

Mapledean Nursery School News

Spring Term
1st Half



January
2025

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 2025. 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 Bear Who Couldn't Sleep' 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 a helpful group of mums in getting everything shiny and ready, **our Toys and Tinsel sale raised an amazing £107 for our school Play Club account.**



Starting Reception Class in September 2025

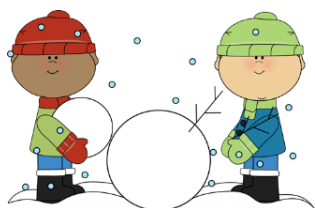


This is an important but timely reminder that if your child was born between the 1st of September 2020 and 31st of August 2021 you must urgently register interest in a school place ready for a September 2025 start. The online application process is simple to use, safe and secure.

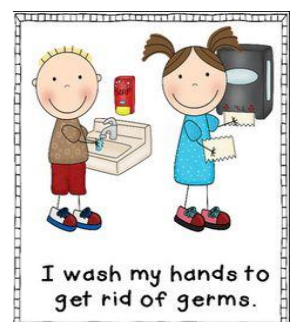
www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/ **Please Note:**

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MIDNIGHT ON 15TH JANUARY 2025

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, other more serious respiratory infections are having a significant impact on young children's health. As a parent, It can often 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 is 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 and keep our boys and girls fit and well enough to enjoy all the learning fun we have to offer! Check out this useful site to get advice on how to protect your child at home [A germ's Journey: Hints and Tips](#)

'Wrap up Warm'!

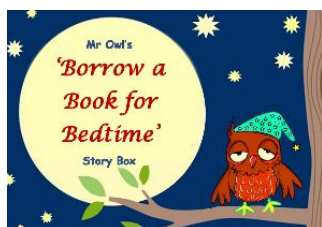


Talking of chilly weather, please make sure your little one is wearing extra layers of clothing as well as a warm hat, scarf, and gloves to keep them toasty as they enjoy learning fun outdoors on cold days. **Please don't forget to write names on each item of clothing as well as other personal items 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 [check if your school is closed | School Closures and Bus Disruptions](#)

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

This month marks the second anniversary of opening our re-vamped nursery reception area which we named '**The Talking Zone**'. 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. Two years on, we continue to offer families the use of our small lending library where Mr Owl invites parents and children to 'Borrow a Book for

Bedtime'. **Watch out for our new selection of books which are arriving very soon** – and 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 at the moment, 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 [Childcare Choices](#) 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!

Since April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 have access to 15 hours childcare

Since September 2024 the 15 hours childcare offer has expanded to enable access to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months to 23 months old

From September 2025 eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Find out more about these and other changes including details of expansion plans for 'Wraparound care'. Check out the [Childcare Choices](#) website today!

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.



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](#)



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, lunch boxes and bottles are clearly named. The staff are amazing at picking up children's names really quickly, 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, 16th 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.

Little Toasties Breakfast Club / After-school Club / 'Coffee and Catch up'

Don't forget the extra things we offer our families here at Mapledean Nursery! Our **Little Toasties** breakfast club runs from 8.00 - 9.00am at a cost of £8.00 session, with a new option to book in for a shorter 15 min sessions between 8.30 and 9.00 am for £2.00 each. Our afternoon **Hub Club** is a great addition to a child's nursery day – with a variety of exciting activities to try. **Did you know that we have an open-house coffee stop available to parents after morning drop off on a Tuesday morning between 9.00 and 9.30am?** Why not come along, meet other nursery families and enjoy a **free** cup of tea or coffee with biscuits in the comfort of our staffroom? We look forward to seeing you there!

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 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 – 9.00 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 overview for further details)

Mapledean Nursery School

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

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB HUB



£8.00 per session

£2.00 per 15 mins

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.

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



Early Learning and Development

90% of your child's brain growth happens before the age of 5. Right from the start, all those little moments you spend together with your child are building their brain. Find lots of ideas, easy tips and activities you can do together with your child.

[Early learning and development - Start for Life - NHS - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/early-learning-and-development)



This edition of **Toddler** 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 children from 9 months to 4 years** by clicking on the following links with information from our Buckinghamshire Council teams!

[Funded childcare and help with costs | Family Information Service \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/funded-childcare-and-help-with-costs)



What to expect in the Early Years

This guide is for parents* of children from birth to five years old. It will help you find out more about your child's learning and development in the EYFS.

[What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/what-to-expect-in-the-eyfs-complete-final-16.09-compressed.pdf)



An exciting range of learning at home ideas to share with your child – all from our very own local Early Years Team of specialists!

[Early Years \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/early-years)

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



Family Information Service

A wonderful resource for families - with lots of ideas of free or low-cost things to do together, places to go and lots more besides!

[Things to do in Buckinghamshire | Family Information Service](#)



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](#)



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.



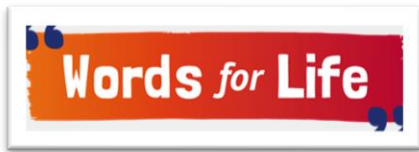
Find out more about the following [Free Parenting Programmes](#) being run by Buckinghamshire's Family Support Service.

- [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](#)

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



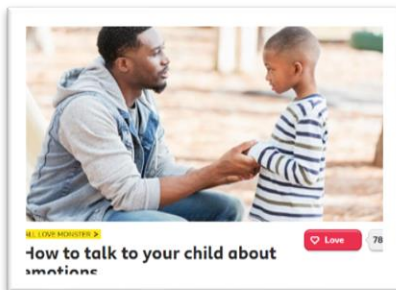
Words for Life - An invaluable site for parents who want to support their child's learning at home – full of Tips and advice on how to help children's developing language skills from birth onwards!

[Words for Life](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#) | [Words for Life](#)



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](#)



Small Talk is a new project which helps parents turn the activities they are already doing with their child every day into new opportunities to build their child's language skills. Click on the link to see how... [Small Talk](#) | [National Literacy Trust](#)



BBC's **Tiny Happy People** is an amazing, easy to navigate website full of simple, fun and free activities to try with your little one. Just select the age of your child and find out what the experts and other parents have to say on language learning and child development. [BBC Tiny Happy People](#)



Find articles to help parents understand children's development, **play an active part in their learning and enjoy the children they spend time with.** The articles cover a wide range of topics, including life with babies and toddlers, children's behaviour, being outdoors, – and more [Parents & carers - Early Education \(early-education.org.uk\)](#)

Meet the **Feelings** Monsters!

Spring Term: 1 Calendar 2025

Touchy-Feely Wonderful Words!
