

Mapledean Nursery School News

Autumn
Term 2



November
2024

Dear Families,



We do hope that you are keeping well and that you enjoyed a lovely mid-term holiday. It is hard to believe we have our first half-term of the Nursery year behind us and are now racing ahead towards the end of the autumn term. This is always a busy time, with fund-raising events like 'Children in Need', our fun-filled 'World Nursery Rhyme Week' challenge – and our special Christmas events to look forward to. Look out for further information about these events which will be sent out to you over the coming weeks.

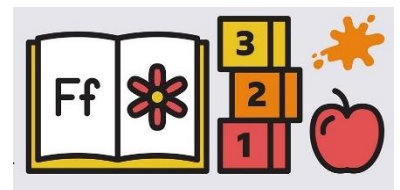
Starting Reception Class in September 2025

It may seem like a long way off now but, believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about your child's next big move up into Reception class in school. Children born between the **1st of September 2020 and 31st of August 2021** will be starting school for the first time in **September 2025**. The online application process is simple to use, safe and secure. Buckinghamshire parents can apply for a primary school place for their child from **5th November 2024**. **All parents wanting a school place for their child in September 2025 must make an application by 15 January 2025**. Please be aware that submitting a late application can **seriously jeopardise** the chances of your child being offered a place at the preferred school. Our staff are happy to provide further information, help or guidance at any stage of the process. **Please Note:** You **must** apply – even if your child attends a nursery attached to a school you would like your child to attend. For more information please visit: [Guide to starting primary school in Buckinghamshire](#)



Getting School Ready

To help your child enjoy a healthy start to their primary school life, we advise you to contact the school nursing team to find out which [health checks and vaccinations](#) are available for your child. For access to further useful sites offering advice and support on a wide range of health and well-being topics relating to young children please visit: [Your Health Visiting Service | Buckinghamshire | Health for Under5s](#)



'Winter Woollies' and 'Wet Weather Wellies'!

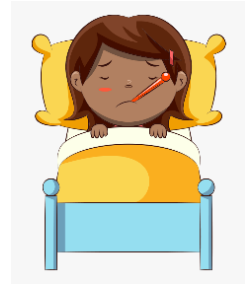


As we move from autumn into winter and the weather turns seasonally crisp and cold, we see more and more lovely warm hats scarves and gloves appearing in our cloakroom or classroom. Unfortunately, most of the items remain un-labelled which means we have a constant struggle trying to match left-behind clothes to their owner! Please can you regularly check that all personal items

such as articles of clothing, bottles, lunch boxes etc coming into Nursery with your child are clearly marked to help us avoid 'Cloakroom Chaos'! Also, as our children spend time learning outdoors, and in all weathers, we would ask you to make sure your child has a pair of named waterproof boots with them to use on rainy days and for nature garden trails. We have a few spares but may not always have the size your child needs. **Please remember to return borrowed items promptly as we have a limited number of spares.**

Important information about the Flu Virus and Your child

While we are thinking about winter, we have been asked to remind parents that the annual [NHS flu vaccination programme for children aged 2 to 3 years](#), school age children and children over 6 months with certain health conditions is getting under way. You should have already received an invitation to have your child vaccinated to protect them from the unpleasant and often very serious symptoms this virus can cause. The Flu vaccine is the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus. By getting vaccinated, your child also protects others around them, including babies, grandparents and people with weak immune systems.



Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children causing fever, extreme tiredness aching muscles and joints, stuffy nose, dry cough and a sore throat. Each winter thousands of children need to go to hospital for treatment, including intensive care, with children aged under 5 years having one of the highest rates of hospital admissions due to flu. For more information please visit: [Protect your child against Flu information for parents](#)

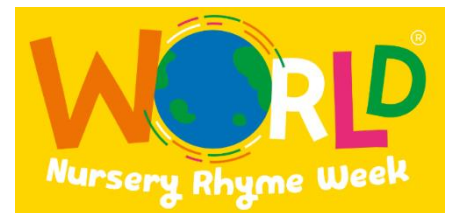
'Pudsey and Peppa' Party Fun for Children in Need Day Friday 15th November



We are putting the **fun** into fund-raising this year as part of our collective efforts to contribute to this year's **BBC Children in Need** appeal. As always on this special day our boys and girls can look forward to a range of Pudsey Bear-themed activities during the session. This year Pudsey Bear is joining forces with children's favourite; Peppa Pig, so on **Friday 15th November 2024** our boys and girls are invited to come to nursery, wearing **Yellow for Pudsey or Pink for Peppa** clothes or outfits ready for a day of fun party activities! We kindly ask in return a small donation of **£1 or more** which we will collect on the day and donate to the appeal, helping 'make lives lighter' for children across the UK. We thank you in anticipation for supporting this great cause, which aims to make a difference to the lives of vulnerable children.

World Nursery Rhyme week 11th – 15th November

As happens each year, our school will be taking part in **World Nursery Rhyme Week** - a free, world-wide initiative celebrating the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development. Each day during that week we will be focussing on practising a particular rhyme – and we hope you will join in the fun too! Nursery Rhymes are a traditional way to help children learn a wide range of early language skills - and they are a great excuse to share special moments with your child as you recite them together. Simply use the link provided below to help your child learn a different rhyme each day alongside the work we are doing in Nursery. On Friday 15th November we will be giving certificates out to all children who have taken part. For more information please visit: worldnurseryrhymeweek.com/resources/



IMPORTANT - Children's Information Records



From time to time we have had situations during the nursery day where, for example, a child has become ill and we have had difficulty contacting the parents. It is vitally important that we have up-to-date contact numbers for immediate family members and two emergency contacts who can expect a call should we need to reach them while their child is attending a session.

Please can you check that we have the necessary home and emergency contact details for your child, including any changes to parental responsibility or health updates.

Buckinghamshire Family Learning Courses



Buckinghamshire
Family Learning



Are you interested in finding out some new ways to engage with your child and support their learning? Early Years Family Learning are running exciting events at a centre near you! These courses and interactive workshops

offer a range of opportunities for you to explore different aspects of children's learning and development in a fun interactive way. We hope you'll consider attending these informal sessions which are designed to help parents understand what their child is learning in nursery school and then provide valuable additional support at home. Please watch out for posters on display at or near our front office for details of courses coming up soon, and information on how to book or contact Sarah on **07825 862029**

'Hungry Little Minds'

If you have not yet discovered it, we would like to introduce you to an excellent website and app called ['Hungry Little Minds.'](#) The information to be found there supports **home learning for children** in a fun and interactive way, giving ideas and suggestions to parents about what they can do to boost learning opportunities at home. All research suggests that home learning is critical for children's future success and along with high quality early education, is the single biggest factor in ensuring children get the best start in life. The website suggests **activities to build into your child's everyday life** for example when you are out and about, at bedtime and play ideas. We would encourage all families to access this website or download the app to compliment the many lovely ways you already support your child's learning at home.



Things to do with your favourite little people!

Toddle About is your one stop shop to find out **what's on for babies, toddlers or pre-schoolers.** The Toddle About magazine keeps you up to date with everything that's going on in your area for little ones. As well as listing all the different baby and toddler groups and classes near you, it is packed full of parenting articles, suggestions for days out, craft activities, recipes, competitions and special offers. You can [subscribe to the magazine](#) and become a [VIP member](#) for just £1 every three months. Or you can [read the current issue for free here.](#)



Absence/Lateness

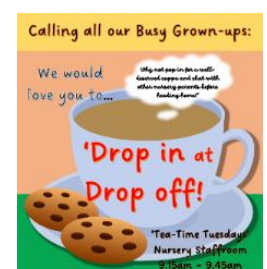


Just a gentle reminder to all parents that if your child is going to be absent for any reason, we kindly ask you to **call the nursery office number** as early as possible and leave a message letting us know why your child is unable to attend. If we do not hear from you, we will call you and ask for a reason for absence. This forms part of our safeguarding procedure to help keep children safe from harm. **Please also make sure that children are dropped off and collected on time** so that they don't miss out on valuable teaching and learning.

Please remember to keep your child at home if they have symptoms such as a high temperature, sore throat or a new cough or sickness and diarrhoea. If your child needs Calpol to treat their symptoms, they may not be well enough to attend nursery.

'Drop-in at Drop off!' Every Tuesday 9.00 – 9.30 am

Did you know about our **'Tea-Time Tuesday'** sessions, when we hand over our staffroom to nursery parents, so they can enjoy a well-deserved cuppa after they have dropped off their child? It's a great way to get to know other families whose children attend our nursery. The tea, coffee and biscuits are on us, so please do try to pop in regularly. Afternoon parents, please can you let us know if you would be interested in attending a



similar 'Pop-in- before-Pick- up' facility next term? This would run from **2.45 – 3.15 pm**. We'd love to see you there!

Restricted Access to Mapledean Nursery School Site



As you are aware, we have had many on-going issues regarding the safety and security of parents and children arriving and leaving the nursery. Despite constant polite reminders, many parents sadly continue to use Chepping View School drive to drop-off their nursery child, with some parents using the passing bay as a car parking space. **The car parking area is strictly reserved for staff, families attending appointments at the Family Centre and Blue-Badge holders only.** Parents with specific permissions have been issued with a personalised yellow windscreen pass for ease of identification and the situation is now being carefully monitored by the school and Family Centre. We thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

'Tinsel and Toys' Christmas Fayre

Following the success of last year's event and with Christmas festivities just around the corner, we're delighted to tell you that on **Friday 29th November** we are once again holding a Tinsel and Toys sale where families can come along throughout the day to enjoy **fruit punch and gingerbread**, and have the opportunity to **buy quality second-hand or unwanted new toys, books and games** in aid of our Christmas school party fund for the children. This will be on display in our Reception Area and entrance hall. Please speak to your child's key person if you have any questions or wish to support this in any way. We would be most grateful for help in one or more of the following ways:

- Volunteering to help coordinate and organise the event
- Donating second-hand or unwanted gifts of toys, games and books in good condition
- Offering your support on the day to manage the stall and supervise sales
- Visiting the sale on the day to bag some bargains!



A little word about nappies if we may...



Can we ask parents of children who are not yet toilet-trained to please make sure you send in both nappies **and** baby-wipes as well as a **full set of clothes - including underwear and socks**. It is also helpful to staff if your child wears taped nappies rather than the pull-up type training pants, as these make changing times much more difficult. These are much more suitable for children when they are currently being toilet trained. Thank you for your understanding.

Firework Safety

With Bonfire Night and Diwali just around the corner we would like to remind you of the dangers of fireworks around small children. Burns are incredibly painful and can lead to a life-time of scarring. For helpful information about how to keep your child safe while enjoying these autumn festivals, please visit [Child Accident Prevention Trust](https://www.childaccidentpreventiontrust.org.uk/)



School Photos

Tempest the school photographer will be in school on **Friday 8th November** to take photos of individual children. These are always of a very high quality and make a lovely gift for family and friends! Parents will be able to review these images prior to purchase and are under no obligation to buy. Please let the office know if you **do not wish** to have your child's photo taken.



Parent Consultation Sessions



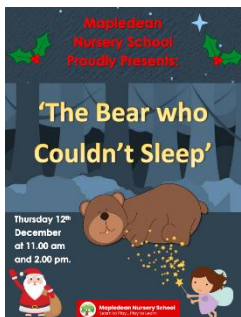
We look forward to welcoming parents of our nursery children to an informal meeting to discuss the progress the child is making in their learning and development on **Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December**. These 10 - minute appointments with your child's key person are available from 3.20 pm until 4.30 pm on both days and can be booked by telephoning or visiting the school office nearer the time. If you are unable to arrange a meeting at those times but would still like to do so, please speak to Mrs Thomas in the school office to arrange a separate consultation. We are happy to organise a face-to-face meeting, or a telephone call should you prefer.

Christmas Jumper Day

We are proud to be supporting the annual '[Christmas Jumper](#)' Day campaign run by the 'Save the Children' charity. The money raised by this fun event each year helps them to carry out valuable efforts such as vaccinate millions of children across the world to protect them from disease and makes sure families have enough to eat in impoverished areas world-wide. Please send your child to nursery in a Christmas jumper or sweatshirt on **Thursday 12th December which is also the day of our Christmas Show**, and make a small donation of **£2** towards this great cause if you can.



Mapledean Nursery Christmas Show 2024



Each year we work hard to involve our children and families in a special show, where the children dress up, sing some simple songs, and perform for our family audience. This year will be no exception as we begin work immediately after half-term to practice our songs and story lines. This year the boys and girls of Mapledean Nursery are helping "**The Bear who Couldn't Sleep**" - a fun and festive extravaganza of songs and rhymes. We look forward to having our families in the audience again this year for the shows which will be held on **Thursday 12th December at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm**. Look out for information about which performance your child will be involved in and how to book tickets nearer the time.

Dear parents of Acorns children – please don't feel you are missing out.... Your little ones will be singing some simple Christmas songs for you at the end of their session on that day too. It will be their turn next year to be part of the performance when they become bigger and braver 'Oaks Class' boys and girls 😊

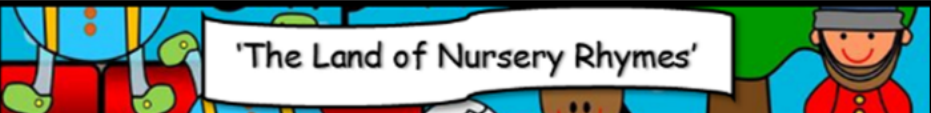
As you can see, we have a busy and eventful half-term ahead of us – full of memorable fun and learning! We look forward to sharing it with you and to working together with our families to ensure each child's learning time with us is one they will remember with happiness in the years ahead!

Kind regards,

**Mrs. Linda Lyons,
Headteacher,
Mapledean Nursery School**

Nursery Oaks Calendar Autumn Term 2: 2024-2025							
Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 4 st Nov		Rama and Sita by Malachy Doyle	We will be talking about:  Rama and Sita - Diwali 				
2 11 th Nov		Bear Snores On By Karma Wilson	We will be talking about:  Getting ready for winter 				
3 18 th Nov		Bear Can't Sleep by Marni McGee	We will be talking about:  Helping others 				
4 25 nd Nov		The Bear who would not share by Oakley Graham	We will be talking about:  Sharing is Caring 				
5 2 nd Dec		Can't you Sleep Little Bear?	We will be talking about:  Feeling Safe 				
6 9 th Dec		The Snow Bears by Martin Wadell	We will be talking about:  Keeping Warm in Winter 				
7 16 th Dec		Little Bear's Special Wish by Gillian Lobel	We will be talking about:  The Joy of Giving 				
							

Autumn Term - 2 Calendar 2024

Nursery Acorns Calendar Autumn Term 2: 2024-2025							
Week	Our Special Story Books		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 4 th Nov		Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star by Annie Kubler	We will be talking about:		Nursery Rhymes: Shiny Things		 Nursery School Photos
2 11 th Nov		Icy Wincy Spider By Cottage Door Press	We will be talking about		Nursery Rhymes : Spiders		Pudsey and Peppa Party Day
3 18 th Nov		Wind the Bobbin Up Igloo Books	We will be talking about		Nursery Rhymes : Threading and Weaving		
4 25 nd Nov		Head, Shoulder, Knees and Toes Igloo Books	We will be talking about:		Nursery Rhymes: Our Clever Bodies		Tinsel and Toys Christmas Sale
5 2 nd Dec		Sleeping Bunnies Annie Kubler	We will be talking		Nursery Rhymes: Bedtime Routines		
6 9 th Dec		Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell	We will be talking about:		Nursery Rhymes: Zoo Animals		
7 16 th Dec		Peppa's Jungle Bells	We will be talking about:		Nursery Rhymes: Christmas Sounds		
							