reception area.

Lots of Learning



This half-term in the Oaks Class, within our learning topic **Mummies and Babies** we will be exploring the various ways people and animals nurture and care for their young. The Acorns class children will enjoy a range of Farmyard Friends stories linked to a range of fun learning activities linked to 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 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.

Toilet Training Trouble?

We are aware that many families are struggling 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!

[How to potty train - NHS](#)

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

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



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 restrictions

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. Thank you for your continued support and understanding regarding this rule, which 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.

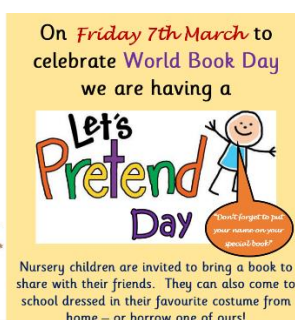


A further reminder about timings!



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. Please aim to be here on time each day.

World Book Event – 'Let's Pretend' Day



It's World Book Day on Thursday 6th March but we are holding our special 'Let's Pretend Day' on **Friday 7th 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 as long as it doesn't stop energetic play indoors and out! We have plenty of costumes children can borrow if they prefer. Every child will receive a book and token to bring home.

Communication Week' 3rd – 7th March

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!



Our Mothers' Day Surprise – 'Mum-day Monday' 31ST March



Of course, it wouldn't be a surprise if we told you too much, but let's just say we are planning something special for our hard-working mummies to thank you for all the love, support and devotion you give to your little ones all year round. We promise to send you more details a little nearer the time – but for now, if your child attends the Oaks class, please save the afternoon for a special event. Acorns mums we haven't forgotten you – your little ones will not let you go unnoticed either ☺

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 [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' 21st March. Comic Relief Appeal.



Once again, this year, we will be raising money for the Comic Relief charity. This year, children's favourite Bluey character will be leading our fun-filled Friday at Nursery. We invite our children to come to Nursery wearing a funny hat 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.



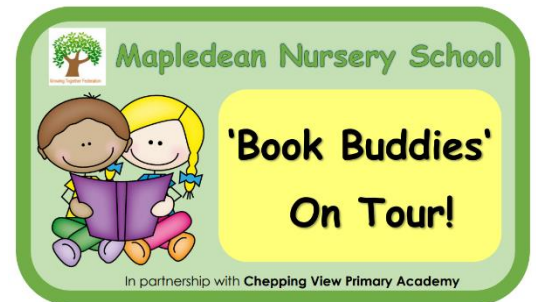
Parent Consultation Sessions



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 25th** and **Wednesday 26th 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 4th April** 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,

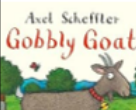
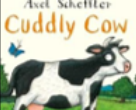
Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you need advice or have any questions about your child's nursery experience. We are always ready to work together with you to ensure your child's learning time with us is one which they will remember with happiness in the years that lie ahead.

With best wishes,

Linda Lyons, Head-teacher, Mapledean Nursery School

Nursery Oaks Calendar Spring Term 2: 2023-2024			 Marvelous Mummies!				
Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 24 th Feb		 1. 'There's a house inside my Mummy' / 2. 'Monkey Puzzle'	We will be talking about  Mummies and Babies				
2 3 rd March		Lola at the Library with Mummy Anna McQuinn	We will be talking about: Sharing Books and Stories with Mummy 				
			Communication Week		 'Book Buddies' go on Tour!	Bring-a-Book to Nursery Day	
3 10 th March		The Strongest Mum Nicola Kent	We will be talking about  Mummies Can Do Anything!				
4 17 th March		My Mum always looks after me so much Sean Taylor	We will be talking about How mummies take care of their young 				
			 Nutrition and Hydration Week				Red Nose Day 'Funny Friday'
5 24 th March		Mummy's Special Day Frances Stickley	We will be talking about Fun Times with Mummy 				
			Living Eggs arrive	Progress Review Meetings			
6 31 st March		Hatch Egg Hatch! Shen Roddie	We will be talking about New Life on the Farm 				
			'Mum-Day Monday'				Easter Fun Day
Easter Holiday: Monday 7st April - Friday 18th April 2025							

Nursery Calendar Spring Term 2

Nursery Acorns Calendar Spring Term 2: 2023-2024			 Farmyard Mummies and Babies 				
Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 24 ^h Feb		Farmyard Friends Chat Box	We will be talking about Whose Baby is on the Farm?				
2 3 rd March		Gobbly Goat Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about:			Goats and Kids 	
			Communication Week			'Book Buddies' go on Tour!	Bring-a-Book to Nursery Day
3 10 th March		Portly Pig Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about			Pigs and Piglets	
4 17 th March		Cuddly Cow Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about		Cows and Calves 		
			Nutrition and Hydration Week				Red Nose Day 'Funny Friday'
5 24 th March		"Guess how much I love you" Sam McBratney	We will be talking about		Rabbits and Bunnies 		
			Living Eggs arrive	Progress Review Meetings			
6 31 st March		Higgly Hen Axel Scheffler	We will be talking about			Hens and Chicks	
			'Mum-Day Monday'				Easter Fun Day
Easter Holiday: Monday 7st April - Friday 18th April 2025							

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



Speech and
Language UK



Dear Grown-up,
Could you be our next

'Secret Storyteller'

- Our nursery needs you!



Every Thursday at 11.30 am
we welcome parents by
arrangement to join us for our
daily '**Songs, Sounds and
Rhymes**' session.

*Arrange a date with office staff
today and surprise your young
reader with a visit to their
classroom soon.*

You can bring along a favourite
children's book from home to share,
read a story to a small group of
children – or simply sit back and enjoy
the session – the choice is all yours!

Early Years Communication Week 2025

Monday 3rd March to Friday 7th March

Chat with your children - Explore with play - Read together

Dear Families,

Check your inbox every day during
Communication Week to get some
super ideas for activities you and
your child can do together to develop
their vital **Communication and
Language** skills.

Have fun - and Happy Chatting 😊
The Mapledean 'Communication Champions'!



Early Years
Service

*At the heart of everything we do is
a belief in the best start for children*



Friday 21st March 2025

Please help us raise money for



On **Bluey's**

'Funny Friday'

Make
Bluey
and your
nursery
friends
smile...



Come to
school in a
silly hat,
funny
outfit or
with a **joke**
to tell!



STUDIOS



Please scan this code to reach our own living page

Bluey is a trademark of Lutter and is used under license by Lutter.

Red Nose Day is a trademark of Comic Relief and is used under license by Comic Relief.



On **Friday 7th March** to
celebrate **World Book Day**
we are having a

Let's
Pretend
Day



"Don't forget to put
your name on your
special book"

Nursery children are invited to bring a book to
share with their friends. They can also come to
school dressed in their favourite costume from
home – or borrow one of ours!