



Westfield Nursery School
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608650

Email office@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Website www.westfieldnurseryschool.org

Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH



April 2023

Newsletter No 15 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

Welcome back to the Summer term at Westfield. A warm welcome to new families who are joining us for the first time. Don't forget if you want to talk to a member of staff, please:






- Talk to them as you drop or collect or make an appointment if you need a longer discussion.
- telephone the office on 01582 608650 and we will put you through to the class and a member of staff will be able to talk to you as long as there are sufficient staff to be working with the children or
- email the class email bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org
dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org
ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org
caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org
butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

For general enquires email the office office@westfieldnurseryschool.org



Staffing

I am very privileged to work with such a well qualified, professional team.

Bumblebees 	Dragonflies 	Ladybirds 	Caterpillars 	Butterflies 
Miss Coleman Miss Ball Ms Scoggins Miss Gatward	Miss Heading Mrs Sunderland	Mrs Andrews Mrs Nowogorska	Miss Dhenin Mrs Sharp Mrs Aithsine	Miss Shaw Miss Pratt

Miss Coleman is lead practitioner in Bumble Bees (2-year-old class). Mrs Andrews, Miss Dhenin, Miss Shaw and Miss Heading are the lead practitioners for each class in main Nursery (3-4-year-old classes). Mrs Bridges works in Butterflies (Wednesday/ Thursday) and Ladybirds class (Friday). Miss Muller works across all classes with small groups of children. Mrs Hitchcock works in the school office and is always available to answer any queries. Mrs Martin works in the office part time.

Mrs Collins, Head teacher, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead with support from the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Mrs Andrews, Miss Coleman, Miss Dhenin, Miss Heading and Miss Shaw so please talk to us about any family circumstances that may be important in helping us to best care for your child. Mrs Andrews is the SENDCo, please speak to the class lead or Mrs Andrews should you have any queries or concerns about your child's development and support they may require.

Governors


We have a small but extremely dedicated governing body who oversee the work of the school. Ms Boyle is the chair and Mr Meredith is the vice chair. Mrs Cannings is the chair of the school improvement committee. Ms Adams is a parent governor; Miss Grant is a co-opted governor and Miss Heading is a staff governor.



Would you like to be a school governor? Being a school governor is a challenging but rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to our children, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills. We are hoping to add to our governing body with enthusiastic new members. More information can be found about the current governing body on our website under the staff and governors tab. Support and training is available for new governors. If you would be interested please come to the office to find out more about the role.

Drop off and collection times

Children who are not here for the start of the session can miss vital learning so please do your best to drop children during the allotted times. We do have a late collection policy for children who are not collected on time as this can affect their well-being.

	Bumblebees	Dragonflies and Ladybirds	Caterpillars and Butterflies
AM Drop off time	8.45-8.55am	8.45-8.55am	8.35-8.45am
AM Collection time	11.35-11.45am	11.35-11.45am	Lunch in classroom
PM Drop off time	-	12.30-12.40pm	Not applicable
PM Collection time	-	3.20-3.30pm	3.10-3.20pm

Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), made up of different areas of learning.

Prime areas	Specific areas
C&L = Communication and Language PSED = Personal, Social and Emotional Development PD = Physical Development	Lit = Literacy MD = Mathematics Development UTW = Understanding the World EAD = Expressive Arts and Design

Our core curriculum is

- Communicates with adults and children (C&L)
- Communicates their feelings, wants and needs (PSED)
- Develops a friendship (PSED)
- Looks after their health and self-care needs (PD)
- Moves with confidence in a range of ways (PD)
- Uses simple tools (PD)
- Uses mark making tools (Lit)
- Listens to and tells a story (Lit)
- Understands and uses numbers (MD)
- Knows and uses numerical patterns (MD)
- Shows care for communities, the environment and living things (UTW)
- Performs a dance/song or rhyme and uses imagination (EAD)
- Creates a piece of art/model (EAD)



Our curriculum is attached but also published on our website, (click on the Curriculum tab and then on the Curriculum option).

We work on vocabulary themes too. Please see attached, this is also published on our website, (click on the Curriculum tab and then on the Curriculum option).

Please ask Mrs Collins if you would like a paper copy of either or both documents.

Adult led learning

During our adult led learning this term we will be focusing on phonics and children using sound reproduction skills. Learning will cover rhythm, rhyme, syllables and syllable blending as well as alliteration.

Phonics glossary of terms:

Rhythm- is a pattern of sound which can be repeated to a regular beat.

Tempo- is the speed of the beat.

Rhyme- is where there is the same sound on the end of a word.

Syllable- A single, unbroken sound of a spoken word.

Alliteration- Same beginning sounds.



Themes

Our first priority in a new term is to settle children in, particularly focusing on kind hands, feet and mouths and supporting sharing and turn taking. We help children to explore and gain confidence with the continuous provision within the environment. Each class and outside have areas for Reading, Maths, mark making and creative activities, building, messy and small world play. After that, we will start focusing on vocabulary. Children in Bumblebees will be thinking about items in the home, Dragonflies will be learning about life cycles and growth, Ladybirds are thinking about wild animals, Caterpillars and Butterflies classes will be learning about building and construction. Updates about themes are given via the notice boards at the entrances.

Home Learning

Each half term we send home a home learning challenge. These are activities for you to enjoy with your child. They support learning and, also help your child get into good homework practices. This half term the home learning challenge is based on 'I can communicate my feelings wants and needs'. Please see the attached sheet.

We also use 'My Home Learning' sheets for parents and carers to share with us any exciting learning which has taken place at home. Your child could use the toilet for the first time, they may have done their own coat up for the first time, they may have completed a level at swimming- these are for any news you would like to share. There is a home learning sheet attached and you can use as many as you want. More can be collected from the entrance hall.

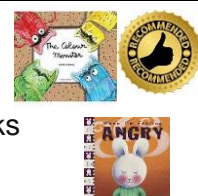
Website

There is lots of information about the Nursery on the website. Don't forget to visit the gallery to see pictures from each month. Our website can be found at www.westfieldnurseryschool.org



Recommended Read

These books have been chosen as they support the home learning challenge. Try reading 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. It is a book introducing emotions, such as happy being yellow. Or try 'When I'm Feeling...' series by Trace Moroney. There are books for jealous, disappointed, loved, scared, angry, sad, kind, lonely, nervous and happy.



Library

We have a school library. All children can borrow books from our book castle outside or our lending library which is situated near the office. On the book castle there are a selection of story books. If you want to choose a specific book, including dual language books, board books, Maths books, alphabet books, rhyming books and books to support personal, social and emotional development please visit the library.



Last term with the introduction of the book castle we managed to more than double the number of children borrowing books! We want to further increase the number this term- please choose a book and sign it out and in.

Each term any child who borrows a book will automatically be entered into a free prize draw. There is a winner from each class, so happy reading!

Attendance

Regular attendance at Nursery is important for academic attainment, good progress and supporting school readiness. Please support Nursery by sending your child in every day if they are well.



If your child is not coming to Nursery please

-Let us know in advance where you know your child will not be attending e.g. family event

-Phone on the day of the absence on 01582 608650

-Email via parentmail or office@westfieldnurseryschool.org

We do monitor attendance. Thank you.

Health and Safety

No mobile phones on site.

Remember we are a no nuts site.

Please ensure dogs are not left by the gate as some of our children are scared.

Please note we are a no smoking site.



Neighbours

We are very aware of our place in the community and as such we like to be a good neighbour to the families and businesses in the area. Please help us by parking responsibly. We appreciate parking is difficult; this is the same for all schools.



Fruit

We ask for donations of tooth friendly snacks such as a piece of fruit. These are chopped and shared.



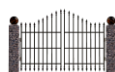
Names

Please name all items your child wears and brings to Nursery. For example, hats, jumpers, coats and bags. If you do, we can easily return lost property to its rightful owner.



Beecroft School Gate

Please be aware the Beecroft School gate is closed between 8.30-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm to ensure the children walking to school are kept safe.



Security

Thank you so much for closing all doors and gates as you pass through them to ensure the children's safety.



WOW

If your child does something new at home, please share this with your child's class leader. This can be anything- using new words, trying a new activity, visiting a new place etc... We love to share all successes.



Uniform

We do have uniform available for the children to wear. Benefits include it stopping those outfit arguments and it being easy to wash. Please ask at the school office for further details about sizes and costs.



Winter Clothing

Please ensure your child has a jumper/ sweatshirt as well as a warm coat and wellies, hat, gloves and scarf. We always use the garden whatever the weather. If your child comes to Nursery in wellies, **please bring a pair of indoor shoes.**



Change of Personal Details

Please remember: It is very important that we hold current emergency phone numbers for you should we need to contact you. If you change your number, let us know.



Bags

2-year-olds

Please send in a named bag with nappies/ pants and a change of clothes.

3-4-year-olds.

Please do not send in a bag if your child is toilet trained. (Only children still in nappies require a bag.)



Medication

If your child requires medication whilst at Nursery, please speak to a staff member. We do need you to complete some paperwork in relation to this. Please do not put medication into children's bags as this is not safe.



Email

Please check to see you have received our newsletter via parentmail. We always put new newsletters on the notice board. If you haven't please visit the school office. If you require a paper copy of the newsletter, please let us know.



Act of Kindness

Due to a generous benefactor, Nursery has recourse to support families who they are aware may need some essential extras. We have a larder where you can come and take any essential food items (packets and tins), toiletries and cleaning products. Please visit the larder in the entrance hall if you need to, when you come in to borrow a book from the library.

We also have a box of stationery packs to support children's mark making. These are located in the library area- please help yourself to a pack.

We can also support with clothing items such as pants, socks and hats on request, please speak to your child's class teacher. Please see the 'Act of Kindness' statement on the website.



School Pets

We have three furry members of the community. Fudge, Bolt and Boris are guinea pigs which live at Nursery. Thanks to the staff who look after them in addition to their other roles. If you would like to donate any hay, wood shavings, vegetables such as broccoli, tomatoes, spring greens, romaine lettuce and peppers, please feel free to do so.



Easter Egg Raffle & Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to those parents and carers who donated for the raffle and purchased raffle tickets. We raised £22. Congratulations to the prize winners.

In the last week of term we held a special Easter singing and Easter egg hunt in the garden after the Easter Bunny visited!

Toddler Group

We hold a community toddler group every Thursday from 1.00-2.30pm term time only in Bumblebees class and garden. Our grateful thanks to Dunstable Locality Children's Centre as the children's centre staff will now be hosting our toddler group.



Pupil Voice

We always seek to hear the voice of our pupils- in regard to their learning, special events and so on and you will see lots of speech bubbles around school with pupil voice comments. Each half term I also interview some children with a focus in mind. The last pupil voice interviews focussed on safety. Children asked felt safe at Nursery and knew strategies if something went wrong such as telling a grown up or asking for help from a friend. Children were less secure about internet safety. I have asked staff to go over key messages such as turning off and telling a grown-up if they see or hear something online which they don't like but please go over this message at home with your own child. Thank you

30 Hours

Please can parents/ carers paying by bank transfer use their child's name as a reference- thank you.

School Day Times

For the new academic year from 5th September 2023 the school day times will be 8.30am-3.30pm for all children regardless of class. The drop off window will be 8.30-8.40am. The morning session collection will be 11.35-11.45am. The drop off time for afternoon sessions will be 12.30-12.40pm and the collection time will be 3.20-3.30pm.

NHS Advice on well-being

The NHS have resources for parents to support their children's well-being. Advice includes

- The importance of routines for sleeping and healthy eating
- Talking about mental well-being. We all go through times of feeling happy, sad, angry, overwhelmed and so on. Understanding that these feelings are normal is helpful so role model this at home. Visit [Calm zone | Childline](#) -Talking about how to stay safe such as walking to Nursery and using ICT
- Visit every Mind Matters to learn more <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>

Domestic Abuse Residents Survey (Central Bedfordshire)

Central Bedfordshire Council are conducting a survey to better understand public awareness of domestic abuse and effective ways to provide support to those affected by it. The survey is designed to gather responses from those who may have experienced, witnessed, or perpetrated domestic abuse. The survey can be completed online or as a paper copy, completing it virtually is preferred and it can be accessed [here](#) . If you would prefer to complete a paper copy, please contact BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk The survey will be live to Central Bedfordshire residents from Wednesday 3rd April until Wednesday 31st May and is completely anonymous. Links are provided to organisations that can offer support to residents who feel they need support or guidance.

Term Dates

01.05.23 Bank Holiday School Nursery Closed
08.05.23 for King's Coronation Bank Holiday Nursery Closed (see attached newsletter for ideas)
29.05.23-02.06.23 Half Term School closed
21.07.23 Last day of Summer Term

