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Newsletter No 11 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

I would like to say a huge thank you for all the support given to the Nursery. **Thank you** for all the donations:

- the daily fruit
- the termly monetary donation
- the books and toys
- the rugs and fabric
- the spare clothes

Everything is gratefully received.

If we can support you, please remember our help yourself larder including food, toiletries and cleaning products. There are also stationery packs available. If you need something which is not in the larder such as hats, gloves and scarf- please speak to Mrs Collins. We have a very generous benefactor, and we want to help where we can.



Our Learning

In Bumblebees the children have been thinking about colours, especially red, blue and yellow. The key text is 'Wow, said the owl'. Children have been making colour by mixing shaving foam and powder paint and then making a variety of marks. They have been exploring what the world looks like through coloured acetate sheets. In the maths area children have had coloured bears to sort, subitise and count.

Dragonflies class have been learning about 'People who help us.' The key text is a non-fiction book titled 'People who help us.' The children have been role playing going to the doctors, from checking in at reception, to waiting in the waiting room to being called and seeing the doctor. The children have also been exploring a farm on the tuff spot tray thinking about the people who help us grow food.

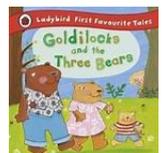
Ladybirds' children have been reading 'Oliver's vegetables' as they learn about 'Being Healthy.' They have been thinking about healthy and unhealthy foods, learning to brush teeth using the correct technique and making a variety of foods such as salad sandwiches.

In Caterpillars the theme has been 'People who help us.' Children have been learning about the roles of police officers (following officer Sally's visit), paramedics, fire fighters and doctors. The children have also been learning about people who help our pets by role playing a vet's and reading 'Mog and the Vee Eee Tee.' The builder's tuff spot tray has also been extremely popular. Children have also enjoyed the Paw Patrol text 'Skye takes flight.'

Butterflies class have been thinking about 'Once upon a time.' They have read a variety of traditional tales including 'Goldilocks and the three Bears,' 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'The Gingerbread Man,' Children have been using props of Bears, Porridge and bowls on the tuff spot tray to retell the story of Goldilocks and have been using puppets to perform puppet shows for their friends.

Recommended Read

Continuing on from National story telling week (Monday 30th Jan to Friday 3rd February) our recommended read for this newsletter is 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' Traditional tales are a great way to encourage story telling. Goldilocks is a perfect book to introduce using different voices for all the characters. A big, booming voice for Daddy Bear, and a high, squeaky voice for Baby Bear as examples. There are many different versions of this story to choose from!



Illness

If your child is unwell please don't send them to Nursery as our young children are still building their immunity and bugs do spread. We ask that you do not send children who have been given Calpol as this masks symptoms. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they need to remain at home for 48 hours after the last bout to ensure they are well and protect others. Please inform us about other infectious illnesses.

If your child is absent please either telephone or email explaining the absence, thank you.

Speech and Language

There are lots of stages before children start talking. They have to listen and attend, play and interact, understand language and use language before being confident talkers using speech.



There is a general guide as to the number of words children are using...

By the age of two children should be using up to **50** or more single words e.g. 'no', 'book', 'biscuit'

By age three children should be using up to **300** words (Taken from 'Universally Speaking- the ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5')

Talk to a staff member to discuss strategies and next steps. *You can visit*

<https://childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk/how-to-refer/>



Ages and Stages of Development

Did you know...

Children should stop using a dummy during the daytime between **3-4 months old** and at night time around 12 months of age. *Problems of prolonged use of a dummy include being less able to communicate, speech may become unclear, tooth growth may be affected.*



(www.goodtoknow.co.uk/ www.supernanny.co.uk)

Children should not be using a bottle **after 18 months of age**. *Problems of prolonged bottle use include weight gain and tooth decay.* (American Academy of Paediatrics)



Most children will be ready to toilet train between **18 months and 3 years of age**. Use our potty training guide on the website to support potty training.



Usually children will want to bin the buggy between **2 and 3 years of age**.

Prolonged use of the buggy can lead to problems of obesity and lack of exercise. There is an important lesson in young children learning to hold hands and cross roads safely.

(www.theworkingparent.com) (We do know some of our families walk a very long way to get to Nursery and in this case a buggy may be necessary!)



Children aged **2 to 5 years of age** should be having no more than 1 hour of screen time in 24 hours. (www.nhs.uk)



Children **3-4 years** of age should be physically active for at least 180 minutes a day with at least 60 minutes moderate to vigorous activity. (www.nhs.uk)



Children **3-4 years of age** should be getting 10-13 hours of good quality sleep. (www.nhs.uk)



Early Years Pupil Premium

The government currently allocates additional funding to schools in the form of an 'Early Years Pupil Premium Fund'. It is very important to claim this funding for your child as it gives settings extra funds to meet your child's needs. In Early Years this funding should be allocated automatically.



Is my child eligible for EYPP Funding?

Children who are eligible for this funding include

- Children entitled to free school meals
- Children adopted from care
- Children under special guardianship

In order to claim Early Years Pupil Premium Funding a parent/ carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseekers' allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Child tax credit, provided that you are not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of £16,190 or less
- Working Tax credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop receiving Working Tax Credit)

Or

- if your child has been in Local Authority Care for 1 day or more in England or Wales
- They have been adopted from care in England or Wales
- They have left care under a Special Guardianship Order or Residence Order in England or Wales

We write to all parents/ carers of children for whom we receive funding to explain what we are doing to support your child. If you think you are eligible, but you have not received a letter from us, please speak to someone in the school office. At Nursery Miss Muller our EYPP champion, runs a range of small intervention groups to support children.

Children's Centre

Please find attached the children's centre timetable for this term.



Dental Check Up

Please see the attached letter from Community Dental Services about dental check ups.



Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP)

Domestic abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, by a partner, ex-partner, a family member, or carer.



Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to the following...

- Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence)
- Psychological and/or emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Economic or financial abuse
- Stalking and harassment
- Online or digital abuse

You may have noticed new posters in each entrance. These are because we are now signed up as a 'safe space.' A safe space enables someone experiencing domestic abuse to be able to make a confidential call or use the internet safely to get help.

We also have leaflets in the entrance hall with information about the local and national services that can support victims to explore their options and to help make a safety plan.

Find out more at <https://bedsdv.org.uk/>

Safety

This newsletter we are focussing on the dangers of button batteries.

PLEASE check your home- button batteries should never be accessible by young children. If they are present in appliances or toys they should only ever be able to be accessed with a screwdriver. If you have any loose button batteries please dispose of them safely straight away.

If children put button batteries in their mouths the acid inside can burn through their oesophagus or intestines.

Please find out more at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/child-safety-button-batteries>



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 7th February is Safer Internet Day.

An Ofcom survey suggests three quarters of 3-4 year olds do have their own tablet.

What can you do to help your child?

1. Check your devices (including phone and tv's security settings) and activate safety features
2. Ensure your child is using a child-friendly search engine such as Kiddle or Swiggle. This will protect them from coming across inappropriate content.
3. Teach your child to switch off and tell you if they see anything they don't like. If they see anything online that makes them feel worried, scared or sad, they should TAG (Tell a Grown-up). Visit [CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.ceop.education.gov.uk/) to find out more
4. See the online safety tips attached and if you know this is important and you want to learn more visit [Information, Advice and Support to Keep Children Safe Online \(internetmatters.org\)](https://www.internetmatters.org/)
5. Look out age appropriate games
Age-appropriate games:
 - PEGI ratings are mainly used in Europe/ Asia and PEGI 3 = suitable for all ages
 - Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB) mainly used in America and EC = Early Childhood
 - App Store Ratings are used globally and 4+ = contains no objectionable material
6. Set boundaries about where, when and how long your child can use their device. It's a good idea to keep technology in shared spaces such as the lounge. It's a good idea to have technology free meal times.
7. Use providers you know and trust such as <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tv/cbeebies>

What can you do to help yourself?

1. Ensure you use a different, strong password for the sites you access. Cyber crime is now big business. You can check if any of your details have been breached <http://www.haveibeenpwned.com/>

World Book Day & Stay and Play Day

Thursday 2nd March is World Book Day. Your child can choose to dress as a book character if they wish but they do not have to. Please do not spend any money on a new outfit! It can be fun to make a costume together but remember we do have spare dressing up clothes at Nursery. **Please can your child bring in their favourite book for the day.** The book should have their name in please.



If you would like to join us for our stay and play session you are more than welcome! Stay and play times are from 8.35-9.35am or 2.20-3.20pm for Butterflies and Caterpillars. Stay and play times are from 8.45-9.45am and 12.30-1.30pm for Dragonflies and Ladybirds.

Please note this does not include Bumblebees because it is too disruptive for our youngest learners. You can decide if coming is going to benefit you and your child or unsettling and will upset your child. Please explain to them whether they should or should not expect you.

If you come you will be able to share a book and talk about early reading at Nursery. You may want to ask questions about the vocabulary we teach and how we teach it, or about our curriculum. We look forward to seeing you.

Wacky Wednesday

On a Wednesday the 3–4-year-old children have the opportunity to play outside together and inside across all classes. We also do whole school singing together on a Wednesday- the children are currently learning a variety of Nursery Rhymes. These can be found on the website on the parents/ carers information tab- then resources for parents/ carers.



School Readiness (Taken from the 'Starting School' leaflet on the website.)

Does your child understand the word 'no' and other boundaries set for behaviour? All young children find the word no and other boundaries a challenge and will at times voice their displeasure vociferously but as your child starts school it is very important that they understand boundaries.



When you say no, you need to mean no and not change your mind. It can help some children to have a simple reason given. The rules and boundaries, including any rewards and sanctions used in your house need to be **clear and consistent**. Children get confused if what was allowed on one day is not allowed on another and vice versa. Rules and boundaries at school are very clear so children transfer more smoothly when this is also the case at home.

Drop Off and Collection Times

|  | 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 | 12.30-12.40pm | Not applicable |
| PM Collection time | 3.20-3.30pm | 3.20-3.30pm | 3.10-3.20pm |

Messy Church

Please see the attached poster for Messy Church

Key Dates this Term

Tuesday 7th February. Safer Internet Day

Thursday 2nd March. World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March. Stay and Play day (not in Bumblebees)

Monday 13th- Friday 17th March. British Science Week

Sunday 19th March. Mother's Day, celebrated on Friday 17th March. Singing event at 11.15am & 2.45pm

Monday 20th March. Consultations Dragonflies

Tuesday 21st March. Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Tuesday 21st March. World Poetry Day

Tuesday 21st March. Consultations Ladybirds

Wednesday 22nd March. Consultations Butterflies

Thursday 23rd March. Consultations Caterpillars

Friday 24th March. Consultations Bumblebees

Thursday 23rd March. Last toddler group of the term

Thursday 30th March. Last day of Spring term

Friday 31st March. Nursery closed for pupils



Details of each of these will follow in later newsletters.